

PRAYING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

MARCH 2019

'When you enter... say, 'Peace to this house.'
If someone who promotes peace is there,
your peace will rest on them; if not,
it will return to you. Stay there...!' Luke 10v5-7

We're rejoicing to have new people arriving, learning language and understanding culture, bringing moments of joy and many days of uphill struggle. Finding people of peace is one of the key strategies as our colleagues and other groups pray and look for the people who welcome the Lord's people and thus welcome the kingdom. When you find them, Jesus says, 'Stay there, eat & drink whatever they give you, don't move around'. He also says their hospitality and provision is 'the workers deserving their wages'.

1 FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST

Juliana arrives to start language and orientation. As *Perry* visits ABTS alumni, many Bible Colleges & Seminaries are developing online theological education. They need to build online security, Arabic digital libraries, and recruit and train extra faculty.

2 SATURDAY EUROPE & UK

#howwilltheyhear is a growing network of agencies who want to equip European churches to reach out to migrants, refugees and the displaced. Pray for churches in the UK & Europe growing in their commitment and understanding of witness to Kurds and Arabs.

3 SUNDAY LEBANON

MikeT preaches on Proverbs 8, 'Beautiful Wisdom', in their church. "Our church is enjoying the new hall & facilities but are still a bit lost with regards to appointing a part-time pastor. We will review at the end of the month to decide if we want to consider a candidate."

4 MONDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

*SR** is attending a conference which brings together people and organizations working across the world to share the Good News of Jesus with Kurdish-speaking people. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and enable fruitful cooperation and creativity.

5 TUESDAY MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East leadership team is meeting monthly at the moment, made up of our country leaders with *Andrea* and *MikeP*. In due course we will expand to include some significant local leaders whose perspectives and advice will steer us.

6 WEDNESDAY MIDDLE EAST

Friends at AWEMA ask, "May the Lord open doors so we can carry out the programs we're planning for 2019, and may all that is in the Lord's will not be hindered for lack of finances." We're seeking to help them find the right person to develop their donor relations.

7 THURSDAY EGYPT

*TJ** writes, "It's getting more challenging for long-term planning as we hear more stories of families turned away on entry. As we prepare for newcomers it's clear we need to invest in local ministries and encourage those who can carry the work through to completion."

8 FRIDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Give thanks for February's progress with official paperwork, which when complete will facilitate work and access for the next year. *SR** is visiting Kurds who recently moved from the Kurdish region before he spends two weeks in IK following up on people & projects.

9 SATURDAY UK

Give thanks with *JM**, now settling in Derby with a lively church reaching out to Asylum seekers. Pray for those who train and lead people who want to share their new found faith; and ask the Lord's leading for her as she discerns how best to be involved.

10 SUNDAY JORDAN

"Pray for the Iraqi church here in the middle of an 8-week discipleship course on our relationship with Christ, and how that affects all our relationships around us. Ask for deeper commitment and changed, outward looking hearts and lives."

11 MONDAY MIDDLE EAST

Pray for traditional Christians beginning Lent this week, the longest and most demanding time of preparation as they observe a strict vegan fast. Give thanks and ask God's wisdom for Rev Joseph, now leading the Supreme Council of Protestant churches in the Levant.

12 TUESDAY AUSTRALIA

Ros & Noel are settling in Perth and having fruitful conversations. They gave a Dari New Testament to L, an Afghani, and a Christmas book for her daughter; D, an Iranian, is recovering his faith, growing with many questions and wanting to lead in prayer as they visit him.

13 WEDNESDAY MIDDLE EAST

The Bible Society are thankful for a large numbers of visitors at the Cairo Book Fair last month. 30 Christian publishers were scattered across the display areas so both 'deliberate' & 'accidental' customers found them, with serious spiritual conversations resulting.

14 THURSDAY JORDAN

Uphold Jesús who has suddenly found himself interim director of Kelsey Arabic language school. As students learn to speak, his focus is on the literacy side, which is vitally important for them to share the Word and gear up to acclimatise and remain in the culture.

15 FRIDAY LEBANON

The Education Centre teaching team are taking a trip for Teacher's Day, which was actually on the 9th. In addition, "This weekend, our church youth group are taking a night away. We'll be doing a Bible overview, and some hiking in the mountains."

