



PRAYER LETTER 56

The GZB, one of the partners of the ACO Fellowship, invites you to unite in prayer. The GZB is a mission agency of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands; it supports partner churches worldwide.

Dear sisters and brothers,

This time we want to thank our heavenly Father for the wonderful celebration of the ACO centenary earlier this month in Strasbourg and Paris.

Above all we want to thank our Lord who gave us to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ from Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Switzerland, France and the Netherlands.

We are grateful to Him be for what He has been doing through the faithful service of ACO in the past hundred years.

We have celebrated but we are also saddened by the present state of the Middle East : devastations by the war in Syria, increasing economic and social crises in Lebanon, turmoil, violence and suppression in Iran...

Despite all this, we still look forward with Hope to the future. Christians are people of Hope. There is reason to celebrate and there is reason to be joyful, even in the midst of suffering. He -our Lord- is in our midst and He calls us to follow Him as His disciples to serve.

Jesus Christ is the the same today, yesterday and forever.

Gracious and compassionate God,

Thank you that in your wisdom you have used ACO as an instrument in your hands to serve brothers and sisters in the Middle East who are so often in great need and despair.

Continue to bless us and give us wisdom to do the right things with love and compassion.

Lord give us courage to fight injustice and help us to bring changes and improvement for the good of all people.

Lord give us trust and hope in you confessing that only You can really make things new. We strongly believe that You are able to do what others claim to be impossible.

We pray especially for the people of Lebanon, Syria, and Iran, who long for a just and sustainable peace. Help the churches to bring relief to the suffering, and to keep hope in almost desperate circumstances.

May the ACO and its members be instruments of the healing and reconciliation that signpost your Kingdom.

Through Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

This prayer letter was written by Arie van der Poel, who is GZB regional-coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa and president of ACO Fellowship