

# PRAYING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

USE THIS DAILY PRAYER GUIDE  
TO FOCUS PRAYER ON THE MIDDLE EAST  
AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

JUNE 2017

**"The Word of life . . . appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us."**

*1 John 1:2*

## **1 THURSDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN**

As rejoicing over the publication of the new Kurdish Bible continues, *S & KR\** say: "The shipment of Kurdish Bibles was due to have arrived in Basra on 30 May. Pray for the shipment to be cleared smoothly, and for trouble-free transporting of the books to the store in Erbil."

## **2 FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST**

A number of colleagues are taking time to see family, supporters and friends. Ask the Lord to refresh them as they tell what God is doing in their world, build support networks, and take much-needed time off. *Mike & Vicky, Mark* and *Luke* and *Anna* travel today; give thanks for *Anna's* fruitful year and pray for her as she gets ready to study.

## **3 SATURDAY JORDAN**

*Rebecca* asks "for inspiration as we prepare the Amal summer programme and for physical, emotional and spiritual refreshment for the whole team after our busy Easter season of presentations. Our car is essential to the ministry but is giving us a lot of problems; may we get it fixed quickly and competently."

## **4 SUNDAY AUSTRALIA**

*Vicki* is in Adelaide until tomorrow, Brisbane until 19, and Melbourne until the end of the month. She's developing contacts with advocacy networks, in parliaments, Bible colleges and prayer groups, and connecting with people working among the Middle East and North Africa diaspora. Pray for her preparation and encounters, for the Lord to open doors.

## **5 MONDAY IRELAND**

*JM\** returns to Belfast today from Australia, after a fruitful time with friends and supporters. "My landlord has put the house I rent on the market so I'll be looking for a new place to live. Pray I'll find a more affordable place, Belfast is very expensive, and sharing isn't really an option. May I re-engage quickly with my team and Iranian friends."

## **6 TUESDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN**

"Today's the final day of a mini-business training course sponsored by another NGO in the city. We're thankful for shared learning opportunities and pray that the local trainee we encouraged to participate will be able to pass on lessons learned to vulnerable families we seek to serve in the refugee and host community."

## **7 WEDNESDAY UK / EGYPT**

Archbishop Mouneer Anis speaks in London to the Egypt Diocesan Association, bringing news and perspectives from churches in Egypt, North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Give thanks for the growth these churches have seen; pray for continued boldness as they move beyond their own circles with the good news of Jesus.

## **8 THURSDAY UK**

A network of leaders of agencies like ours meets in London today to consider how their work is changing. Some are interested in the transition we've made; others are exploring partnerships and alliances. All our agencies are considering how best to respond to 21st century realities.

## **9 FRIDAY EGYPT**

*BK\** informs us "Interest in Egypt is increasing within our networks, and wisdom and grace is needed as we consider how to communicate our strategy here while taking the time to respond properly to inquiries that don't fit our strategy. Ask God to provide the funds we need for the guest house project to welcome people."

## **10 SATURDAY UK / LEBANON**

*Mike & Vicky* have just started a Home Assignment with many meetings, and much travelling on their itinerary. May supporting churches and friends be greatly encouraged and blessed as they hear what God is doing, and may they respond to the needs presented for the Bread of Life Education Centre.

## **11 SUNDAY LEBANON**

As graduations approach at the end of the month, *Ruth* asks us to pray for staff and students to finish this academic year well. Pray that God will continue to work in the lives of those who're leaving her school; and that the Lord would provide suitable staff for next year.

## **12 MONDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN**

*S & KR\** give thanks for an encouraging month with a colleague from a London church, who gave invaluable input to the Child Friendly Space for vulnerable refugee and host community children. Pray her modelling of child-centred learning will continue to bear fruit in the centre and influence programme planning; and for clarity for her future involvement.

## **13 TUESDAY EGYPT**

*TJ\** is concerned as a colleague from her same sending country was recently asked to leave. She feels very stretched trying to keep many calls upon her time and skills met. May her personal contacts with majority friends mean they continue to see Christ in her, and desire personal faith for themselves.

## **14 WEDNESDAY LEBANON**

*MikeP* is visiting partners and colleagues this week and next. Give thanks for the Lebanese Evangelical Society, and pray wisdom and energy for Rev Ziad in his key role as Executive Director. Doors are open for suitably qualified teachers, especially if they can teach the bible imaginatively.

