



PRAYER LETTER 63

Here is the first prayer letter 2024. It is proposed by the Swiss committee of the ACO, a branch of the Missionary Department:

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Introduction to prayer

2 Corinthians 5 invites the Church to be an ambassador for Christ and an agent of reconciliation.

Of course, these are members of God's people: different in their culture, their traditions, their perception and understanding of political and social situations. Perhaps, using their differences to be complementary, they may live better love, compassion, mutual aid, and respect for others.

Yet, when hearing from war, suffering, and physical or mental violence, it is easy to feel discouraged by events and to retreat into our comfort zone.

How should we react to the war in Ukraine, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, political and economic corruption, sexual crimes in religious institutions, torn and divided families?

How to be salt and light in our surroundings?

Prayer

Lord, it is good to know that in this chaotic world, you remain present, patient, and available. Thank you for guiding us in our decisions and actions. Teach us to bless rather than judge, to listen to you so as to act according to your will.

Lord, we hand over to you the grieving families in the areas of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Be present with those who are still hostages or prisoners. Comfort them and meet their needs and those of their families. We pray for all those who are displaced and deprived of everything, without any care or help.

We also hand over the fighters to you so that they remain humane and sensitive even towards their enemies. And then also, be in control of what is happening in neighboring countries because of the conflict, among others in Lebanon and Syria.

Lord, lead the discussions for a peace treaty between Ukraine and Russia, so that the decisions taken respect justice and the dignity of each person. Allow for the reconstruction of homes, but also for inner healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

It is true Lord that in war situations we can often only pray and bless. However, you call us to be your ambassadors and your agents of reconciliation, give us the courage to leave our comfort zones and engage in your battles, to help the victims of violence. Open our hearts to the misery of others so that we can understand, sympathize, and help according to your heart.

Amen!