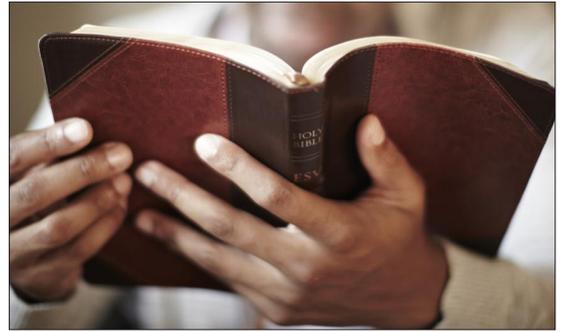


PRAYING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

NOVEMBER 2017



If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:10

ALLOW GOD'S WORD TO SHAPE OUR THINKING

As the films say, "Warning: contains strong language." John's tightly-packed first chapter has been straight to the point, revealing God's presence, purpose, and power to transform us. John doesn't want anyone to miss this: he wants us to allow God's word to shape our thinking, so we see ourselves his way and his priorities become ours. That way, we learn to walk in his truth and light.

While there's an increasing number of people in the Middle East who define themselves as atheists, most grew up with a God-framework and are missing that. They know there's more. As we pray for others to join us, we long to communicate the truth so they in turn can trust the God who makes himself known through Christ.

1 WEDNESDAY INTERNATIONAL

Many Christians pause today to give thanks and pray as they mark All Saints' Day. Give thanks for global interest in and prayer for the Middle East, and pray for people considering coming to live and serve alongside local churches to find their way.

2 THURSDAY LEBANON

Mike & Vicky have visitors from a church in Germany till Saturday, twinned with their Lebanon congregation. Pray for short termers *Esther* and *Lizzie* working in the Education Centre to grow in confidence as they work with refugee children.

3 FRIDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

*S&KR** say, "Daily changes and news controlled by political parties makes it hard to find out what's happening (1Tim 1:1-6). 100,000 Kurds fled Kirkuk because of violence and threats. May violence abate; ask God to use the deep distrust in leaders and despair at chronic problems to search for truth in Christ."

4 SATURDAY JORDAN

Pastors from *Hesus'* home state brought effective ministry to the Iraqi church and the language school. Pray as he translates curriculum and resources into Spanish for the growing number of Latin Americans desiring to serve in the ME and become fluent Arabic speakers.

5 SUNDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

As key national colleagues prepare to leave, ask Father to guide and provide vision and peace for many to stay. Uphold Kurdish church pastor Keith and his family, whose presence is a great encouragement to younger believers. May they have special grace to pastor an anxious congregation, strength to keep going, and friends for his children, often ostracized because of their family's witness.

6 MONDAY USA / MIDDLE EAST

Becky H is six weeks into her Arabic course. "Pray for developing friendships with those from the Middle East in my class and with refugees in the English class where I'm volunteering. My support is nearly up to target: may I be able to come to the region in January!"

7 TUESDAY LEBANON

Students at the Baptist Seminary, ABTS, are being equipped for effective biblically-informed ministry in the complex world of the Middle East and North Africa. Give thanks for the ways God used returning students in many difficult ministry situations over the summer, where they applied their training to great effect.

8 WEDNESDAY ARABIAN PENINSULA

Yemeni Christians long for Jesus to return. "We've lost so much; we reach out to the everlasting peace that He will bring one day. We're seeing a second generation of Christians growing up who will help the church. We pray the third generation - their children - will keep the faith and be accepted into society so we can worship God freely. We know people are willing to give their lives to get there."

9 THURSDAY EGYPT

Our team and friends are having a celebration with and for *Chris A*, giving thanks for over 30 years service in country. She's made many friends and impacted many lives. Pray for blessing upon her, and grace and stamina as she prepares to return to UK next month.

10 FRIDAY EGYPT

Acts of remembrance. prayer for peace and for victims of war take place this weekend. As the congregations of All Saints' meet today and Sunday, *Mike P* speaks about the benefits of 'Living a Quiet Life', being attractive witnesses to Christ in complex worlds.

11 SATURDAY LEBANON

Perry will be traveling for a month from today, leading workshops to strengthen theological colleges in Singapore, Cuba and Haiti, and speaking at a consultation on 'Holistic formation in Theological Education' in Australia. Pray for God's strength in this long and tiring trip.

12 SUNDAY AUSTRALIA

Pray for *Noel & Ros's* house to sell quickly so they can move to Perth. Give thanks for ME and other migrants who've heard and responded to the gospel through them in Victoria; pray the Lord will prepare the hearts of migrants they'll meet in Perth.

13 MONDAY UK

*JM** spends time supporting people emotionally and spiritually through prayer, coaching English, and Bible Study. Pray for good teaching at the weekly Farsi Bible study and monthly service; without translation some struggle to understand. She longs to learn better Farsi.

14 TUESDAY MIDDLE EAST / EUROPE

As people continue to use prayers from last month's 10:14 initiative, pray for those feeling desperate in their current circumstances. May they encounter Christians working with local churches who can share eternal hope; and may vulnerable individuals find God's protection against those who would exploit them.

15 WEDNESDAY JORDAN

*EM** asks prayer for a small kids' programme which takes place twice a week with local Jordanian kids in the street. We are not free to share directly with them, but pray that our lives and love will speak and draw them in to ask questions.

16 THURSDAY LEBANON

*SC** distributes 200 to 300 Jesus films each week. Pray that all who watch them will encounter Him. A fire brought damage but not injury to the school where *Darren* and *John & Judy* teach. Give thanks - for protection of students, enabling staff and helpers get the school open again quickly, and openness in chapel talks and bible classes: "I've seen a promising change and I'm sure the Lord is working."

17 FRIDAY AUSTRALIA

John & Magda were disappointed not to be able to go to the Middle East as planned in September, but saw the Lord's hand in it as many ministry opportunities have opened up in their home area. As new relationships and friendships are built, pray for fruit from their outreach among immigrant communities.

18 SATURDAY JORDAN

Hesus now has up to 100 men studying Philippians in the Iraqi church. Pray they will press in to find Christ for themselves. Uphold *David* who has just started school; and *Becky* as she cares for Daniel, and networks with mums and majority background friends.

19 SUNDAY MIDDLE EAST

Give thanks for the response of Middle East churches in welcoming refugees and migrants. May God strengthen the partnerships that have formed and continue to bless established ministries. May contacts, which are sometimes fleeting as people move on, have an eternal impact.

20 MONDAY EGYPT

This week, *BK** will host three businessmen who will explore with us missional business realities and opportunities here. Give thanks for people coming to find out about life and work in the region; and pray for people to come, learn language and serve long term.

21 TUESDAY LEBANON

Today is Sports Day at the Education Centre *Mike & Vicky* lead. "Parents are invited, and awards given to recognise character and effort more than achievement. It's an opportunity to share the Gospel of God's grace to undeserving sinners. We then all go out for a meal at a fun park."

22 WEDNESDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Internally displaced Arab families from the Mosul area are feeling very vulnerable. Because of conflict in the disputed area, some programmes have had to stop, including those for children in a camp and home visits. Uphold the staff with our Lebanese colleague Carol, and the camp families in their disappointment.

23 THURSDAY MIDDLE EAST / EUROPE

Most refugees and displaced people stay in the region. One local network asks: "May God send all the resources we need to serve the refugees we meet. The number is overwhelming, so we pray for special grace to be extended to all who work among them."

24 FRIDAY JORDAN

*EM** visits seven refugee families with disabled children. The load of care is heavy on them. "May we demonstrate something of Father's love to them. People are fixated on their past lives, the homes they've lost, or on fragile future hopes of life in another country. Pray we can share the hope that is within us."

25 SATURDAY EGYPT

As visitors gain new insights and hear of the opportunities there are for suitably qualified people to serve here, pray they will tell the story and find ways to encourage enquirers take the steps to respond to the call of the churches "to come over and help us".

26 SUNDAY AUSTRALIA / MIDDLE EAST

Richard recently brought a group of church leaders and members to visit countries in the region. As they reflect on what they saw and the people, churches and agencies they met, ask for this trip to bear fruit in their regular ministry, bible teaching and church life and witness.

27 MONDAY MIDDLE EAST

There's an explosion of energetic and exciting Arabic music and song being used in the churches, expressing praise of God, trust in Christ, and the joy of knowing the power of the Holy Spirit in life and witness. Pray for all involved in writing and leading these songs to grow in faith and understanding.

28 TUESDAY LEBANON

The ABTS on-line Certificate in Ministry programme continues to grow, with students coming from all over the Arabic-speaking world, many from a majority faith background. Ask that students grow personally, and even more that they will contribute to the strengthening of the church in the region.

29 WEDNESDAY JORDAN

As *MikeP* visits colleagues this week to catch up and encourage them, ask the Lord to continue strengthening each one in their life and witness. Give thanks for *BeckyH*, preparing to join the group in the New Year, and ask for her support-raising to be completed.

30 THURSDAY LEBANON

Thank God for freedom to share the gospel. As Education Centre staff share good news with children and their families, may they continue to rely on God and depend on him for strength. May they find people with open minds and eager hearts to accept Christ as their Lord and saviour.

* 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. This Praying for the Middle East update comes to you from the MECO Australia office. Please contact us for changes of address, postal address or for further information