

Pray for Palestine

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We cry out to the Lord for those suffering in Gaza. We ask for God's forgiveness for not having spoken out sooner against the atrocities taking place. The prayer and reflection below are from **Shireen Awwad Hilal**, who works at BMS World Mission's partner **Bethlehem Bible College**, in the West Bank. Please join her in praying for God's peace in Gaza.

Shireen's reflections

The suffering in Gaza is unimaginable. More than 28,000 children have been killed in Gaza since the beginning of the war – each one a precious life made in the image of God.

Thousands more are injured, orphaned, or traumatised beyond words. Hunger and thirst are spreading quickly, with nearly the entire population facing food insecurity. Over 80 days of humanitarian aid access to Gaza has been denied. The cries of children dying from malnutrition should shake us to our core and compel us, as the Church, to stand in the gap with prayer, advocacy, actions and compassion.

Prayers for Gaza and the West Bank

- Pray for care for the innocent lives shattered by war. Comfort to the children who cry out in fear as they lost loved ones or parts of their bodies. The parents who search for food and safety.
- Father God, in a land scorched by sorrow, bring healing. To broken bodies, grant rest. To shattered families, reunification. Lord, bring us hope where there is hopelessness.
- May we not turn away from the suffering of others. We pray that the world will see, hear, speak and act for humanity justice and peace. Bind us in the shared longing for a world made whole. Lord, we cry for the suffering and the pain that the world is going through. Let there be peace.

Pray for Israel

The following prayers come straight from the heart of **Rani Saba**, the **General Director of the Association of Baptist Churches (ABCI) in Israel**, which has a deep, strong and long relationship with BMS.

Although there are legal restrictions on the work that BMS is able to do directly in Gaza, our partners in the region are able to do some work which has an impact on people living there, particularly through close personal connections. Our partnerships and relationships around the region, like those with ABCI, are able to help and support people who have been able to leave Gaza.

Prayer points

- Please pray that the hearts of the Israeli Government and Hamas leaders would be softened, leading to an immediate end to the war and the release of all Israeli hostages.
- Pray that amid all the restrictions and difficulties, the Arab Israeli Church would find a way to reach Gaza and offer help to its suffering people.
- Please pray that any humanitarian aid sent to Gaza would reach trustworthy hands and not be stolen and be distributed wisely and fairly to those in need.
- Please lift up all Arab Christians in Israel and pray that we would resist hatred and instead become a living bridge of reconciliation between peoples.

Pray for Lebanon

The Israel-Gaza conflict has broken across borders into Lebanon, where BMS has a decades' long presence through our partnership with **Thimar**. Since the Israeli ground offensive in southern Lebanon in September 2024, we are helping bring aid to people affected by the conflict, including distributing food, blankets and hygiene items. BMS-supported worker **Wissam Nasrallah**, Thimar's Chief Operating Officer, sent the following reflection on the current situation in Lebanon:

At Thimar, our very name, "Thimar" (ثمرة meaning fruits in Arabic), reminds us daily of the sacred calling to bear the fruits of faith. Yet bearing fruit is not a product of mere effort or a secret evangelistic formula. As Jesus teaches in John 15, it flows from a deeper source. "Abide in me," he says, "and you will bear much fruit." The life of the disciple is not first about doing, but about remaining – resting, being rooted, and alive in Christ, the true Vine. From that vital union, the Spirit produces what we could never manufacture on our own: lasting, God-glorifying fruit.

Here in Lebanon, we are witnessing this process unfold in remarkable ways. As a result of the Israel-Gaza conflict, our region has become a place of refuge for those from different faith backgrounds. Serving them in their time of need is a gift. We believe these relationships represent the early stages of Gospel work – soil being prepared, trust being nurtured. Fruit may take time, but the process has started.

Prayer points

- Please pray for all of the relationships formed in this time of conflict, that we may be patient, trust in God and follow his nurturing guidance.
- May the Lord continue to bring forth fruit through this work – fruit that reconciles people to the Father, and endures into eternity.
- Give thanks that the school year has resumed normally at Beirut Baptist School and at our learning centres after months of disruption due to the war.