

# PRAYING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

MAY 2018

'Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.'

*Psalms 37:5 NRSV*

David - political, economic, military leader of his people - pens an A-Z of trust in the Lord. Alec Motyer says 'Commit' literally means 'roll your way onto God'. We pray our Christian friends will continue to know strength and joy as they face many economic, political and spiritual pressures. As they start their fasting month, we pray our majority friends will find God revealed in Christ as the one who is close, who can be trusted here and now.

## 1 TUESDAY INTERNATIONAL

As our group of visitors to the region head for home, ask for their trip to have lasting value. They are 'mobilisers,' looking for suitable people to serve in the region, & liaising with churches who send and support them. May they tell our realities and strategy well as they go.

## 2 WEDNESDAY EGYPT

With the President firmly re-elected, continue to ask God's wisdom and mercy for this nation and its leaders. Give thanks that Easter celebrations were not targets of attack this year. Ask God to enable the Christian community to keep witnessing clearly and boldly.

## 3 THURSDAY MIDDLE EAST

An advocacy ministry staff team are on retreat today and tomorrow. May they be united, encouraged, equipped and inspired as they reflect and plan; and may the Lord continue to lead and use them to bring comfort, advice and support to many who suffer for his sake.

## 4 FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST & EUROPE

Among the challenges of displacement, "People meet with Jesus in real ways outside their own countries. Pray that Father will call them back, and that one day they will return to their homelands to be a witness for him and strengthen the body of Christ there."

## 5 SATURDAY EGYPT/USA

**BK\*** begins his time visiting supporters, churches and family over the coming months. May he find many opportunities to share about Egypt and the region, and find increased support for our team in Egypt as they long to see people come and the team grow again.

## 6 SUNDAY LEBANON

Parliamentary elections take place today. No-one has dared change the basis of the country's leadership since the country became independent, and there's a delicate balance between religious groups. Pray for stability during the coming weeks.

## 7 MONDAY IRELAND

**Janeen** gives thanks for a worthwhile and significant time in Cyprus. Time spent with one student was particularly encouraging, as was meeting one young man from a closed country who recently came to faith in the North. Pray both will grow and deepen in understanding.

## 8 TUESDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

The region continues to face much uncertainty, including its relationship with central government in Baghdad. Pray for economic stability as many live in increasing debt; and security and access into the region since there are extra visa requirements at the borders.

## 9 WEDNESDAY JORDAN

As **EM\*** gives thanks for her father's life she writes: "Thank Father for those refugees who come to a living and dynamic faith in him during their time here. Pray for them to be firmly rooted in Christ in order to withstand the tough transition into Western countries."

## 10 THURSDAY UK

125th anniversary celebrations begin today at St James' Church, Clerkenwell. As we hear the story, the gathering will feature global food and music. SIM's International Director, Joshua Bogunjoko, is the main speaker, and there will be many other guests.

## 11 FRIDAY LEBANON

"Pray for courage and wisdom for Grace, a new believer living in a Palestinian refugee camp whose circumstances are extremely difficult. Her auntie was killed for her faith by the family when she was young. May she grow in knowledge and understanding."

## 12 SATURDAY IRAQ

Kurdish New Year, Nawroz, was a muted time of celebration in comparison to other years. While northern airports are open again, there's a strong feeling of uncertainty. Uphold the whole country as Parliamentary elections take place today. Much else could change.

## 13 SUNDAY AUSTRALIA

**Richard** has a number of speaking engagements during this month. Pray for clarity as he presents stories of Middle East churches engaging and reaching out, and shares the needs and opportunities of the region. Ask for responsive hearts among those who listen.

## 14 MONDAY LEBANON

**Mike & Vicky** have a couple from the UK visiting to help for two weeks. The timing is good to provide paternity cover for one of the teachers at the Education Centre. May they settle well, and find freedom to serve as well as receiving from local partners.

### 15 TUESDAY INTERNATIONAL

Ramadan, the month of fasting, begins today, until June 14, and Christians pray with love and respect for all who are observing it. Our friends long to know they're welcomed in God's presence. Ask for them to encounter Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.

### 16 WEDNESDAY LEBANON

Continue to pray for an impact from audio players being distributed to locked-in workers in Lebanese homes. These contain bible and songs in the heart languages of domestic workers, and are a sign they are not forgotten and instead, greatly loved by God.

### 17 THURSDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Uphold **S & KR\*** as they prepare for a season of change, relocating to be based in London again from the end of June. They're seeking a place in school for Kameran, opportunities to serve Kirsten's family, and other avenues of service and learning.

### 18 FRIDAY IRELAND

Today **Janeen** is sharing with a mixed group of ladies in Donegal. Give thanks for this opportunity to speak about life and faith in the Middle East, and pray that the message will challenge both those who believe and those who don't.

### 19 SATURDAY JORDAN

Give thanks that new people are beginning to arrive. Uphold **B & C** and **BeckyH** as they study hard and long to learn language well. May they be blessed in making friends and finding their way into church and neighbourhood as they use their new language.

### 20 SUNDAY EUROPE

Give thanks for the Lord's sovereignty over people movements, and for the questions and opportunities that emerge. Pray for churches reaching out to new people, serving and sharing Good News with them. May they find the right helpers to minister among migrants.

### 21 MONDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

**Kirsten** and others ask wisdom as they plan for ministries which currently serve refugee children and disabled children from the host community to continue. She will support them at a distance, and make occasional visits to the region.

### 22 TUESDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

As **Sandy** & colleagues in Biblica plan ahead for change in patterns of management, 'David's' son has critical health needs. The lack of government salaries badly affects public services, sectors are on go-slow or strike, and it's hard to find functioning medical departments.

### 23 WEDNESDAY MIDDLE EAST

Uphold **J & T\*** and their family as they prepare to move to our region from Africa. A ministry team of local believers will carry on outreach after they leave; may the Lord use this team to continue bringing the gospel into a least-reached community.

### 24 THURSDAY TURKEY

Ask for strength for Andrew Brunson as he continues on trial, and wisdom for his Turkish lawyer defending him. May Andrew and his family know God's peace and presence, and may the Turkish court uphold justice and reject the allegations against him.

### 25 FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST

As Jordan celebrates independence, 72 years on, uphold this country as it deals with many pressures from conflicts around it. Internally, a near doubling in population means services are stretched and many struggle to make a living. Ask wisdom for leaders and people.

### 26 SATURDAY UK

**MikeT** is in the UK speaking at a church in Bathampton, and visiting another church in Windsor on Sunday. It's an opportunity to celebrate with family at Zak's graduation, and to attend a men's convention in between these visits to supporters and friends.

### 27 SUNDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Sorani Kurdish Bible copyright issues remain; ask for them to be solved in a manner that honours Christ and His Word. May the network of bookshops across the region stocking scriptures for sale be protected, and the relationship with them develop.

### 28 MONDAY JORDAN

"Give thanks for the complete translation of the Kelsey Arabic Programme's first level curriculum into Spanish. Registration for the course opens in the autumn so pray more Spanish speakers will be attracted to study through this language programme."

### 29 TUESDAY MIDDLE EAST

AWEMA's staff conference took place this month. "May the Lord bless us, draw us closer to Him and each other, and give us wisdom and strength as we develop new ministries." One of their teams recently travelled to Lebanon to serve Syrians with a local partner church.

### 30 WEDNESDAY INTERNATIONAL

A number of people are considering coming in to the region from a variety of countries and backgrounds. One Australian is looking at ministry in Lebanon; and we're very keen to see people engage with many opportunities in Egypt. Pray for God's will to be made clear.

### 31 THURSDAY INTERNATIONAL

Mid-way through Ramadan, continue to pray for those who are fasting and who long to know they are accepted by God. Ask for them to come to know that through Jesus Christ, God has done for them what even their best efforts could not do for themselves.

*\*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](mailto:office@meco.org.au) W: [mecoglobal.org](http://mecoglobal.org)*

**meco** | australia