

## Prayer Letter 59



*This prayer letter is written by Mme Houri Moubahiajian, from Aleppo in Syria, a country scarred by 12 years of war, a dire social and economic situation, and by the latest earthquake of February 6.*

*This letter is sent on behalf of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE).*

*If it were not for the Lord's grace, my soul would have been lost."*

*"Yete Deroche shnorhke chellar, hokis gorsvadz bid ellar."*

An Armenian hymn from the old days. Beautiful words and great meanings, we used to sing it a lot with thankful hearts and gratitude. Over the years, my understanding and appreciation of the meaning and spirit of this hymn has grown, especially of the word "grace". Indeed, understanding this word in itself requires grace.

Grace is a gift and blessing from God that He bestows on us without deserving it, because we are sinners and helpless before God's holiness, but through Jesus Christ we have become children of God the Father, and thus we can receive His gifts, enjoy and be blessed by these gifts.

The years of war against our country Syria since 2011, which continues its aggression to this day, whether in its savage military form or in its unjust economic form, has deprived us of our basic needs of bread, heating and security. Obtaining them has become difficult and scarce and it requires tremendous effort from us.

When the earth began to shake beneath us at the dawn of last February 6, and its aftershocks continued to this day, we were at our weakest condition, psychologically, morally, and physically. Its impact was harsh on all of us, on our homes and workplaces.

Thank God, who still gives us the grace of joy for every bite of bread we take, every ray of light that illuminates our path and every measure of heat that makes us feel comfortable and safe.

Thank God, who still gives us the grace of waiting and patience.

Thanks be to God, who still grants us the grace of silence and listening to His life-giving word, as well as to the words of the suffering and desperate people.

Thank God, who still gives us the grace of honesty and the grace of feeling vulnerable, because by doing so we grow more dependent and trustful in Him.

Thanks be to God who still grants us the grace of humility and learning from young and old, because we are all human beings and created in His image, and our lives are not complete without appreciating and respecting the experiences of others.

*"If it were not for the Lord's grace, my soul would have been lost."*

*"Yete Deroche shnorhke chellar, hokis gorsvadz bid ellar."*

Houri Moubahiajian

Aleppo, Wednesday, March 8, 2023

International Women's Day

*Note: We recently learned that this hymn was originally from Argentina:*

*"Si no hubiera sido por el Señor, mi alma se hubiera perdido."*

*Someone translated it into Armenian. We could not find any name, neither for the author nor for the translator.*

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