



PRAYER LETTER 44

This prayer letter is written by GZB, a Dutch missionary organization working worldwide to share the Gospel (www.gzb.nl) and one of the 6 partners within the ACO Fellowship

Dear brothers and sisters,

In the wake of the massive explosion that hit Beirut on August 4, 2020, many signs of solidarity have been exchanged in our ACO Fellowship. For those of us who live in Beirut, this has been a source of encouragement. We thank you for your spiritual and practical support.

Some in our fellowship live close to the Port of Beirut and were personally affected. As a fellowship of churches we share in the pain of all who lost loved ones, were injured, or saw their churches, schools, businesses and other institutions sustain damage. In our circle, this concerns especially but not exclusively the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches. As reconstruction begins, we are open to see what our calling is at this time.

As Rev. Mathieu Busch, the General Secretary of the ACO Fellowship, wrote earlier this year, we continue to be affected by the global Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, we are facing political and economic crises, and in some places even violence. This calls us to stand together in prayer and solidarity, as our fellowship has done at other critical times.

On behalf of the GZB, we invite you to pray for each other in the following (or similar) words:

*Gracious and loving God,
You move among us in ways we cannot see or explain.
Many events seem to deny your presence and your love.
Yet we cling to our faith in your goodness and providence.*

*In unity with Christians in Europe and the Middle East,
we lift up our prayers for the people of Beirut:
May there be hope amidst despair, healing amidst pain.*

*We pray for all who are involved in relief and reconstruction:
Grant them energy, wisdom and compassion,
so that homes, schools, businesses, and churches may flourish again.*

*We continue to pray for peace in and among our nations:
May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, families, and churches,
and may we overcome injustice, hatred, and violence.*

*Finally, we pray for the ACO Fellowship in this time of physical distance:
May our commitment to cross-cultural friendship and prayer endure,
so that our Fellowship will remain a source of renewal and support.*

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Wilbert van Saane, Lecturer and chaplain of the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut