



PRAYER LETTER 70

This prayer letter is written by the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Homs, Syria, a congregation of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). Our church serves in the historic Old City of Homs, in a neighbourhood that has known both destruction and surprising new beginnings.

Introduction

In Homs, the scars of war are still visible on the streets and in people's faces. Many buildings have been rebuilt, yet many lives have not. Families are divided between countries; some have left, some remain, and some still do not know how to start again. In this fragile landscape, our small congregation continues to gather, to listen to God's Word, and to learn what it means to be a community of hope.

Syria and Lebanon both continue to live under the weight of economic collapse, political uncertainty, and deep exhaustion in society. Prices rise faster than people's salaries, basic services are unreliable, and many feel that their future has been stolen. At the same time, our region is shaken by ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, especially in Palestine/Israel and along the Lebanese and Syrian borders, where fear of further escalation is never far away.

In the middle of all this, our ministry in Homs tries to serve people who are tired in body and soul: elderly people who feel forgotten, widows who carry heavy memories, young people who wrestle with the temptation to leave everything behind, and children who have grown up with the language of war more familiar than the language of peace. Through worship, pastoral care, small groups, women's and youth meetings, and NGOs support, we long to be a sign — however small — that God has not abandoned this city or this land.

Prayer

Loving God,
 You are nearer to us than we are to ourselves,
 yet our hearts often wander far from You.
 You created us for Yourself,
 but our thoughts are scattered among our fears,
 our wounds, and our plans to escape.
 Gather us again into Your heart,
 so that our scattered lives may find their rest in You.

Lord, we confess that we do not always trust Your presence in our land.
 When we look at the ruins of the past years,
 at the poverty, the corruption, the violence,
 our hearts become restless and bitter.
 We question Your ways,
 and we try to save ourselves by our own strength.
 Have mercy on us,
 and teach us to discover Your quiet faithfulness
 in the middle of our confusion.

God of all comfort,
we bring before You the people of Homs,
of Syria and Lebanon, and of the wider Middle East.
Remember those who mourn loved ones they have lost,
those who carry invisible trauma,
those who cannot find medicine, work, or bread.
Remember the elderly who feel useless,
the children who do not know another language than the language of war,
the young adults who feel that their only hope is to leave their country.
You know each face, each story, each silent cry.
Let Your healing Spirit touch what no human hand can reach.

Lord Jesus,
You were wounded and yet became our peace.
Form Your Church in Homs, in Syria and Lebanon, into a community that learns from Your cross:
a Church that does not flee from the pain of the people, but carries it before You in prayer;
a Church that does not join the noise of hatred, but becomes a quiet school of forgiveness and truth.
Make us salt and light in our neighbourhoods, a small lamp that does not go out,
even when the night seems very long.

God of justice and mercy,
we pray for all leaders in our countries and in the region, and for those who hold power in the wider world.
Break the pride that loves power more than people. Expose the lies that justify violence.
Give courage to those who work for peace,
to those who defend the weak,
to those who refuse to hate their enemies.
Turn the hearts of many from the worship of weapons to the worship of the Crucified and Risen One,
who alone can make enemies into brothers and sisters.

Holy Spirit,
breathe again upon our dry bones.
Renew our hope when we are tired,
our love when we grow cold,
and our faith when we cannot see the way ahead.
Let our small church in Homs,
together with all congregations in Syria and Lebanon,
become a living confession that Your grace is stronger than despair,
and that Your Kingdom is coming,
even here, even now.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our peace, our rest, and our hope.
Amen.

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