



## **DIAKONIA Prayer Letter January 2024**

The events of the last year have cast long shadows on our global community. Violence, conflict, division, tragedy, suffering and suspicion continue in our global village. Still, here we are, entering a new year, full of promise and possibility and hope. St. Teresa of Avila said, *“Remember: if you want to make progress on the path and ascend to the places you have longed for, the important thing is not to think much but to love much, and so to do whatever best awakens you to love.”* Do whatever awakens you to love.

*‘If we love one another, God lives in us and God’s love is made complete in us.’* (1 John 4:12)  
This is a time to pause for quiet reflection, to renew our trust in the way of Jesus, who showed us the truth that compassion is one of humanity’s most significant strengths and greatest joys. We hold on to the truth that compassion can bring transformation when we dare to love, and to be a force for healing in the world.

### **Prayer**

God of grace, we pray for strength and resolve to live a life of integrity, devoted to choosing what is better, honouring one another with tenderness, and building each other up in love.

May we be instruments of Your love, with open hands and hearts and extended arms, to give what we can, where we can, with generous and compassionate hearts.

We pray for the displaced and bereaved, the lost, the lonely, and the least.  
May we serve as instruments of Your peace, with a willingness to recognise when invisible hurt is held by others.

We pray for our divided and weary and troubled world, remembering especially those experiencing suffering and persecution.

May we hold fast to the truth that You are always with us, remembering that Your love is wide, high, deep and long and absolutely nothing can separate us from that love.

In Jesus Name, and with thanksgiving, we pray, Amen.

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