

PRAYING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

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

AUGUST 2017

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. *1 John 1:5*

1 TUESDAY IRELAND

*JM** is grateful for friendships she's forming with Iranian ladies. Pray for a way to draw them into a Bible Study Group to disciple and help them grow in their faith, as three have shown interest to meet bi-weekly. They go to several studies but not one specially for women.

2 WEDNESDAY EGYPT

Last month security authorities said they couldn't guarantee the safety of Christians at or on their way to conference centres. This is a big blow to churches which usually see much spiritual fruit from these; to Christian families and individuals, most of whom get no other holiday; and to conference centres (including Think & Do's Oasis) which rely on summer income.

3 THURSDAY MIDDLE EAST

*B & C** arrive today, new workers in the region, bringing experience of ministry in another country. They'll begin by concentrating on adjusting the Arabic they've learned to the new local version. Uphold them as they find their way round, and as they look for accommodation and a church to serve with.

4 FRIDAY USA / MIDDLE EAST

All being well, in a couple of weeks *Becky H* leaves family and home and travels to the region to settle in and start learning Arabic. Pray that her support targets will be met this week, and her final days with family, friends and supporting church will be blessed.

5 SATURDAY JORDAN

Rebecca & Samer performed the first of our series of plays on Daniel on 28 July. Pray for us as we work to complete the following two stories, for lots of opportunities to show them, and for children who see them this summer to be inspired by Daniel's faithfulness and awed by the greatness of our God."

6 SUNDAY UK

Mike & Helen's local church has followed developments in the Middle East carefully and are eager to hear about the realities of life and opportunities for the gospel. As Mike speaks and answers questions this evening, pray for them to be encouraged in their support and their own witness.

7 MONDAY AUSTRALIA

Ros & Noel spoke at two local churches recently about their ministry with Middle Eastern and Indian people. Ask for people to be motivated to reach out with friendship evangelism to people who have made Australia their new home; may they not be lost in hell but find permanent residence in heaven, eternal life, starting now.

8 TUESDAY MIDDLE EAST

After a long period of waiting and discernment, *EM** is preparing to return to a new part of the region in September. Ask for a good start, for our team to be strengthened, and "for the Lord to raise up a small team who I can work with as I look further into the future." Pray for churches in north Lebanon *Mike & Vicky* work with, as they have their annual summer conference in the cedar mountains this week.

9 WEDNESDAY ADVOCACY

Vicki completed a fruitful six-week tour in Australia filled with meaningful encounters with people wanting to help persecuted Christians in their time of need. Give thanks for politicians willing to advocate, prayer groups keen to intercede, refugee groups ready to help, and all who helped set her itinerary.

10 THURSDAY JORDAN

Give thanks that the Amal puppet team has new puppets coming from Britain this month. With a number of summer opportunities, they need more puppeteers and helpers to help make this ministry effective. Pray God will continue to provide all their needs.

11 FRIDAY AUSTRALIA / UK

John & Magda work with migrants in NSW, and give thanks for many opportunities to challenge and encourage people to present the Gospel cross-culturally. "May God equip us to deal effectively with the big influx of refugees. May the Lord continue to open doors here and overseas and sustain us day by day." *Mike & Vicky* are with supporters in Cheltenham this evening.

12 SATURDAY EGYPT

Recent big increases in fuel (petrol and diesel) and electricity costs are having a significant knock-on effect on prices. Attacks on authorities and tourists continue to do damage. Ask God's wisdom and strength for the nation's leaders as people are struggling more than ever financially.

13 SUNDAY LEBANON

Karen provides pastoral leadership for Beirut International Community Church. As this very mixed congregation study the book of Acts together, pray for members to find ways to live out their lives and witness with spiritual power and effectiveness - especially those who have little power themselves.

14 MONDAY INTERNATIONAL

As friends on the Emmaus Road encountered Jesus, Al Massira aims to take small groups on a similar journey to discover answers and the Messiah's true identity. The course is increasingly being used in Europe; pray for suitable people to be trained to lead, and for many to find Christ through discussion, prayer, food and companionship.

15 TUESDAY LEBANON

Give thanks for the many ways God has used and continues to use ABTS (the Arab Baptist Seminary) to strengthen his work in the Middle East and North Africa region. Pray for the team there as they form quality Christian leaders and provide a Christian voice in the region.

