Fellowship

PRAYER LETTER 66

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.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

With a heart full of gratitude we come before You to thank You for Your countless blessings. We thank You for the fellowship of the ACO and for the unity in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We come before You to pray for the youth in Europe and the East, for all the challenges they face. Will You give them strength and perseverance when the experience exclusion or oppression because of their faith in You.

Will You give them courage, when there are threats of violence and war around them. Especially now that political tensions in the Middle East are increasing. Will You fill their hearts with Your peace and surround them with Your presence.

Will You guide the youth with Your Holy Spirit in their studies and work, to see which decisions they should make in building their personal and professional lives. Will you guide them in the sometimes impossible choices they face whether or not to immigrate, give them Your wisdom and courage.

We thank You for everything that You are already giving through our youth. For their passion, their faith, their bravery, their honesty and for their love.

We pray to You, empower these young people to contribute to Your Kingdom and make them a blessing for the people around them.

All of this we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Introduction

'Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.' (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

It was a blessing this summer to have the ACO youth conference in France, with youth coming from Lebanon, Syria, Iran, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. A once in a lifetime experience, whereby we shared not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well.

From every country youth had prepared a session, to learn from each other how to deal with questions and struggles in different contexts. How can you witness the gospel as a minority? How do you cope with crises and which considerations do you make regarding the question of immigration? What role do you have towards environmental issues? And what does justice and peace mean in the context of political crises and war? The youth is facing lots of different challenges. In all of this, it was inspiring and encouraging to share, worship and pray together.

We are also thankful to God for the people and organizations we could meet during the conference. And for all the cultural and fun activities we could do together in Strasbourg and Paris. It was a wonderful time, were we experienced the love and unity in Christ.

Author: Esther van Maanen, GZB youthwork advisor