

# The Light Shines in the Darkness

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Dear Friends,

January 2026

As we step into this new year, the Spirit of the Lord speaks to us with both tenderness and conviction:

**“Do not harden your hearts to the pain of the world, but do not let it rob you of hope”**

(Psalm 34:18; Isaiah 41:10)

The events of the past year—both around the world and closer to home, in places like Bondi, Australia—have reminded us of the fragility of life and the unrest that resides in the human heart. Violence, grief, and uncertainty can leave us feeling powerless and weary. Yet even in the midst of sorrow, God is present. He is near to the broken-hearted (Psalm 34:18), and His Spirit moves where fear and despair seek to take hold.

The Lord is calling His Church to a new level of faithful presence. This is a year to be steadfast in prayer, alert in discernment, and generous in compassion (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Matthew 5:14–16). The call is not to loud declarations or grand gestures, but to the quiet, steady acts of love that demonstrate Christ's presence. Listening to the hurting, serving the overlooked, and offering prayers of intercession are holy acts that ripple further than we often realise (Galatians 6:9).

God is speaking to His people: “Where violence has broken trust, I am raising up communities of refuge. Where fear has spread, I am teaching My people to remain anchored. Where grief has silenced many, I am releasing intercessors who will stand in the gap” (Isaiah 61:1–3; Psalm 46:1–3).

In this season, the Lord is also reminding us of the power of discernment and vigilance. Not every voice will speak from wisdom, and not every path will lead to life. The Lord urges us to cling closely to His Word, test every word of counsel by the Spirit, and choose love over outrage (1 John 4:1; Colossians 3:12–17). Faithfulness is found not in reactionary measures, but in a calm, Spirit-led obedience that honours God above circumstances.

The events at Bondi, and other places of sorrow, call us to mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15), while remaining anchored in the hope of Christ. We are reminded that grief and fear are real, but they do not have the final word. Jesus Christ remains the Prince of Peace, and His light continues to shine in the darkness (John 1:5; John 16:33).

As a ministry, we commit to being a place of refuge for those who already know Him and desire a deeper walk, and for those whom He is quietly drawing toward Himself. We will stand alongside our community—praying, supporting, and encouraging—so that every person knows that God's love has not abandoned them. Our calling is to show that hope is not passive, but active, lived, and visible through acts of mercy, intercession, and compassion.

This year, let us enter with eyes wide open, hearts soft, and hands ready to serve. Let us carry hope not as a slogan, but as a reality that transforms lives. May we be instruments of peace, voices of encouragement, and vessels of God's healing in a world that longs for His presence.

Let us step forward faithfully, humbly, and courageously, trusting that God is making all things new (Revelation 21:5). And as we do, may we remember the words of Isaiah 40:31: **“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”**

Thank you for your prayers, friendship and support.  
May God bless each one of you abundantly in this New Year 2026!

*The Evangelical Sisters of Mary*

# Prayer Points for Our Ministry

## 1. Spiritual Growth and Guidance

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for our Branch Leader and Sisters serving.
- Ask God to deepen the faith of everyone involved in the ministry.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all decisions, programs, and outreach efforts.
- Pray that the Word of God is central in all ministry activities.

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” —James 1:5*

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## 2. Outreach and Impact

- Pray for hearts of the community to be open to God’s love and truth.
- Pray for our ministry to reach those who are seeking hope and spiritual guidance.
- Ask God to create opportunities to demonstrate His love through acts of service and compassion.
- Pray for clear, Spirit-led strategies for outreach and engagement.

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”  
—Matthew 28:19*

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## 3. Protection and Safety

- Pray for protection over Canaan of God’s Comfort, for Sisters and our ministry’s digital presence.
- Pray against any plans of the enemy to disrupt or discourage the ministry.
- Ask God to guard the hearts and minds of all who come to Canaan.
- Pray that only those who are aligned with God’s purposes are drawn to the ministry.

*“The Lord will keep you from all harm—  
He will watch over your life.” —Psalm 121:7*

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## 4. Provision and Resources

- Pray for financial provision and sustainable resources for ministry programs.
- Ask God to continue to provide support people with gifts and talents needed for effective service in all areas.
- Pray for creativity and wisdom in using resources effectively for God’s kingdom.

*“And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”  
—Philippians 4:19*

## 5. Prayer and Spiritual Refuge

- Pray that our ministry provides spiritual encouragement and a place of prayer for those seeking a deeper relationship with God.
- Ask God to raise up intercessors who will stand in the gap for the ministry and its community.
- Pray for God’s presence to fill all gatherings, events, and meetings.

*“But when you pray,  
go into your room, close the door  
and pray to your Father, who is unseen.  
Then your Father,  
who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”  
—Matthew 6:6*

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## 6. Vision and Future Direction

- Pray that our ministry continues to hear God’s voice clearly in shaping its vision for the year ahead.
- Ask God to bring partnerships, opportunities, and doors that align with His purposes.
- Pray for courage to step boldly into new areas of ministry and outreach.
- Pray for unity, love, and humility for all we do.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to Him,  
and He will make your paths straight.”  
—Proverbs 3:5-6*



*“Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”  
Philippians 4:6*





## Walking into 2026 in the Light

### Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As we step into this new year,  
we bring You our hearts—open, hopeful,  
and expectant.

We leave behind what was heavy,  
what was dark,  
and step forward into the Light  
that no darkness can overcome.

Lord Jesus,

You are the Light of the World.  
Shine in us, through us, and around us.  
Let every shadow of fear, doubt,  
and sorrow  
fade in the brilliance of Your presence.  
Guide our steps with Your truth,  
fill our hearts with Your hope,  
and our hands with Your love.

Holy Spirit,  
lead us day by day,  
remind us that nothing—no trial,  
no night, no uncertainty—  
can overcome the light  
You have placed within us.  
Help us to walk boldly,  
to serve faithfully,  
to love generously,  
and to trust in Your  
unchanging goodness.



## Reflection

Into a new year, we step with hope,  
Past the shadows, beyond what we can cope.  
The darkness may whisper, it may try to stay,  
But the Light of the Lord will not fade away.

Each dawn brings mercy,  
each moment His care,  
No night can silence the flame we bear.  
Our feet are guided, our hearts held near,  
By the One whose love casts out every fear.

We walk in courage, we walk in grace,  
We lift our eyes to see His face.  
Through valleys and storms,  
through laughter and tears,  
His light goes before us  
and casts out our fears.

So here is our song, for the year now begun,  
Our steps are in Jesus, His will to be done.  
We walk in the Light  
that darkness cannot claim,  
And praise His holy, unending Name.

## Closing Prayer

Lord, bless this year, O God, with new begin-  
nings,  
with joy that rises above the night,  
with courage that grows in trials,  
and with peace that rests in You alone.  
We step forward into 2026,  
walking in Your Light,  
trusting that nothing can extinguish it.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.