



## PRAYER LETTER 68

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Here is the first prayer letter 2025. It is proposed by the Swiss committee of the ACO, a branch of the Missionary Department:

[www.dmr.ch](http://www.dmr.ch)

### *Introduction to prayer*

Switzerland is favored with a better economic situation than its neighbors. The country also enjoys a political stability envied by many. So, is everything going well?

There are recurring debates. Right now, there is the question of the renewal of our bilateral agreements with the European Union, the necessity of those agreements stemming from the fact that Switzerland is not a member of the Union; this is a complex and rather technical matter, on which the Swiss people will have to vote in several steps in the coming years. There is also the question of refugees, with pressure from part of the political spectrum for more restrictive policies – a situation common to most countries in Europe. And Switzerland is currently trailing behind in environmental policies and has recently reduced its international development cooperation.

Even though unemployment figures are very low, one must bear in mind that part of the working age population is absent from these figures: these are the people who have been jobless for a long time and who are, for most of them, on social welfare. Even though everybody in Switzerland receives, in principle, enough to cover basic needs, welfare over time drives its recipients into the margins of society, mostly because of social shame. And there are people who fall through the cracks.

Churches in Switzerland have experienced now for some decades a situation to which they struggle to find an adequate response: they realize that they live on a mission field, and that mission is not just for other parts of the world. It is a healthy thing that we become increasingly aware that the people around us are not all Christians, but how shall we shift our model? How can we do church in a new and relevant way, all the while with less means and fewer faithful? How can a church that was once a “natural” component of the social structure on a given territory become truly missional?

## *Prayer*

Our Father, creator of life, who have bonded yourself with our humanity in your Son Jesus Christ, to renew and transform it,

We give you thanks for your bounties toward the inhabitants of Switzerland, for the peace and security that allow them to project themselves into the future, for the medical and social system that allows most people, regardless of origin, to answer their basic needs, and often more.

We pray to you that the Christians in Switzerland may more and more live up to the responsibilities that arise from that, in generosity and genuine solidarity with their fellow human beings near and far.

We beseech you to guide your churches in Switzerland in their reflection on their mission at home where they are: may this reflection lead to concrete transformations, such that the different churches will become increasingly open and committed actors in your mission.

We pray for the people who fall through the cracks of the social system in Switzerland: do raise up an increasing number of persons who care for them and help them toward their full integration. We pray for those who are socially isolated: put the right persons on their path who will open for them a way beyond social shame.

We pray to you that even given the political pressures for a lower immigration, Switzerland may remain a land of refuge for the persecuted and the victims of war. We pray for a good integration of the persons who have come from elsewhere, and a healthy relational fabric that will encompass those who are rooted in the country since a long time and those who have been in it for less long.

Together with Switzerland, we commit to you all those, in other countries, who have ties of kinship, friendship or partnership with this country, in that web of relationships that connects the whole world. Mindful of this, we pray in particular for Lebanon, trying to rise from a destructive war with a newly elected president, for Syria with its political transition fraught with many uncertainties, for Iran at this delicate juncture, and for the disastrous Israeli-Palestinian situation. Have mercy and, with the people you raise up, open the way for a Middle East where justice and peace will prevail and where the witness of your church will flourish.

We pray for the coming General Assembly of ACO Fellowship that has been scheduled for September in Switzerland: guide all the preparations and grant us a double measure of the blessing of fellowship and partnership.

Through your Spirit,

Amen

*Author: Rev. Pr. Marc Schöni, member of ACO Switzerland.*