16 SATURDAY ARABIAN PENINSULA

Last month the Grand Imam of Al Azhar (the leading Sunni seat of learning) met Pope Francis in UAE. He commended Christians' role in the ME and affirmed the principle of coexistence. Christians ask for firm steps towards greater freedom to worship & witness to Christ.

17 SUNDAY LEBANON & ME

Significant international congregations in the region are still searching for new Pastors or leaders. As **Karen** continues to lead International Community Church Beirut, their pastoral search is back to square one; uphold the Elders as they seek God's wisdom.

18 MONDAY MIDDLE EAST

Pray our vision will be fulfilled: "As a teacher of students from many nations, I feel the burden to equip and prepare them not just to be life-long learners but to be ready for every context they will find themselves in, that they will be the light of Christ in the world."

19 TUESDAY AUSTRALIA

John & Magda give thanks for people engaging in mission to Middle Easterners in Sydney. "We're privileged to minister with others to refugees seeking friendship who are open to the Good News. May we be available to share and pray more together."

20 WEDNESDAY LEBANON

Mike & Vicky ask for receptive hearts and minds as they prepare for tomorrow's Mothers' Day event at the Education Centre. "We hope to take the Mums and their children up to the snow after a show put on by the kids and a talk by our colleague Youssef."

21 THURSDAY IRAQI KURDISTAN

Kurdish people celebrate their New Year, 'Nawroz', visiting to greet one another and express future concerns and hopes. May believers in churches in the region and across the world take this opportunity to reach out in friendship to Kurdish people in their locality.

22 FRIDAY MIDDLE EAST

A month from now, colleagues from ME, North Africa & Central Asia will gather for their first joint 'Spiritual Life Conference'. Guests will include speakers Joshua & Joanna Bogunjoko. May preparations & arrangements bring refreshment and perspective for all attending.

23 SATURDAY MIDDLE EAST

C* asks us to "Lift up our counseling center as we enter a period of transition. We need to find and move to a larger office space. We have two counselors coming for a vision trip this month; may God reveal his will to them and the existing team regarding their future."

24 SUNDAY LEBANON

L* writes, "My church has been experiencing a time of renewal and God is growing a generation of youth who fear Him, equipping them for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. Pray for new people coming to church and hearing the Gospel for the first time."

25 MONDAY UK

Today **Perry** is at the Pars Theological Centre, working with their team who aim to resource Iranian Christians. For the rest of this week he's working with Steve at SIM UK to conceptualize a possible Masters degree in missional leadership for the contemporary UK context.

26 TUESDAY INTERNATIONAL

Ask for God's hand to be on the international workgroup which **RW*** is co-leading, as they develop online accreditation standards and mesh with local churches. ICETE (International Council for Evangelical Theological Education), validates courses at seminaries globally.

27 WEDNESDAY JORDAN

As **AW*** gets to know his landlord's family, "Pray for them and others in the area who claim Christ culturally but have not experienced his truth, life, and transforming power." Meanwhile **Hannah** is learning Arabic on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, and serving ladies and children each Saturday.

28 THURSDAY EGYPT

MikeP begins two weeks of visits and meetings with colleagues and partners in and around Cairo, including an evening with workers 'Covering the Bases'. This is a key monthly gathering of long-established and new workers, supporting them in their life, learning and witness.

29 FRIDAY LEBANON

Today **Jonny's** parents arrive for a ten day visit; pray both they and the team will be encouraged by their visit. Uphold families with growing children who endure separations for educational reasons, and give thanks and pray for extended families who support our workers.

30 SATURDAY MIDDLE EAST

As churches meet through the weekend, and as pastors, teachers and children's and young people's leaders open up God's word, pray for the church in the Middle East and North Africa to grow in faith and love and find courageous and creative ways to impact society.

31 SUNDAY EGYPT & LEBANON

A group from **BK*s** church arrive today for a week with our team and around the city. As their church supports, communicates and intercedes for and with us, pray they will be blessed and encouraged. Our Lebanon team meet this afternoon for praise, prayer and fellowship.

** 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.