16 WEDNESDAY LEBANON

SC* writes, "August is the most difficult month at the prison - the courts shut down, it's very hot in the cells, and there's a sense of hopelessness. Uphold the team visiting female inmates each Wednesday." Pray for work to bring justice for migrant workers, many of whom experience abuse with no legal recourse.

17 THURSDAY EGYPT

An Egyptian woman challenged a Government minister: "I've lost eleven members of my family and I have nothing else to lose! But I am at peace knowing they are in Heaven. But what about you? Have you read the Bible?" The Bible Society of Egypt Bible has noticed a demand for the Scriptures following wide media coverage of the confrontation.

18 FRIDAY UK / IRAQI KURDISTAN

Please pray for *Robbie*, the experienced teacher trainer who we mentioned last month, who is planning to come in September and join MEDS. Pray for plans to enable her to serve effectively and train others.

19 SATURDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

With the Sorani Bible revision completed the team are focussing on supporting resources: a harmony of the gospels, and a Study Bible which will particularly serve isolated believers and those discipling others. Others want to develop audio and other media. Ask for wisdom in prioritizing such projects, and for the protection of all involved.

20 SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL

Give thanks for all our colleagues who are able to take time to connect with family, church and supporters this summer. *Ruth* is at the Welsh conference, and *Mike* is speaking at Christ Church Westbourne today. Uphold them all as they prepare to return.

21 MONDAY UK

Our agency has 'point-people' for specialist aspects of ministry. This evening *Mike & Helen* meet with a couple who search for, advise and send teachers. Pray for partners who run Christian schools in Lebanon, who are very eager to welcome qualified and competent teachers who can also teach the Bible clearly.

22 TUESDAY INTERNATIONAL

Hesus will represent his Language School at COMIBAN's Spanish-American Missions Conference in Bogota, Colombia from 22-24 August. May he make many useful contacts and may the word spread as he presents possibilities for Spanish speakers to learn Arabic without needing to know English first.

23 WEDNESDAY ADVOCACY

Vicki will be in Colombia for an advocacy visit from 22 August. Please pray for excellent connections, with Government, politicians and ministries, to enable effective support to be built for Christians in the Middle East in their time of trial.

24 THURSDAY USA

Appointees *M&A** have decided to delay their progress to the Middle East to 2018, as M has had recent shoulder surgery and they await the arrival of their first child. Pray healing for M, a safe delivery for A, and for the Lord to give them a team of supporters and prayer partners for the work He has called them to.

25 FRIDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Colleagues work with a local NGO which is also a UK charity. As a number of trustees have moved on, a new group of trustees is forming. As they meet this evening, ask the Lord for clarity and wisdom as the NGO is breaking new ground in child-friendly education.

26 SATURDAY EGYPT / UK

Chris is visiting the UK this month. "Pray the Lord will give me strength and a clear mind as I try to sort things out, both in Egypt and UK in preparation for retirement. Pray my final months in Egypt will be fruitful, for those who will take on more responsibility when I leave, and that I'll teach them well."

27 SUNDAY EGYPT

With the authorities unable to protect summer activities, camps and travels, churches will be feeling extra pressures. Ask the Lord to give wisdom and grace to ministers and leaders, and for imaginative alternatives for their families and young people to learn and grow in faith.

28 MONDAY MIDDLE EAST

Becoming followers of Jesus is very costly for some of our friends, who are seen as betraying their family, culture, history and identity. May our Father strengthen and encourage isolated believers, provide others for them to fellowship with, and make them bold in their witness.

29 TUESDAY ADVOCACY

*S&J** praise God for answered prayer: "Many situations seem hopeless from a human perspective: travel blocks, missing paperwork, Interpol notices, pursuing families, refugee log-jams. Yet many obstacles are miraculously overcome and refugees known to us are able to get safely relocated. We're grateful for key contacts who assisted in these situations, and for the prayers of many!"

30 WEDNESDAY ARABIAN PENINSULA

Yemen: Pray for the peace of the country. Pray for faithful men and women to rise up and take their place in Kingdom work. Pray against the spirit of deception and duplicity. Pray that Jesus shows himself in ways that are undeniable.

31 THURSDAY INTERNATIONAL

Eid-al-Adha begins tonight or tomorrow, depending on the sighting of the moon. The feast commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, and follows the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Pray our friends will receive for themselves understanding and assurance of Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

* 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.