



# Sabeel Wave of Prayer

## May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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.

Last week, the Palestine marathon was held for the first time in three years in Bethlehem and Gaza. The Palestine marathon is an annual event for many Palestinians locally and around the world, and participants run to tell a different story about Palestine as well as the effect of Israeli's Occupation on Palestinians' freedom of movement. This year's marathon was centered on hope. In Gaza, 2,523 people, including 15 amputees, participated in a 5K, determined to live and persevere despite the devastation. In Bethlehem, over 10,000 people ran a 10K along routes hemmed in by checkpoints and the apartheid wall.

- **Holy God, we thank you for the resilience and efforts of organizers and participants who work to recenter our community on hope and steadfastness. Through this marathon, illuminate to the world our struggle for freedom and liberation. Lord, help us to use our bodies and voices to demand the freedom of all who suffer from injustice. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Thirteen Israeli officials, including three ministers, have called on right wing Israelis to enter Al-Aqsa Mosque in droves on Friday, May 15, to mark the anniversary of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem. The date also coincides with the anniversary of the Nakba.

- **God of Justice, we pray that you would embolden those who love peace in Jerusalem and beyond to stand firm against all ideologies of violence and racism. We pray for the day that all may have the right to worship and live freely without dehumanization. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Since March 2, at least 2,846 people have been killed across Lebanon. The death toll includes more than 103 Lebanese medical workers killed and 230 injured in over 130 Israeli strikes. Meanwhile, more than 1.2 million people in Lebanon are expected to face acute hunger this year due to conflict, displacement, and economic pressures amid the latest war between Israel and Hezbollah, according to a United Nations-backed report.

- **God of the oppressed, you understand the plea of the refugee; you know what it is like to be persecuted by empire. Lord, we look for your presence underneath the rubble and destruction in Lebanon and Gaza. We pray for the healing of the millions displaced and thousands injured. As we continue to cry for justice, help the world act to stop the violence and bloodshed and make peace a reality in our region. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Last week, FOSNA held its first organizing institute in the United States, bringing together returned delegates from Sabeel's "Come and See, Go and Tell" delegations. Organizing Institutes (OIs) are daylong, in-person gatherings in cities with high concentrations of returned delegates. OIs create connections across delegations and provide space to practice collectively our responsibility to 'Go and Tell' and encourage movement momentum. More organizing institutes are planned for the coming months.

- **Loving Creator, we are reminded of the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit whenever we gather in unity to organize and act in solidarity. Lord, continue to give us strength and creativity as we continue the work for peace and justice. We pray that these organizing institutes will bring about hope and change to all who live in our Land. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**

Israel deported Global Sumud Flotilla activists Saif Abukeshek and Thiago Avila after being detained for a week for leading an aid flotilla attempting to break the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip. They were initially intercepted near Greece waters along with 175 other activists who were sailing on civilian vessels but were the only ones to be kidnapped and detained in Israel. No evidence was provided by Israel, who accused Thiago and Saif of having ties to terrorist organizations. Both Thiago and Saif reported abuse and torture by Israeli soldiers while in detention.

- **Holy God, we pray for the physical and spiritual healing of Saif and Thiago as they return home to their families and continue their work for freedom and peace. Help us to follow their steadfastness by being brave and creative in our own witness to the people of Gaza. "Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer**
- **We join the World Council of Churches in their prayers for the people of India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayers**