



# PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

## Greetings,

Usually you would be receiving our monthly newsletter today, but due to the current situation unfolding in the Middle East, we feel compelled to respond in prayer and with our attention.

As violence and uncertainty continue to emerge in the Middle East and beyond, we are reminded of how deeply broken our world remains, and how urgently it longs for peace, justice, and healing.

Even in the midst of grief and division, we hold fast to the truth that in Christ, we belong to one another. As members of one body, we are called to pray, to stand in solidarity with those who are suffering, and to trust in God's work of restoration.

## PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Over the past few days, the war in Iran and the widening regional conflict have brought heightened uncertainty and fear to our staff, partners, and communities across the Middle East. We ask you to pray with us for God's mercy, peace, and protection over the peoples of this region. Pray that violence would be restrained, innocent lives protected, and anxious hearts calmed. Pray especially for the local church - that believers would stand firm in faith and embody the peace of Christ. May Christians serve as instruments for reconciliation and hope amid rising tension.

At this time, our Global Staff in **Lebanon are safe**. Please continue to pray for:

Elie and Mireille Haddad • Rabih Wazir • Evangeline Hammond • Emad and Almess Botros

Please pray for our partners in the region:

- Thimar-LSESD (Lebanon)
- Arab Baptist Theological Seminary • ABTS (Lebanon) and its students and alumni across the MENA region
- Middle East Revive & Thrive • MERATH (Lebanon)
- Nazareth Evangelical College • NEC (Israel) and its students and alumni across the MENA region
- Shepherd Society (Palestine)

Specific prayer requests:

- Lift up the students, staff, and faculty of Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) and Nazareth Evangelical College (NEC, Israel). Pray for their physical safety, emotional resilience, and spiritual steadfastness.
- Pray for the staff and families of Thimar and MERATH, who continue to serve on the front lines, supporting the poor, the displaced, and those most affected by violence.
- Remember the Christian leaders who were gathered in Dubai - many from our partner organizations across the MENA region - when strikes and missile interceptions began. Pray for those now stranded due to closed airspace and cancelled flights, uncertain when they will be able to return home.

Last week, during the *Living Stones* webinar, Yohanna Katanacho, Academic Dean of Nazareth Evangelical College, shared a poem he had written. May his words become our shared prayer in this demanding and painful season:

*This is a season of weeping and mourning, but it is not void of hope.  
Our tears are the bridge between brutality and humanity.  
Our tears are the salty gates for seeing a different reality.  
Our tears are facing soulless nations and a parched mentality.  
Our tears are the dam preventing rivers of animosity.*

*For the sake of the mourning men, cry with us to reflect your amity.  
For the sake of the poor children, cry with us demanding sanity.  
For the sake of lamenting mothers, refuse violence and stupidity.*

*Love your enemies and cry with them is the advice of divinity.  
Blessing those who curse is the path to genuine spirituality.  
Pouring tears of mercy and compassion is true piety.*

*Pray with tears, for the sake of spreading equity.  
Followers of Jesus: crying is now our responsibility.  
But don't cry for your friends only - cry also for your enemy.*

[For Global Prayer Points, Click Here for March Prayerline](#)

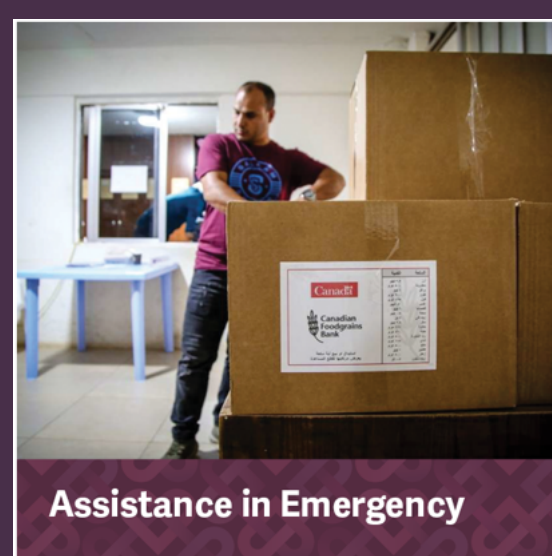
## A way to support beyond prayer

Right now, all gifts will be matched up to 4 times\*



Last month we invited you to financially contribute towards our Matching Grant Appeal, which supports global food programming. This includes the food relief programming in Lebanon.

As you pray with us, please consider supporting in this time of growing need.



Assistance in Emergency

## Support Food Programming Lebanon

Years of conflict and displacement have left many families living with ongoing uncertainty. Through long-standing local partners, churches provide regular food support to households facing loss, disability, and limited work options. Access to food brings stability, helping families endure with dignity and remain connected to education and community.

We invite you to prayerfully consider giving today. Together, through shared generosity and trust in God's provision, we can participate in God's work of bringing nourishment, resilience, and hope to a hungry world.

[Respond with a Matched Gift](#)



## How your support is helping

Impact Story – The Kids are Excited to Eat Regularly Again



In the heart of Lebanon's Beqaa Valley, Hafra works diligently to care for her husband and children. Originally from the town of Riyak, she and her family were forced to flee after intense bombings threatened their lives. One of her sons narrowly escaped being hit. "The children were crying and shouting every time there was a bombing," she recalls. "Even now, they carry that trauma."

Despite personal health challenges and her husband's physical disability caused by a workplace injury in his youth, she has become the pillar holding her extended family together. After the death of her brother-in-law and his wife, she welcomed their children into her already small home. Now, with ten children under her care and no steady family support nearby, she works tirelessly—cleaning homes and cooking for others—to meet their basic needs.

"I have so much anxiety, wondering every day if I am going to be able to provide for us all. I feel drained and exhausted, mentally and physically," says Hafra. "I don't know if I can take it any longer. It is hard to feel so lonely."

In the midst of this hardship, True Vine Church, a local partner supported by CBM, became a beacon of hope. Since February 2025, Hafra has received vital assistance through the church's Lebanon Response and Winter Assistance projects. Food boxes filled with essential dry goods have allowed her to stretch her limited income further, giving her the ability to buy vegetables and bring variety back to her children's meals.

"The kids are so happy to eat regularly again," she smiles. "And last month, we also received cash assistance for heating. I bought wood for the stove—it kept us warm during the coldest weeks."

These simple yet powerful acts of kindness, led by True Vine Church and supported by Canadian Baptists, are making a tangible difference. They don't just meet physical needs—they restore dignity, offer comfort, and remind families like hers that they are not alone.



"My hope is for our situation to improve," she says. "To live like normal people. I am so thankful for the help of the church."

In communities like Zahle, where displacement and hardship weigh heavily, CBM's partnership with local churches empowers families through compassion, practical support, and hope.

[Support our Global Food Programming](#)



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