



**EMBRACE**  
the Middle East

# PRAYER DIARY

Children at the Child Friendly Space in  
Homs, Syria. (Photo credit: MERATH)

## August 2022 - January 2023

**Pray with us for our Middle Eastern brothers and sisters as they put Christ's compassion into action in their communities.**

Your prayers mean a lot to our partners. They live and work in challenging political and economic situations, doing everything they can to help those affected by conflict, trauma, illness, disability and other difficulties. In these intense circumstances, they are strengthened by the knowledge that they have the prayers of others behind them.

This leaflet contains a prayer prompt for each week of the next six months, and our staff prayer group here at head office will be following the diary too. We hope you will find these prompts useful for your own prayers, and if you would like more detailed information about the partners featured, please visit [www.embrace.org](http://www.embrace.org)

# AUGUST 2022

## 7 August

We pray for our partners at Episcocare, striving to improve the health, education and economic situation in six slum areas in Egypt's cities. Part of this important project is to train teenagers as volunteer mentors for younger children, encouraging them to stay in school and develop a love of learning.

## 14 August

The Palestinian Bible Society has launched an exciting project to equip young people, both Christians and Muslims, with ethical leadership skills. We pray for the Jericho Leadership Academy, its staff and pupils, as it develops inspiring leaders for the community.

## 21 August

A decade ago, the Joint Christian Committee started a library in Dbayeh refugee camp near Beirut. Since then, the library has not only given countless children a love of books but has also grown into a vibrant community centre that brings all generations together. We pray that it will continue to flourish.

## 28 August

This week we give thanks for our dedicated volunteer team. Across the UK and beyond, our volunteers spread the word about our partners and raise vital funds. We pray that even more people will be encouraged to come forward and offer their skills and enthusiasm to our mission.

**Cast your burdens on the Lord**

# SEPTEMBER 2022

## 4 September

Since 2012, we have worked with the Secretariat of Solidarity to distribute bursaries that enable underprivileged children in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza to attend Christian schools. We give thanks for this decade of learning, and we keep in our prayers the hundreds of young people who have benefited.

## 11 September

We pray for the Salaam Centre, providing health and social services to the Zabbaleen, or garbage-collectors, living on the edge of Cairo. Many children suffer from malnutrition, and the centre addresses this through a clinic for under-5s. The clinic monitors their development and educates parents on child health and rights.

## 18 September

Lebanon's economy has been in crisis for several years, and the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the country's difficulties. We pray for the Schneller School, which provides boarding places to 100 children from severely affected families so that they have a safe and comfortable home as well as a high standard of education.

## 25 September

This week (1 October) is the UN International Day of Older Persons. We pray for the rights and needs of elderly people across the world and particularly in Aleppo, Syria, where we help the St Vincent de Paul health centre to provide regular prescriptions for older people living with chronic health conditions.

**and he will sustain you.** Psalm 55:22

# OCTOBER 2022

## 2 October

Orphanages in Egypt house children from a variety of difficult situations, including those whose parents struggle to look after them. We give thanks for our partner, Life Vision, who's new project recognises the importance of a nurturing family environment and works to place children with foster carers and support some to return to their birth families.

## 9 October

We pray for refugees across Lebanon, which has the highest number of refugees per capita in the world. Many do not have any formal refugee camps to go to and live in inadequate shelters. Our partner MERATH will be responding to winter needs again this year distributing warm clothes, blankets and mattresses to help them survive the winter ahead.



Blankets, stoves and warm clothes are given out to help families survive the winter. (Photo credit: MERATH)

## 16 October

A team of Embrace volunteers has travelled to the West Bank to help Palestinian farmers with the olive harvest. Olive trees are important



Olive harvesting in the West Bank.

economically and symbolically, yet thousands have been uprooted or burnt by Israeli settlers. By assisting with the harvest, our volunteers show solidarity with the farmers. We keep them in our prayers this week.

## 23 October

We pray for the village of Alqosh in northern Iraq, where our partner CAPNI is helping the community to become more economically sustainable. Their work includes building greenhouses to protect crops and extend the growing season, enabling the farmers to earn a more stable income.

## 30 October

As we approach All Souls' Day, we honour the memory of Embrace supporters who have died. We ask for God's blessings on their bereaved loved ones and thank him for the generosity of those who have donated to our partners in memory of someone special.



## NOUR'S STORY

## GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US

**The crippling economic crisis in Lebanon is having a devastating effect on many families, but particularly refugees. MERATH's winter relief programme is a lifeline for many, like Nour and her family:**

*"My husband and I are from Mosul in Iraq and we have three children. Our life back in Mosul was very normal and peaceful. My husband worked and I was at home with our two children. We lacked nothing. We were forced to emigrate when ISIS came to our area and we witnessed some of the terrifying things they were doing. At first, things were good in Lebanon. We found safety here and work. But now there is little work and my husband's income is barely enough to cover our rent. The church provided us with two blankets and a heater this winter, as well as a hygiene kit. We also receive food vouchers to help us get the food we need but food has become much more expensive. Our faith has helped us through this difficult time. God is always with us through everything. He will not leave us, not for a single minute."*

## **6 November**

St Luke's Hospital, Nablus, runs first aid courses in secondary schools, but it can be difficult to spare staff from the hospital to deliver them. We pray for their new project, training Ministry of Education health coordinators to take on this role and so ensuring the first aid courses will be sustainable in the future.

## **13 November**

Refugees fleeing conflict and persecution in African countries arrive in Cairo with few possessions and no source of income. We pray for our partner Refuge Egypt as they provide refugees with emergency assistance and longer-term help with medical care, education and employment.

## **20 November**

Hundreds of people work for our partner organisations across the Middle East, using their expertise and compassion to change the lives of vulnerable people in their own communities. This week, we give thanks for every one of our partners' dedicated staff, and ask for God's blessings on them in their ministry.

## **27 November**

We give thanks and pray for our partner Musalaha, a ministry of reconciliation that brings together Israeli and Palestinian women, giving them the opportunity to learn from each other's perspectives and to challenge harmful stereotypes. The women are trained in leadership skills so they can have a positive influence on their wider communities.

“We pray God will strengthen and protect the entire church and all the members.”

Jeanine and Heifa who were helped by MERATH's Winter Relief Project

## 4 December

Yesterday marked the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and this week we give thanks for the Al-Kafaàt Foundation's commitment to the rights of disabled people. Their educational, vocational, medical and residential programmes in Lebanon enhance the quality of life of over 1,000 children and adults every year.

## 11 December

Harpur Memorial Hospital, in the Nile delta city of Menouf, strives to provide an excellent standard of care to all its patients. Nurse training in Egypt is largely informal, so the hospital has established its own nursing school to ensure professional

Training at Harpur Nursing School.  
(Photo Credit: David Uttley, Compelling Story)





standards. We keep the school, its staff and students in our prayers this week.

## 18 December

Lebanon's financial crisis and the pandemic have had a devastating impact on families who were already struggling. We pray for the Middle East Council of Churches as they help women overcome isolation and improve their employment prospects by providing training classes.



English classes run by the MECC. (Photo credit: MECC)

## 25 December

As we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth, we pray for the babies born amid poverty and conflict in the Gaza Strip. The Near East Council of Churches runs clinics that monitor young children's health, identifying and treating problems early so that they can grow and thrive.

**“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

John 16:33

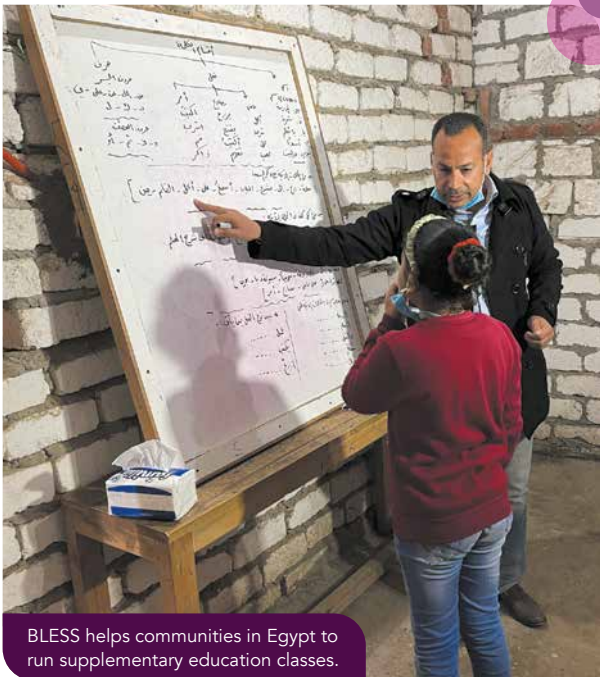
# JANUARY 2023

## 1 January

New Year is a time of new beginnings, and today we pray for those turning their lives around. The Aviv Ministry drop-in centre in Tel Aviv offers a safe place to people trapped by addiction, prostitution and homelessness. Many of the volunteers there are former addicts now determined to offer a lifeline to others.

## 8 January

Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on 7 January, and while festivities continue, we also celebrate the generosity of all Embrace's supporters in upholding the Christian presence in the Middle East. We give thanks for their solidarity, and we pray for anyone experiencing challenges in their lives as this new year begins.



BLESS helps communities in Egypt to run supplementary education classes.

## 15 January

Impoverished communities in Egypt face many challenges, including high unemployment, illiteracy, poor health and housing conditions, addiction and domestic violence. We pray for the development organisation BLESS, which works with local volunteers to tackle these issues (pictured on p10).

## 22 January

We pray for the young people in Dbayeh refugee camp near Beirut, who face limited educational and employment options. We are helping the Pontifical Mission in Lebanon to offer life skills training, vocational courses and career guidance to give them a foundation for their future.

Caritas Jerusalem's Mobile Medical Unit brings medical care to remote villages. (Photo credit: Caritas Jerusalem)



## 29 January

In remote areas of the West Bank, diabetes and high blood pressure are prevalent among the disadvantaged population. We pray for our partner Caritas Jerusalem working to diagnose, treat and monitor these chronic conditions for around 400 patients in the Taybeh area.



THANK  
YOU

The chapel at Anafora  
Retreat Centre, Egypt.

## Thank you for your prayers...

By praying for our partners, you are upholding the Christian presence in the Middle East and helping to change the lives of disadvantaged people of all faiths and beliefs.

You are welcome to reproduce the text of this diary in your church newsletter. You can also find more prayers and add your own on our online prayer room at:

[www.embraceme.org/prayer-room](http://www.embraceme.org/prayer-room)

### EXTRA COPIES:

If you would like to receive extra printed copies of this prayer diary or any of our other publications, contact us at [info@embraceme.org](mailto:info@embraceme.org) or call **01494 897950** to request them.

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