**TITLE: RENEWAL – Prayer Shield DATE: 13.10.2019**

**SPEAKER: Sis Ruth Lew**

Rom 15:30

“Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with in prayers to God for me”

Joshua 14:10-11

“And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wondered in the wilderness, and now here I am this day eighty-five years old. As yet, I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me, just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in”

Mark 6:31

“Then because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them “Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (NIV)

1 Chron 28:11-12

“Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat, and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the Lord, of all the chambers all around”

Acts 14:19-20

“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city supposing him to be dead. However, when the **disciples gathered around him**, he arose up and went into the city.”

1 Kings 19:10

“So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of Hosts, for the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left and they seek to take my life”

**INTRODUCTION – PRAYER S.H.I.E.L.D**

Oct is the month dedicated to praying for pastors and leaders. This is an NECF prayer initiative. Have you written your name & the names of the leaders you want to pray for in your commitment card? To “strive together” is to “partner together” in Greek. When we pray for our leaders, we are partnering with them in doing the work of the ministry.

It is to raise a shield of prayers for our pastors & leaders. Being in the forefront of ministry, pastors & leaders are the target of the enemy. They are so influential that when they fall/leave the faith, members of their congregation will be discouraged & may even do likewise. Focus on the following key prayer focus in addition to the ones in the prayer card (family, ministry, health & finances) – **S.H.I.E.L.D:**

1. **STRENGTHEN**

Pray for their physical & spiritual strength. Moses at 80 had the burning bush experience & was called to the ministry. At 120, his eyesight was still sharp as he could see the Promised Land from far off. Caleb at 85 said that he could still go out for war. No matter what age we are, God can still use us to serve the Lord. Let us pray for good health for our pastors & leaders that they will be just as strong at 80 as they are now.

1. **HAVE SOME “ME” TIME**

Let us allow our pastors & leaders some rest time where they can take a nice holiday to rest their body, soul & spirit. In fact, Jesus Himself reminded his disciples to take things easy & to take time out to go to a quiet place & rest. Jesus wants us to have time to REST!

1. **INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

David was neither an architect nor an engineer, yet he was able to download detailed & very specific plans for the building of the house of the Lord during his lifetime to pass to his son Solomon. God also helped him put those plans in writing! Our pastors & leaders need our prayers for such inspiration.

1. **ENCOURAGEMENT OF A SUPPORTIVE TEAM**

Ministry is teamwork. Being supportive does not mean being a YES man all the time. In fact, Paul and Barnabas had their conflicts but because they fasted and prayed together often, they were able to iron out their differences. Sometimes we just need to give each other space. God will work things out for us. The disciples in Lystra were the most supportive to Paul. When he was left for dead, they surrounded him, and he was revived.

1. **LIFESTYLE OF SOWING**

Leaders need to keep on sowing. We never know when the seeds we have sown will bear much fruit for His glory

1. **DISCOURAGEMENT – PRAY AGAINST THIS!**

Pastors & leaders become discouraged when the people they are ministering to turn against them, say all kinds of evil against them & even back-bite/gossip against them. We can also become discouraged when there is no fruit in our ministry despite serving for a long time. Let us bring our discouragement to God like what Elijah did. If we need to complain, let us complain to God. God will raise up many to stand with us & support us.

**Pray for your LG leader, members of the core team & LG plans for Christmas & 2020. Pray also for the Leaders Retreat – 28/10**