



Sabeel Wave of Prayer

Mar 8th, 2024

This prayer ministry enables local and international friends of Sabeel to pray over regional concerns on a weekly basis. Sent to Sabeel's network of supporters, the prayer is used in services around the world and during Sabeel's Thursday Communion service; as each community in its respective time zone lifts these concerns in prayer at noon every Thursday, this "wave of prayer" washes over the world.

In recent weeks, several Palestinians in Gaza have died from starvation, most of them are kids and babies. Furthermore, humanitarian aid has been systemically denied entry into Gaza and aid convoys are coming under Israeli fire. On the 29th of February, Israeli forces opened fire at Palestinians waiting for food aid southwest of Gaza City, which resulted in the killing of over 120 Palestinians and wounded over 760 people. This massacre is known as the "Flour Massacre."

- **Lord Christ, you tell us that you are the "Bread of Life" (John 6:35). We come before you shocked, disgusted, and lost. We plead that you provide the people of Gaza their daily bread while so many are starving. Lord, intervene and stop these atrocities which kill people even as they wait for aid. Provide aid to our oppressors who are sick spiritually, morally, and politically. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

Last week, the Israeli finance minister announced the approval of new illegal settlements in Gush Etzion, south of Jerusalem, and said work would continue to authorize further settlements. This is part of a larger plan to Judaize Jerusalem.

- **Holy God, we cry like you did over the hatred, corruption, and disgrace in our land. We remember the words of the Psalmist, which encouraged us to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6). Help us bring peace to Jerusalem and all around the world by liberating it from the sins of colonialism, supremacy, and corruption. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

The 1st of March was the World Day of Prayer. This year, prayers were written and led by Palestinian Christian women. Our sisters, mothers, daughters, and grandmothers reflected collectively on Ephesians 4:1-6 from the context of their suffering as Palestinian Christian women, which reads, "I beg you, bear with one another in love".

- **God of Mary, Martha, and Hannah, we are grateful for the leadership and resistance of Palestinian women, a tradition that spans across centuries. We pray for all Palestinian women who are uniquely oppressed because of their ethnicity and gender. We pray especially for the women in Gaza who are victims of colonialism including sexual violence. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

Last month, members of U.S. Congress received more than 500 olivewood hearts made and blessed in Bethlehem from the United Church of Christ. Each wooden heart represents one beating heart of the nearly 12,000 Palestinian children killed in Gaza since October 7th. The hearts were accompanied with a letter urging Congress to “raise your voice for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land. True peace can only be achieved through the pursuit of justice for all parties involved.”

- **Prince of Peace, it has been over 150 days with no ceasefire. We come before you bewildered that the Western world has not exercised their power to stop the loss of so many lives, loss which will damage generations to come. Lord, bring an immediate ceasefire and give us courage and wisdom to pursue a just peace in our land. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

On the 20th of February, Sabeel held a Women’s Bible study as a part of its larger program of Bible Study Groups. This meeting is intended to help Christians use the Bible as a tool to relate faith with their daily life, reflecting a core component in Palestinian Liberation Theology.

- **Word Incarnate, the scriptures are a holy witness to your nature of love and activity in history. Help the Sabeel Bible study program collectively uncover the revelation of your love and the meaning it has for all Palestinians today. Help us, cultivate a contextual theology of love and liberation. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

Friends of Sabeel France and Christians in the Mediterranean Area issued a letter to the Churches of France and their leaders on February the 21st. This letter calls the Churches of France and their leaders to work for an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the provision of essential humanitarian aid into Gaza, an end to all violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the implementation of the measures proclaimed by the International Court of Justice to prevent the act of genocide in Gaza, amongst other requests.

- **Loving God, we thank you for the work the Friends of Sabeel France and Christians in the Mediterranean Area are doing. We pray that their letter spreads across all of France so that more will work for justice. Lord, help the Churches in France rise up to this call and serve as a prophetic voice so that they may be salt and light in the world. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**
- **We join with the World Council of Churches in their prayer for the countries of Ireland, United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**