### 15 THURSDAY ARABIAN PENINSULA

Violent conflict, insecurity and humanitarian tragedy are the context for those who follow Christ. On May 8 authorities in Sana'a declared a state of emergency in response to a cholera epidemic. Ask the Lord to protect his people, restore peace, and enable aid and God's good news to reach those who need it most.

### 16 FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST

Give thanks for people expressing interest in joining us. Every conversation has multiple dimensions, involving families, churches, supporters and colleagues. Ask the Lord for wisdom for them and those whom they are talking with as they explore possibilities with us.

### 17 SATURDAY MIDDLE EAST

A number of colleagues are visiting families and supporters in their passport countries this summer. Ask the Lord's blessing on the review and member care conversations that take place. As *Ruth* travels today, pray for refreshment, renewal, and many opportunities to share about the realities and opportunities in Lebanon.

### 18 SUNDAY LEBANON

From today until 23, *Perry* is involved in a workshop in Malaysia for TEE course writers coming from around the world. Both he and *Karen* are working on books - *Perry's* is a global collection on innovation in advanced theological studies (MSS due end of June); *Karen's* is on Middle Eastern perspectives on wealth and piety (aiming to finish by mid-August).

### 19 MONDAY LEBANON

This week *Richard*, *GS\** and *MikeP* are looking forward to learning from local Christians as they attend a consultation on 'The church in disorienting times: leading prophetically through adversity'. May leaders in the region be encouraged and equipped, and the connections they make bear lasting fruit in the region.

### 20 TUESDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

*S&KP\** are preparing to travel to UK for 2 months this week. "Pray that final preparations and planning with colleagues will go smoothly, so that translation of Study Bible notes, marketing & distribution of the Sorani Bible and the mercy ministries of New Hope Iraq can continue over the summer."

### 21 WEDNESDAY LEBANON

The Mainly Music work amongst Syrian mums and children *SC\** is involved with has continued during the fast, and the group meets today. Pray they will be drawn to Jesus as they learn the songs and their meanings are explained.

### 22 THURSDAY INTERNATIONAL

The 'Night of Power', three days before the end of the Ramadan fast, is considered the holiest night by our friends. It recalls the call to Muhammad to "Read". May the Lord strengthen all who are publishing and distributing Scripture, and may the hunger to read it keep growing.

### 23 FRIDAY LEBANON

The Bible Society of Lebanon has published a Refugee Bible, with testimonies of individuals and families in the region who had to escape their homes. As God's word reminds them of the everlasting hope we have in him wherever we may be, pray there will be a great uptake and pray they'll be used by churches reaching out to the 2 million refugees in Lebanon.

### 24 SATURDAY LEBANON

Tomorrow, students completing their course at ABTS (the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary) celebrate their graduation. Pray for them, as many are going back to very uncertain situations, and others are wondering when they can return to minister in the cities they've had to leave.

### 25 SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL

As Ramadan ends and the Eid celebrations begin, continue to pray with and for the millions of religious people longing to come closer to God. May their prayers find their answer in the Christ revealed in the Gospels, and may they know how to find and follow him.

### 26 MONDAY EGYPT

Pray that the conference and camping facilities at Think and Do's 'Oasis' centre will be well-used over the summer. Ask for protection, strength and grace for the staff, and blessing for all who come. Continue to pray for capable, committed, long-term managers for the centre.

### 27 TUESDAY EGYPT

Give thanks for the positive impact of Pope Francis' recent visit to Egypt, and for the opportunity it gave to the Bible Society of Egypt to distribute 30,000 Scripture portions. Pray that many whose hearts were touched will continue to think about the true source of peace.

### 28 WEDNESDAY TURKEY

Amidst continuing uncertainty, Christians are targeted. Ask for peace following the referendum; for Christians, especially church leaders, to respond wisely to ongoing events; for God to have mercy on the country and people; and for his truth and righteousness to prevail.

### 29 THURSDAY INTERNATIONAL

Colleagues across the world have been meditating on God's character during the past month, building extra rest and reflection into their demanding cross-cultural lives. Ask the Lord to help us model rest and trust in him as we're often stretched, and as we encourage his people in their witness to Christ.

### 30 FRIDAY SUDAN

As another church building was recently demolished in the capital, ask for wisdom, patience and peace for church leaders and their members facing ongoing harassment. May they continue to be faithful witnesses, and may those responsible learn to love mercy, act justly, learn about Jesus and choose to follow Him.

\* Some names are only shown as initials for security.

*MECO (Middle East Christian Outreach) Australia is an interdenominational group of evangelical Christians working alongside SIM Middle East, encouraging national churches as they engage in effective witness to Christ.*

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