

PRAYING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

JUNE 2018

'He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. *Psalms 37:6*

Justice is in short supply in our region. As our neighbours continue and complete their fast, we're praying with them to find what they're longing for in what Christ has done on the cross. Trusting in him, they gain forgiveness, and so much more - nothing less than the hope of justice.

As Alec Motyer puts it, "In the tensions and disparities of life, you are, after all, in the right. 'Judgement' is the decision in your favour."

1 FRIDAY JORDAN

Give thanks with **Becky & Hesus** for the safe arrival of their third son, Elias, 3.4kg, on May 7. May they and his brothers find deep joy in getting to know him and caring for him, and may the family continue to find open doors for effective witness among neighbours.

2 SATURDAY UK

A team led by Ben launches a new business initiative today, to explore God's work through business and share opportunities to learn and serve. As **MikeP** brings a bible reading on whole-life discipleship, may all who attend be encouraged in work and witness.

3 SUNDAY LEBANON

As International Community Church (ICC) looks to the future, there are many uncertainties and they have significant decisions to make. Pray for **Karen** as she provides pastoral leadership, for the elders and congregation, and for their witness to be strengthened.

4 MONDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Give thanks that elections were not marred by much violence, though the low turnout reflects disillusionment. May the new government bring people of good conscience and courage into positions of authority in Baghdad; and may believers renew their strength as they witness to the Good News we have in Jesus.

5 TUESDAY AUSTRALIA

Uphold **Vicki** and her family after her Dad died on April 29th. Give thanks that he died peacefully. Uphold the family as they reflect on his life and their own situations, and ask for the Lord to lead Vicki.

6 WEDNESDAY JORDAN

B & C* ask for "divine encounters with their language helpers during Ramadan. Give thanks for several opportunities already given us to share. Pray for continued healing of C's foot which was fractured in November; the compression screw is backing out and is painful."

7 THURSDAY LEBANON

Today is the last day of teaching at the education centre. **Mike & Vicky** write: "We will visit all the families tomorrow to deliver end of year reports. We have to ask a few older students to move on to make way for new students - sad, but they've been with us 5 years."

8 FRIDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Give thanks for **Robbie's** training contribution to Child Friendly Spaces; pray for national staff to apply and develop it. Uphold **S & K*** & family as they transition to UK at the end of June; may national staff continue to benefit as they plan & make regular future visits.

9 SATURDAY AUSTRALIA

Many believers in Sydney will gather through tomorrow night, from 7pm to 7am, to pray for their Muslim neighbours to have a special encounter with Jesus through dreams and visions. Praise God for this unity across different churches, agencies and communities.

10 SUNDAY MIDDLE EAST

Our neighbours are seeking God specially this evening, 'the Night of Power' - also known as 'the Night of Destiny' - as many believe their fate for the following year is determined by what they do tonight. Pray with them to find true forgiveness and blessing in Christ.

11 MONDAY EGYPT

BK* writes, "June 10-12 are days of joy as my regional directors are in my home town to attend services and meet leaders from key supporting churches. May God use this to turn hearts and minds to good works he has prepared for us to do in the Middle East."

12 TUESDAY JORDAN

A church is welcoming Iraqis. Give thanks for people eager to serve, and pray for the leadership team as key people continue to leave for the West. May people hunger for the word, grow in faith and practical living, and in the desire to share faith while they're here.

13 WEDNESDAY LEBANON

Mike & Vicky take few days holiday in the beautiful Chouf area - and do some exploratory work for their summer programme and youth camp there in July. Pray for refreshment for them and their boys, and for the volunteers preparing to join them for the summer.

14 THURSDAY MIDDLE EAST

As the month of fasting, Ramadan, moves towards its close, pray for everyone in the region longing for peace and security, hope for the future, and a right relationship with God. **MikeP** travels today to visit colleagues and partners in Lebanon through the coming week.

15 FRIDAY INTERNATIONAL

Ramadan comes to an end, celebrations begin - thanksgiving prayer, new clothes, visiting and feasting, money given to the poor. May this be a time for good visits and greetings as we ask for a 'blessed Eid' and pray God will bring the ultimate blessing of forgiveness.

16 SATURDAY LEBANON

Esther, our volunteer worker this year, leaves us on Wednesday next. Give thanks for her year of service with us, and ask the Lord to enable her to finish well and get good opportunities to share as she says goodbye to her many friends here.

17 SUNDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

'The Life of Jesus' - a harmony of the Gospels in Sorani Kurdish with explanatory notes - is now available for distribution. May local believers be encouraged in faith and witness through this and other books. Give thanks for progress in copyright issues; pray that significant steps, if not closure, can be reached this month.

18 MONDAY MIDDLE EAST

A major regional consultation begins today, with the theme of "Jesus Christ and the Religious Other: Toward a Biblical Understanding of Islam." Pray for the organisers, **Karen** & other speakers, and attenders from many countries (including **Richard** and **MikeP**).

19 TUESDAY EUROPE

Like Mary and Joseph, many refugees and migrants have made difficult journeys. Praise God for the refugees and migrants who have had opportunity to hear the gospel message of salvation and respond positively; pray for the churches reaching out to them.

20 WEDNESDAY MIDDLE EAST

For a variety of reasons, residence permits are becoming increasingly difficult to secure. Pray for workers who have applications in with the relevant authorities, for a change in official mindsets, and for imagination as we explore new ways to live and be here.

21 THURSDAY MIDDLE EAST

Three short-term workers are raising support to come to Lebanon for 10–18 months. Praise God for six new long-term workers preparing to come to the region this year & early next year. Uphold each as they raise a support team and complete required training.

22 FRIDAY INTERNATIONAL

Many of our colleagues working cross-culturally in the Middle East have unsaved loved ones back in their home countries. Pray with them and for them, as it is difficult to be so far away with minimal opportunity to share faith with them.

23 SATURDAY JORDAN

MikeP moves on to visit colleagues and partners in Jordan today. They are getting ready to welcome new people over the next few weeks; may the Lord bless those arriving and those who continue to serve in language learning, teaching, and church life.

24 SUNDAY TURKEY

MikeT will be preaching at his local church, continuing their series in the life of Joseph. Give thanks that things are moving forward with formalising church membership and three regular attenders are preparing to get baptised at the end of the summer.

25 MONDAY MIDDLE EAST

As graduations take place at schools and theological seminaries, give thanks for learning and growth among students. Uphold many who will return to unstable and economically challenging contexts – yet where God is working most powerfully.

26 TUESDAY LEBANON

Short-term volunteers are arriving to help set up for the summer programme at the Education Centre in the north. Uphold all the churches and groups throughout the country who take this time for bible teaching, encouragement, renewal and outreach.

27 WEDNESDAY JORDAN

Give thanks with **EM*** and her church that children from the majority background can still come twice a week for stories and fun activities. Pray that there will be openings to develop relationships with parents, leading to trust and deeper conversations.

28 THURSDAY NEW ZEALAND, MIDDLE EAST

As **R & AW*** settle in to their new home, **A** is helping in church administration. **R** is leading a workgroup on accreditation standards for technology-enhanced theological learning, keen to bridge gaps between theological education providers and local churches. May their boys find new Christian friendships as they miss ME friends.

29 FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST

Thank the Lord for people discovering Jesus Christ, the bread of life, and coming to living and dynamic faith. Ask for deep roots; for more to hunger for the One who gives eternal life; and for churches and workers as they share how Jesus alone brings true satisfaction.

30 SATURDAY MIDDLE EAST

Psalm 37 envisages the Lord's deep peace and justice impacting the whole world. As tensions remain high after the events in Israel and Palestine last month, continue to ask for peace and justice to prevail; and uphold those who share God's good news with all involved.

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

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

This prayer guide comes to you from the MECO Australia office. Please contact us for changes of email or postal address, or for more information.

PO Box 136, Kerrimuir, Victoria 3129

Tel: (03) 9898 0077 E: office@meco.org.au W: mecoglobal.org

meco | australia