

Prayer points – May 2026



Simo Frestadius, in [Global Pentecostal reflections on creation care and COP26](#)

“The same Spirit that was ‘hovering over the face of the waters’ (Gen. 1:2) and who together with God’s Word brought creation into being, is the same Spirit that dwells in us. If we are filled with the Spirit that brought order out of chaos and created the world, then it is not hard to argue that this Spirit of Creation also provides the resources and energy for us to fulfil the first commission given to humans; to be stewards of God’s creation.” Lord, we ask for your Spirit to guide us now and each day, as we seek to care for creation through prayer and practical action.

Santa Marta

We give thanks for the successes of the first [‘Transitioning away from fossil fuels’](#) conference held in Santa Marta, Colombia from the 24th to the 29th of April, starting with a scientific ‘pre-conference’ and ending with a high-level session where countries could discuss and present their transition plans. Fifty-seven countries, representing one third of the world’s GDP, attended, drawing from Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific, Europe, North America, and South America and including both large and small, developed and developing states. Participants [praised the focus, the opportunity for informal discussions, and the sense of progress.](#)

A first success? Participants are already planning the second conference and [are open to expanding the coalition beyond those initially invited.](#) In addition, they produced a [report with recommendations to guide countries moving away from fossil fuels](#) and established a new ‘Science panel for global energy transition’ which will provide country-level, as well as more general, information. They also created [three work streams](#) for future meetings: work on road maps, Work on roadmaps, work on financial structures (including debt issues and subsidies), and work that connects producers and consumers, diversifying economies and making transitions people-centred. And two countries – Colombia and France – presented their initial roadmaps.

The commitment to action, the willingness to consider wider issues, and the concrete steps to help countries exit the fossil-fuel era are all encouraging. We give thanks – and pray for God to guide the ongoing endeavours.

Consequences of war in the Middle East

Supply chain disruption resulting from the war are creating major issues for people in many countries. Food and fuel price rises are especially devastating to the relatively poor, who spend a high proportion of their income on basic needs. [In Asia](#), which historically received the bulk of the oil transiting the Straits of Hormuz, tourism and manufacturing are slowing, and some people are struggling to access fuel for local travel, cooking, and other activities. The World Food Programme has warned that if the conflict continues through mid-year [45 million additional people, most in Africa and Asia, could face hunger.](#) [Constraints on fertilizers as farmers begin their planting seasons](#) – now for parts of the Northern Hemisphere, and later for the Southern Hemisphere – are a major concern. We pray for all struggling to meet basic needs, for a just resolution to the conflict, and for wise decisions by governments, farmers, and businesses about how to manage scarce resources.

Environmentalist [Bill McKibben points out](#) that there has been one positive impact of the conflict: for years, the fossil fuel industry had invested in making people believe that it represented security and was irreplaceable. Repeated energy shocks have broken that association, preparing the way for a popular pivot to renewables. Some are still seeking to encourage more fossil fuel production: we pray that people will see that renewable and sustainable energy is the genuine solution to energy security.

El Nino

Scientists are predicting that an [El Nino is likely to emerge over the summer and last at least until the end of 2026.](#) They warn that there is a chance of a ‘Super El Nino’, which occurs when sea surface temperatures in parts of the [equatorial Pacific rise by more than 2 degrees Celsius above average.](#) El Nino periods can produce significant [temperature increases, as well as droughts and floods in different parts of the world.](#) We pray for scientists as they seek to understand and advise; for farmers, as they make preparations to deal with El Nino impact; and for all who may be affected.

Issues in the Atlantic

The [Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation \(AMOC\)](#) is a system of ocean currents that circulate heat and nutrients to different parts of the world: inter alia, the Gulf Stream, which is part of the AMOC, brings warm surface water from equatorial regions towards the Arctic, which gives northern Europe its relatively temperate climate. When the water reaches the Arctic it is cooled and some freezes; the remaining saltier, colder, and heavier water sinks, flowing back down towards the equator. It's like a conveyor belt – and a vital one.

Scientists have warned for years that climate change could slow and even collapse the AMOC – but the sheer scale of the circulation, the multiplicity of factors involved, and the lack of long-term data has made predictions quite difficult. A number of scientists have suggested in recent papers, however, that the likelihood of a collapse in the system has been underestimated, and even that there is the possibility that the circulation could reach a point-of-no-return, from which it would eventually collapse, by mid-century ... that is, within a few decades.

The impacts of collapse would be immense: northern Europe could become much colder and lose much of its capacity to produce food. The eastern seaboard of the US could experience significant sea-level rises. The Sahel could become yet drier; [monsoon rain patterns in many areas could shift](#).

As [George Monbiot recently wrote](#), such an existential threat should be at the forefront of our minds and motivating action. We pray that people will become more aware of the danger and press more urgently for action. We pray, too, that governments will treat this as a clear and present danger, which requires a systemic, urgent response.

[Encountering God through contemplation of creation, Fr Terrence Ehrman, CSC](#)

The 22nd of May is the [International Day for Biodiversity](#). We lament the destruction of habitats and species, pray for efforts to conserve and renew them ... and ponder the way the glorious variety of creation reflects the Creator.

The Christian practice of contemplating nature...is ... a traditional means to encounter God, Christ, the Trinity in and through creation ... Bruce Foltz, drawing upon the work of Maximus the Confessor, writes that “for the spiritually prepared: Every entity, every shrub and stone” — and every water scavenging beetle! — “offers . . . its own glimpse of the ‘mysterious and deifying presence of Christ the Logos in the world.’” He goes on to compare this ... contemplation of nature to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Just as their hearts burned within them as the risen Jesus opened the Word of God to them from Scripture, so our Christian hearts should burn within us as we contemplate the logoi of creation.

Do our hearts burn with love for creation? God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5). Do we see and love creation with the same love with which God has created and sustains creation?

Final prayer (Psalm 104: 27, 30-31, 33)

[All creatures] look to you, to give them their food in due season.

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works,

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

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