**CRC National Day of Prayer (Virtual)**

Thursday, May 7, 2020

**Prayer points:  United States**

**Individuals - Pray for: (COVID-19)**

* Those who are at Risk: People working in essential jobs and health care workers on the front lines, and their families, who are most at risk; People have few resources or who have other risk factors that make them especially vulnerable
	+ Those who are Suffering: People who have lost their jobs; families with routines that have been disrupted; people who live alone; People who are grieving; People who have PTSD, depression, anxiety, addictions or other mental health issues; People who live in crowded or confined areas; People who are experiencing racial and ethnic discrimination; People who are confined in abusive or unhealthy home situations
	+ God’s Intervention in individual lives: People to take time to seek the Lord; People to experience God’s comfort and peace in the midst of life situations; People to feel God’s presence; People to experience personal spiritual renewal, to turn from idols and turn toward God

**Communities and Organizations - Pray for:**

* Service Organizations: Hospitals and clinics; Nursing homes;
* Food banks; Homeless Shelters; Fire and police departments; Immigration offices; Prisons and detention centers
* Education: Daycares; Schools; Homeschooling; Colleges
* Businesses: Grocery stores; Retailers; Restaurants; Hotels; Farming operations; etc.
* God’s intervention in churches and faith communities: Leaders to wholeheartedly seek God; People to feel supported and connected to their communities; New, effective and hopeful ministry strategies; The gospel message to go forth in powerful ways

**Systems and Contexts - Pray for:**

* State and local government: Governors; Mayors; Other elected officials - especially that they would listen to wise counsel in making decisions
* National government: Our president; Cabinet members; Congress; Senate; Our economy, including stimulus funds to be well spent to serve those with the greatest need
* The CRCNA: Our leaders; The Council of Delegates (meeting May 4-5); Ongoing transitions in staffing and structure; Wisdom from above for wise decisions
* God’s creation: Protection and care for God’s beautiful and sustaining creation; The CRC’s Climate Wellness Project
* God’s intervention in our nation: An attitude of humility and care for one another; Spiritual renewal and revival; The Lord’s name to be honored and God’s kingdom to come

**Prayer Points:  Canada**

* The churches and communities in Nova Scotia. Our pastors there are ministering to the community in many ways and the grief weighs heavy on their churches. [A gunman killed 22 people a couple of weeks ago.]
* The people of Fort McMurray, AB. Flood waters are high, and people are displaced. This only a few years after the wildfires that wreaked havoc. Pray that the church is a balm in the midst of it as they consider how best to minister to their town.
* For the pastors, staff and residents of Holland Christian Homes and many other long-term care and seniors homes where the COVID-19 virus is having such a large, negative impact. [Holland Christian Homes is a seniors' residence and care home near Toronto that's closely connected to the CRC community.]
* Please pray for our government officials at every level and that they would be filled with wisdom to do what is right plus the steadfastness to not bend to voices that call them to alter towards a less safe course of action. [A good prayer for any nation...]
* Pray for the full Council of Delegates as they will meet next week [May 4 and May 6-7] for denominational decision making. Pray for a healthy relationship between brothers and sisters in the Lord working together for Christ in this way.
* Last week a Canadian military helicopter went down during a training exercise in the Mediterranean Sea, killing all 6 crew members, so there is a lot of grief around that too here.