



EMBRACE
the Middle East



Prayer Diary

August 2020 - January 2021

August 2020

2 August

Egypt's Christian Medical Fellowship sends health teams to isolated villages. Volunteer nurses, doctors and dentists travel with diagnostic equipment and medicines to ensure chronic health problems do not go untreated in these neglected communities.

9 August

The Joint Christian Committee provides education for out-of-school young people living in a Palestinian refugee camp near Beirut, Lebanon. Their community centre is a place of acceptance and safety for children who have grown up in this unstable environment.

16 August

The pandemic forced Aviv Ministry in Tel Aviv to close their drop-in centre for homeless addicts, but they were still able to feed visitors at the door and go out distributing food packages to those on the streets. As they open up again, we pray for all who are so desperately in need of their help.

23 August

After the fall of ISIS in Iraq, some displaced people felt safe enough to return home – only to find everything destroyed. Our partners at CAPNI help people to re-establish their former businesses, enabling them to earn an independent living and rebuild their shattered communities.

30 August

The Swedish International Relief Association schools at Bethlehem and Jericho support children with learning difficulties who have not been well served by mainstream schools. The school involves the children's parents, offering support groups where they can share their worries, build friendships and learn more about helping their child.

September 2020

6 September

The Arkan Cultural Centre in Alexandria promotes community cohesion through art. Exhibitions give disadvantaged Christian and Muslim artists a platform for their voices to be heard, and encourages a message of religious tolerance and mutual affirmation.

13 September

The Al-Kafaat Foundation in Beirut enables thousands of disabled people to gain education and vocational training. Their Stars of Al-Kafaat theatre troupe showcases the talent of young actors with Down's Syndrome and other learning disabilities, taking a message of inclusion out into the community.

20 September

In the town of Acre, the International Christian Committee in Israel runs a support group for girls at risk of dropping out of school. The local area is impacted by gang crime, substance abuse and poverty, and the centre gives the girls a safe place to meet and talk about the challenges they face.

27 September

Middle East Revive and Thrive (MERATH) responds to the emergency needs of Syrian refugees living in substandard accommodation in Lebanon. In the cold winter months, MERATH provides fuel vouchers, blankets, mattresses, boots, heating stoves and winter clothing to these vulnerable families.

“ Prayer is at the heart of Embrace’s support of our Christian partners in the Middle East. ”

October 2020

4 October

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and we are praying for the life-saving work of our friends at CEOSS in Egypt. Their health education sessions and social media campaigns encourage women to self-examine and seek help early for any concerns.

11 October

Musalaha Ministry for Reconciliation brings Palestinian and Israeli women together to share their experiences and foster healing and understanding. Musalaha's leadership training enables the women to take a message of peace out into their communities.

18 October

The Learning Centre for the Deaf is the only educational setting in Lebanon to offer the Baccalaureate qualification for young deaf people, who would otherwise have to leave school at 16 regardless of their ambitions. Thanks to this pioneering programme, the students can go on to university and work towards their dream careers.

25 October

In the Gaza Strip, hundreds of thousands of families live in poverty due to the ongoing blockade, with many still displaced after the 2014 conflict. Al Ahli Hospital organises free medical days in these fragmented communities, making sure everyone has access to the health advice and treatment they would otherwise go without.

“ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ”

1 John 5:14

November 2020

1 November

The Anafora Retreat Centre in Egypt helps young women find healing from abuse and oppression. Residential courses give the women space and support to develop their self-worth and learn skills for a more powerful future.

8 November

The Zvartnotz Centre in Beirut advocates for the employment rights of people with learning disabilities, and helps them to access medical care and counselling. The on-site workshops enable people to train in marketable skills, and the centre campaigns against workplace discrimination.

15 November

East Jerusalem YMCA tackles the aftermath of traumatic incidents through a 'Psychological First Aid' programme. Their emergency counselling teams attend areas where Palestinians have suffered violence from Israeli settlers, school incursions, home demolition and other incidents, supporting children and their caregivers.

22 November

High-quality professional nursing is so important to the outcomes for hospital patients. Our partners at Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf, Egypt, have established their own nursing school – not only to ensure the hospital always has an excellent staff team, but to raise the standard of nursing across Egypt too.

29 November

The Chaldean Archdiocese of Erbil, Iraq, opened the Maryamana Hospital this year. It is the first hospital in Ankawa, a suburb which grew rapidly when thousands of Christians fled ISIS after the fall of Mosul. The hospital is equipped with the latest technology and offers a 24-hour emergency department, surgery, maternity services and much more.

December 2020

6 December

This week as we mark World Aids Day (1 December), we pray for HIV-positive pregnant women receiving help from Refuge Egypt in Cairo. As refugees from Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea, they face discrimination when trying to access ante-natal care, so Refuge Egypt provides clinics and nutritional support.

13 December

Caritas Jerusalem runs a mother and baby clinic in a small town called Taybeh, where access to healthcare is limited due to poverty and travel restrictions. Pregnant women receive regular check-ups, ultrasound scans, nutritional supplements and health advice. Care continues after the birth, with development checks and immunisations for newborns.

20 December

As we celebrate the blessings of Christ's birth, we pray for all our partners upholding his message of love and acceptance in the places where he lived and taught. We are thankful for their work with marginalised and oppressed people, and hold them in our prayers this Christmas and always!

27 December

Tahaddi is an organisation providing healthcare and education for both refugees and Lebanese people in a disadvantaged neighbourhood of Beirut. Their clinic provides primary healthcare, mental health services and social work for vulnerable, marginalised members of the community.

“ May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. ”

Psalm 141:2

January 2021

3 January

Improving literacy in rural Egypt – especially among women – is an important mission for our partners at Think and Do. They train local volunteers to teach reading, writing and vocational skills, which open up a new world of confidence and safety to women who missed out on school as girls.

10 January

The Princess Basma Centre in East Jerusalem provides intensive therapy for children with physical disabilities. A central part of their ethos is to involve the whole family in the child's progress, empowering parents to continue the therapy at home and to understand more about their child's needs and rights.

17 January

The SKILD centre in Mansourieh, Lebanon, provides individual support and care for children with learning difficulties and their parents. The centre also advocates for greater awareness of special educational needs, and helps teachers in mainstream schools integrate them into the classroom.

24 January

Episcocare runs a project in Alexandria, Egypt, focusing on the safety of vulnerable girls, who are missing school and in danger of exploitation on the streets. Older girls volunteer as mentors, meeting twice a week with the younger ones to be a listening ear and encourage them to see the importance of education.

31 January

Zacchaeus House in Jericho offers safety and inclusion for children who are disengaged with school. Many face difficulties at home and the centre tackles this by inviting parents to be more involved with the activities. This results in strengthened relationships within the family.



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Embrace's Christian partners face many challenges working in situations of conflict, injustice and poverty. This year has been particularly hard due to the added impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, so we ask you to join us in praying for the health and resilience of all our partners and their communities.

Don't underestimate how important your prayers can be! Our friends in the Middle East are truly strengthened and inspired by the knowledge that they are not alone in their mission and that so many people care about them and the vulnerable people they serve.

This diary contains a prayer focus for each week. We give you a brief overview of the work of one of our partners, so that you can pray in your own words for all their staff, beneficiaries and the surrounding community. The prayer team here at the office will be following the diary in our weekly meetings too!

If you would like extra copies to give to friends, please phone us on **01494 897950** or email **info@embraceme.org**. You are welcome to reproduce the text in your church newsletter – we'd love you to encourage others to pray for the vital work of the Middle East's Christians.

Embrace the Middle East

24 London Road West, Amersham, HP7 0EZ

t: 01494 897950 | **e:** info@embraceme.org | **w:** embraceme.org

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