

PRAYING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

FEBRUARY 2019

'Do not take a purse or bag or sandals...'

Luke10v4

Jesus' instruction to his friends, 'Take no purse', is intriguing. We have resources and money to offer our brothers & sisters in the region; sometimes we feel it's all we can offer. Jesus moves in another direction, instructing his colleagues to travel light, "go dependent", and see who looks after them. I've heard Middle Easterners argue debt is good, as it ensures relationship and responsibility. Maybe. The way of v4 is to go receiving and thus build relationships which mean people are open and receptive to Jesus' message.

1 FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST

Phil Bourne, who served in Lebanon and as our researcher in Cyprus, died early in January. Uphold Brigid, Jenny and their family as they adjust after his thanksgiving service on the 19th. Give thanks for all who have gone before us and left solid and reliable foundations.

2 SATURDAY UK

Uphold **K & SR*** as they and their family give thanks for her father's life today, and as they adjust to his loss. "We're so thankful to be based in UK last autumn to be with K's family in the last weeks of her dad's life, and rejoice that he died trusting in Jesus."

3 SUNDAY LEBANON

MikeT spoke on Proverbs 3 at the young adults meeting of a partner church yesterday; today he preaches at the family's local church. Give thanks that the congregation has moved into their new church building; pray for them as they continue to learn and witness.

4 MONDAY INTERNATIONAL

As Chinese friends celebrate their New Year tomorrow, the Year of the Pig, give thanks for people from Chinese backgrounds serving in the region and those considering how best to come and be involved. They instinctively know about security and bold witness.

5 TUESDAY MIDDLE EAST

MEC's board meets today, with Tannas chairing after **StuartP's** long, thoughtful and effective contribution. Pray for **S*** and his colleagues offering help and wisdom to brothers and sisters in the region who live under pressure, and giving valuable perspective for us who pray.

6 WEDNESDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

SR* travels to reconnect with the staff team at Biblica and also complete the annual renewal of Biblica's licence papers. **K*** hopes to go ahead with a brief visit in mid-February, to overlap while Kameran is on a school trip; **MikeP** is also hoping to visit.

7 THURSDAY EGYPT

"Our team aim to encourage and empower local Christians who are communicating the love of Christ to their friends and colleagues, and during February we are asking God's help to identify more local Christians who are doing this so we can serve with them."

8 FRIDAY LEBANON

As Chapels and Bible lessons go on in **Ruth's** school, we're searching for suitably qualified teachers for this and another large Evangelical school. Meanwhile, severe weather has flooded Refugee camps in the Beqaa; uphold people affected and agencies helping them.

9 SATURDAY MIDDLE EAST

Three significant international congregations in the region are searching for new Pastors or leaders. As **Karen** continues to lead International Church Beirut, they await word from a couple who have been considering coming to take over from her.

10 SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL

Time in home and sending countries allows space to reflect, review and reconnect with supporters and churches. Ask God's power and wisdom as **V*** preaches at her home church today, for many to return to God & stand strong in Christ during hardships.

11 MONDAY JORDAN

Whitman Academy, where **JB*** teaches, serves children of international families. The school is in a process of decision-making about moving site after this school year or next. Ask God's wisdom and guidance through this discernment process.

12 TUESDAY LEBANON

An ABTS team is preparing this year's Middle East Consultation, with one of the most significant themes yet: *'Thinking Biblically about Muslims, Muhammad, & the Qur'an: Practical Implications for the Church Today'*. May this prove a memorable and helpful week.

13 WEDNESDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

KR* is completing annual reports to renew the development NGO's licence in February. Pray this will go smoothly so this 'ministry vehicle' continues in place to serve local people. May Father raise up suitably qualified believers to serve in Iraqi Kurdistan.

14 THURSDAY LEBANON

"The country needs a government; protests have been taking place about this in recent weeks. Meanwhile, good news continues to go forward: pray for a parent quietly reading the Bible, and for others who want to respond but are fearful of their community's reaction."

15 FRIDAY IRELAND & UK

Janeen's car was written off outside her house in Belfast two weeks ago (not her fault!), so she needs another. Her church suggested a delay which means she arrived in England ten days ago to start her new work. After a good send-off, she asks prayer for protection.

16 SATURDAY EGYPT

*BK** writes, "We're rejoicing that the first of a number of young new team members is due to arrive at the beginning of next month, and our team is working together to prepare a system of orientation and training with the goal of long-lasting fruitfulness."

17 SUNDAY LEBANON

Mike & Vicky write, "Give thanks for two nights our church had away together over New Year at a centre in the mountains. It was valuable in strengthening relationships and reaching better understanding after we failed to agree on appointing a part-time pastor."

18 MONDAY INTERNATIONAL

Perry is in Zimbabwe until 24th, consulting with the senior faculty at the Theological College of Zimbabwe (Bulawayo). With a full day workshop in basic teaching skills with junior faculty, and four other schools and programs, pray for fruitful encounters and learning.

19 TUESDAY LEBANON

Praise God with *Lawson*, for God's goodness in 2018. "The church I'm with is growing, many are turning to Christ. The youth are having a season of renewal and growth, and the ministries of the church are expanding at an incredible rate. God is really turning up the heat!"

20 WEDNESDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Give thanks that the doctor we prayed for on January 17th has returned. Continue to pray for 'David's' young son, and for 'Miles' cancer treatment to be effective. His team and colleagues continue to invest in Arabic and Kurdish churches and their leaders.

21 THURSDAY JORDAN

'Let us rise up and build... ' says Nehemiah 2:18, the verse our team began with at their weekend away in November. Pray with them as they go about building through language, therapy, puppet presentations, visits, church life and ministry, and friendship.

22 FRIDAY JORDAN

With another new member, *AW**, on board, "We're setting up prayer partnerships and 180 degree mentoring relationships to help build more closeness and accountability. We're also holding a workshop on newsletter writing to give us some fresh ideas."

23 SATURDAY INTERNATIONAL

Perry continues his tour, from today until 28th in Pakistan (Lahore) at a forum hosted by Open Theological Seminary and attended by a number of participant schools. Pray with them as they take time to think about how theology is taught, learned and applied.

24 SUNDAY YEMEN

Local Christians ask us to pray with them "for civil war to end soon - it is causing so much misery to a country that was already one of the world's poorest. May God protect His church there, and may it be salt and light and show God's love in practical and attractive ways."

25 MONDAY EUROPE

Thank God for the demand for more Sorani Kurdish Bibles in Europe. May the continuing work to revise the 2017 edition mean a second edition can be printed in 2019. May the living word of God reach the scattered Sorani speaking population around the world.

26 TUESDAY JORDAN

*EM** reflects, "Building relationships takes time... I've been visiting some almost weekly for a year and only now is there enough trust for them to open up and opportunities to share deeper things." Pray with her for the children and families she visits to grow in faith.

27 WEDNESDAY JORDAN

*J&T** continue Arabic and J teaches part-time. Praise God for a work visa and residence, and ask for doors for the gospel to open in J's language exchange meetings. Pray for their family's physical health after various ailments.

28 THURSDAY LEBANON

SIM Middle East partners with the Lebanese Evangelical Society in two large schools. Ask for qualified, godly teachers who can present God's word clearly in chapels and assemblies; and for students' hearts to be opened by the example they see and the teaching they receive.

meco | australia

**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 MECO Australia's office. Please contact us for changes of email or postal address, or for more information.

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