

PRAYER LETTER 65



Fellowship

ACO-France, one of six partners of ACO Fellowship, is suggesting this prayer. It considers its mission as being a bridge between French Protestant Churches, especially the ones which had allowed the birth of ACO in Alsace-Lorraine one century ago, and its sister and brother churches in Iran, Syria, Lebanon, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. In the name of the Gospel which unites us as a big family, ACO tries to be a tool for testimony, communion, and solidarity.

Introduction

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

These words of Christ are a cry of protest, an encouragement and a promise.

With Christ we are invited to condemn the logic of domination and death of those who claim to be strong by tearing up whole countries like in Ukraine or Nagorno-Karabakh.

With Christ we deplore the massive destruction that, at the cost of thousands of lives, has made vast areas of land uninhabitable as has been the case in many regions of Syria, Iraq and now also Gaza.

With Christ we have compassion for all those who are thrown onto roads and seas, forced to leave their land, fleeing war and misery, unwelcome or rejected by those who lock themselves behind walls.

With Christ we are invited to be peacemakers and part of those who build coexistence by sharing the earth with justice and responsibility.

With Christ we want to have as horizon the hope of the Kingdom of God and work on this earth believing in the power of non-violence, forgiveness and reconciliation.

With Christ we want to share the earth and make it habitable for all humans and all living beings because it is God's creation for life.

Prayer

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God". (Matthew 5:9).

Lord God, our Father, with our prayers, we bring to you the suffering of those who are involved in conflicts and situations of injustice in our world.

We pray in particular that the fury of arms will cease in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel, and Southern Lebanon.

We pray that a new political process can be implemented between Israelis and Palestinians so that a fair coexistence and a true peaceful sharing of the so-called Holy Land can be established.

We pray that the political and economic situation in Syria can be resolved and that the country can return to unity and rebuild itself.

We pray for Lebanon which is currently experiencing a continuous crisis due to the opposing interests of various political factions.

We pray for the establishment of stable and peaceful political relationships among the countries of the Middle East - for the benefit of all.

We pray that the decision-makers of this region will take care of their inhabitants and their living conditions, as well as environmental challenges and social and ecological upheavals related to global warming.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Author: Rev. Mathieu Busch, director of ACO France and General Secretary of the ACO Fellowship.