



HOPE 2014

Prayers for a New Year

in our villages, towns & cities for use on 31st December 2013 and during January 2014

We are praying that 2014 would be a catalytic year where churches work together around the Christian calendar, festivals and new mission initiatives to bring good news to a lost and broken world. The fruit of this could be thousands of changed lives and a great harvest for the Kingdom of God.

Use whatever is appropriate for your prayer meeting, home group or church service:

Focus 1 – Praise 'I am the world's Light' John 8:12 (*Message*)

Scriptures: John 1:1-5, John 8:12, John 12:46, Revelation 21:23.

Share stories of how God has been at work this past year.

Have a time of worship and confession. Use Ephesians 1:18-19 as a prayer for everyone present.

Focus 2 – God shining through us 'You are here to be light, bringing out the God colours in the world'

Matthew 5:14 (*Message*)

Scriptures: Matthew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 5:8, Romans 12:12.

Share the names of all the local churches, Christian mission organisations and groups – and their leaders.

Pray for: An outpouring of the Holy Spirit in and through every person and in every church and organisation; a release of a new boldness to witness and share the good news; a renewal of the desire to pray; deeper unity in mission among churches to impact the local community (John 17:23); God's blessing over your community (Numbers 6:24-26).

Focus 3 – People in our community 'Remember our message is not about ourselves, we're proclaiming Jesus Christ' 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (*Message*)

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Acts 4:32-35, Acts 26:17b-18, Romans 15:13.

- a) Identify people in your area/parish who are as yet unreached by the good news of Jesus. Pray for them: for God's light to shine on them; for them to have a revelation of Jesus; for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus through practical action with them; for fresh hope to be released.
- b) Who are our prodigals? (Luke 15:17-20) Invite people to write down names on a prayer wall, a prayer tree or to put the names into a basket, and get into triplets to pray for each one by name.

Focus 4- HOPE 2014 'The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood' John 1:14 (*Message*)

Scriptures: John 1: 14, 1 Peter 2:9, Colossians 1:27, Jeremiah 29:11.

What word and action mission is being planned for HOPE 2014 in your area?

Worship and pray for all that is to take place - for the planning, the people, the places, protection on all involved, all the social action projects and the clear proclamation of God's word so that the purposes of God will be fulfilled and that many people will come to faith in Jesus during 2014.

Focus 5 – Hope for our world 'Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ' John 1:17b

Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-3, John 1:9-12, Colossians 1:16-17, 1 Peter 1:3, 1 Peter 3:15.

Pray for hope to be released: in areas of our nation and around the world where there is conflict; where there is injustice, poverty and power struggles in leadership; for nations of the world in turmoil (Egypt, Syria (peace talks due to start 22 January), Pakistan, Afghanistan, Philippines, Central African Republic etc.); for refugees and immigrants here in the UK and overseas. Pray for faith and hope to be given to our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith in so many nations around the world.

Conclude with a worship song and rededication of all present to following Jesus as Lord through 2014.

You might like to say together the [HOPE Declaration 2014](#) or the [Methodist Covenant](#)

Creative Ideas

Choose whatever is appropriate for your prayer gathering

Focus 1: Start with all lights out, except for a single candle or torch as each scripture is read, light more candles or invite torches to be put on one by one.

Focus 2: Provide a roll of blank wallpaper and either roll it out on the floor, or put it up on a prayer wall and invite people to contribute names. If appropriate why not prayer walk or prayer drive around each church in your area sometime in New Year.

Focus 3: Ask people to share in pairs the names of the people they come across in their daily lives and then put these names on prayer wall/prayer tree. Candles could be lit for each group of names or for each person during the prayer time or torches turned on. Invite those present to adopt people to pray for during 2014. You might like to use the [Winsome Prayer Resource from Crossing London](#) or the [Neighbourhood Prayer Network website](#).

Focus 4: Prayer information on Powerpoint or prayer station(s) could be prepared beforehand with those leading different projects invited to attend or send in information.

Focus 5: Images from newspapers or websites with current news information could be displayed during the time of prayer. Churches and organisations with particular links to missionaries or nations could make that their prayer focus.

**'Hope is daring, courageous;
it has the audacity to reach a hand into the darkness
and come out with a handful of light'**
(Stanislaus Kennedy - *Gardening the Soul*)

'Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.'
(Martin Luther King Jr – *A Testament of Hope: the essential writings and speeches*)