



PRAYER LETTER 61

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.

Introduction

New tragedies are unfolding in the Middle East, and they remind us of the past. In September, we witnessed the seizure of Nagorno-Karabakh and the mass expulsion of Armenians from their ancestral lands. In October, we were shocked by the brutal violence between Hamas and Israel.

We are saddened by the suffering of so many victims. We realise that there is a real threat of further expansion of the violence, especially in Palestine/Israel, Armenia, Lebanon and Syria.

All this is greatly affecting the various ACO partners in the region. There is a sense of uncertainty and, in some cases, fear. As ACO Fellowship we may find ourselves facing new tasks and challenges, with large population groups fleeing their homes in search of security.

Let us besiege the God of Peace in humble and empathetic prayer. Out of our prayer new action may be born to defend the victims and the oppressed and stand up for justice and peace.

Prayer

Faithful and loving God,

Your Son Jesus has walked the costly path of peace. Help us to follow Him, full of courage and sympathy, and, even in this time of violence and suffering, to faithfully bring good news and render service.

We pray for those who lost their homes and lands, especially the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. We pray for all those who have become refugees: may they find healing, safety, and new hope.

We pray for the victims of war in Israel/Palestine: may their tears be dried, their hearts consoled. Turn the hearts of decision-makers to peace. Help them find ways to dignity and justice for all.

Unite our ACO fellowship in faith, hope, and love. Show us where our presence and support are needed. Help us all to kindle small lights in these dark times. May our fellowship give witness to your unfailing love.

Through Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

This prayer letter is presented by Rev. Wilbert van Saane, professor at the Near East School of Theology (NEST), Beirut, Lebanon.