



A WEEK OF WITNESS

When we think of Middle Eastern Christians, what comes to mind? The Presbyterian Church, USA, has a long-standing relationship with Middle Eastern Christians. Orthodox Christians have been in this country since the first century. Presbyterian missionaries began arriving in the Middle East in the 1820's. They established schools, hospitals and Protestant churches, called evangelical. Many of these institutions continue to witness to Christ, to manifest God's love through worship, education, health care, and other forms of service.

The 2006 General Assembly has asked that Presbyterian congregations remember all the people of the Middle East in these troubled times. Let us especially lift up our brothers and sisters in the birthplace of Christianity during the Easter season. Together, let us celebrate, pray for and learn from the Christians of Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and other Middle Eastern countries. As we do, let us remember all the children of Abraham: Muslim, Christian and Jew. Using the prayers below, please choose one country each day to remember our sisters and brothers in the Middle East.

We pray for the Church in Lebanon **Peace Be With You.**
God of all people, encourage all those who are homeless and without work because of the political unrest. Comfort those who live in fear. We pray for a strong government that fairly represents the Lebanese people. Be with the Lebanese Christians as they witness to your love through seminaries, schools, and social agencies. In the name of the one who called us friends, our Savior Jesus. Amen

We pray for the Church in Egypt **Peace Be With You.**
God of all people, we ask your presence with Coptic Christians and Muslims as they live and work together toward the well-being of their country. We pray that your Good News would be spoken and lived with boldness and sensitivity. We thank you for Christian schools and hospitals that are your hands and feet in Egypt. Bless all involved in interfaith development projects who labor together to care for your hurting children. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

We pray for the Church in Israel/Palestine **Peace Be With You.**
God of all people, we pray for the church in Israel/Palestine. May the time come quickly when Jerusalem shines as a city of tolerance and cooperation. We pray for an end to extremism of all kinds. May compassion and justice flood the hearts and actions of those in power and those who desire it. May your Church hold fast to your call to be peacemakers, pressing on to a new day when all are fed, employed, and safe. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

We pray for the Church in Syria **Peace Be With You.**
God of all people, infuse this large Christian community in the Middle East with your Spirit that they might be your salt and light. We pray that the Syrian government would continue to provide religious freedom and refuge for those fleeing danger in surrounding countries. Be with Muslims and Christians as they work and live together as people of faith. In the name of the Suffering Servant, we pray. Amen

We pray for the Church in Iran **Peace Be With You.**
God of all people, we pray together for minority religious groups facing discrimination, that they may have freedom of religious expression, equal employment opportunities, and acceptance and tolerance in society. Protect the elderly and the ill. Bless the Armenian and Assyrian Christians so that they may continue as your witnesses, even as they did on the day of Pentecost. We pray for a spirit of cooperation and tolerance among people of all faiths. We pray in the name of our Lord. Amen.

We pray for the Church in Iraq **Peace Be With You.**
God of all people, we long for the day when peace will reign in Iraq. Bestow the wisdom and practice of non-violence to all Iraqis. We pray that your presence would strengthen those Christians who live faithfully in these fearful times. Protect and empower Christians and Muslims in the birthplace of our faith so that they may together rebuild their nation. In the name of the One who came to bring peace, not a sword. Amen.

We pray for the Church in Jordan **Peace Be With You.**
God of all people, we thank you for the historic witness of Christian schools, hospitals, and other institutions that minister to the needs of all Jordanians. We pray for the people as they struggle to welcome many thousands of Muslims and Christians who have fled the war in Iraq. Lead the Jordanian and all Middle Eastern people in their search for lasting peace. In the name of our Brother, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.