

# Knightrider Street News



NOVEMBER 2024

MAIDSTONE  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**

The logo for Maidstone Baptist Church features a stylized black silhouette of a swan swimming in water, with a cross positioned above the swan's head. The entire logo is enclosed within a semi-circular arch.

*Taking the Good News of Jesus into our lives and into God's World*  
[www.maidstonebaptist.net](http://www.maidstonebaptist.net)

***Maidstone Baptist Church***  
**Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6LU**  
Registered in England as a charity, no. 1128948

*“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*  
*John 13:35*

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**Church magazine:**

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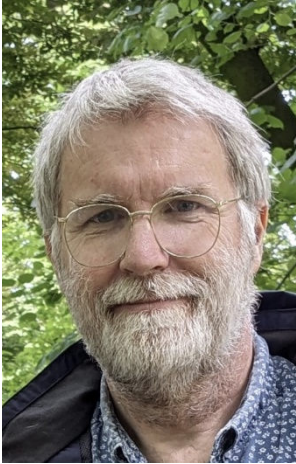
*Views and opinions expressed in KSN articles are those of individual contributors,  
and are not necessarily those of the Church leadership or editor.*

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**Pastoral Visits:**

At Maidstone Baptist Church we are happy to offer pastoral visits - for prayer, communion, or simply a chat. We can meet at church, in your home, or elsewhere, such as in a park or coffee shop.

If you feel this would be helpful, please speak to Nigel or Al, or to your Pastoral Leader.



Every Sunday morning we share refreshments after our service. It's one of my favourite parts of the day. Not because of the cup of tea, although that is always welcome, but because of the conversations.

After we have been worshipping and praying together, God's presence is tangible in the building - do you feel the Holy Spirit? Wow! Let's take time to bask in His Presence. It's good to chat with friends after the service, but it's also really important to try to speak to someone new each week. Our church is growing rapidly; this is a hugely exciting blessing from God and a massive encouragement to us all to keep going in the faith. Those precious and important minutes after the service can be used really effectively to get to know each other better and build connections and understandings between God's people.

We do understand that some people have work or other commitments after church, but if you are able to hang around for a while, you are fulfilling a really important function of the church: encouraging, exploring, discovering and fuelling ways in which we can all work together more effectively for the advancement of God's kingdom. Pray with each other if that seems appropriate. Learn more about other people's skills and expertise. And be prepared to discover ways in which you could commit to playing a greater role in the life of the church.

Conversations go both ways, it is about listening as well as speaking. Some say you should keep your words soft and sweet because you never know when you're going to have to eat them.... Little wonder that there is much wisdom and guidance in the Bible about conversation, our words and the tone we use.

*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6*

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29*

*Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24*

*Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. James 1:26*

May we be a fellowship of encouragers, building each other up, not giving way to gossip or leaving some on the sidelines. May we be listeners and listened to. And may God be at the heart of all we think, say, do and hear.

*May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 18:14*

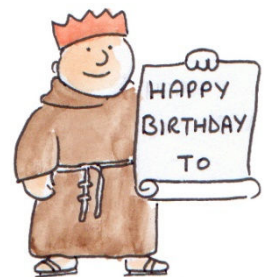
*Nigel*

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# BMS Birthday Scheme.

18<sup>th</sup> November

Ann Daley



# Happy Birthday to you!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Maidstone Girls' Brigade & 1<sup>st</sup> Maidstone Boys' Brigade



We have had a busy start to the new session.

Although not all of the children and young people came back after the summer break we have been pleased to welcome some new members in our younger sections, and overall our numbers have stayed steady. We want our Brigades to continue to grow so we can share the fun and experiences with even more children and young people. Do get in touch with Al or myself if you know of anyone who would like to join us or just want to find out a little more about what we do. We are open to all children and young people aged 5 upwards and always love to welcome new members.

Numbers and leaders in our Under 11's sections have been enough to split the section into age related groups for the first time in a while which has been great. The youngest members have looked at topics such as care of pets, music, and a 'Trip to Mars'. These times together have included fun activities, games, craft and a time of devotions. The Junior sections have been looking at stories and characters from the Bible, amongst other things learning to find verses in the Bible and hearing about some peoples favourite bible verses, and enjoying quizzes, challenges and games too.

The older sections have enjoyed a quiz in town, making stress balls, a games evening, team challenges and a session thinking about the benefits and dangers of AI. Their sessions always include times for games and devotions.

Please continue to remember the Brigade staff and young people in your prayers as they meet week by week – we do appreciate your support and interest.

*Jane Haslam*

**mbc-415@highg.net / 01622 744546**



**Ladies' Away Day.** On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October many of us enjoyed a time of fellowship and teaching at Aylesford Priory at our Ladies' Away Day. Nic and Sheila led us through the stories of Elijah and Elisha. We explored our own stories through writing, craft, sharing and prayer. Everyone's story impacts someone else's story.









# Prayer Points

## November 2024

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> As we come to another autumn month, let us remember the warmth in the knowledge of our Lord who continues to love us throughout the ongoing seasons and forever. Knowing that his love never runs out, let us pray today that we as his people will reflect this warmth to those we meet as we enter the bleaker winter months.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May today be a day when we pray for our town and our country and the leaders in government, that the Lord will guide and overrule in their decision making. Pray that we will accept God as the ruler of our life, our hopes, and aspirations. Pray for Sir Kier Starmer in his prime ministerial role, dealing with all the domestic issues and the cost of living crisis.

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Remember those who are in pain and grief and sorrow and those who are saddened due to personal issues which only our dear Lord and Saviour knows about. He knows all about us and is right there when we are in tears or in pain.

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Pray for our members who are starting a new career this autumn, and some of our young people who are beginning their chosen career pathway having completed university. Pray for Gods guidance in their lives in these difficult days of challenge.

Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Let us pray together for our members in the church and all leaders who are keeping things going as we go through these uncertain



times. Also pray for the presidential election of the USA taking place today.

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Pray for the ongoing crisis in the Middle East today and the world leaders trying to negotiate a peace settlement.

Thur 7<sup>th</sup> Pray for the church here in Maidstone as we work with other agencies dealing with the homeless, the sick and vulnerable.

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May we remember in prayer those victims of the war in Ukraine and the ongoing conflict there.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Pray for the Deacons as they meet from time to time, asking God for support, encouragement and confidence to meet the challenging tasks ahead to maintain the church's function and the pastoral areas they represent.

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Today as we think of the many troubles in and around the world, in areas where there is hunger, war, murders and political unrest, let us pray for those areas and ask God to do what only he can do.



Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Today we think of those in our church who are about to undergo hospital treatment and possibly surgery. Pray that the great physician himself will be part of the medical team at the hospital, and that Jesus will be there in the operating theatre taking the lead role.

Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Remember in prayer Elaine who is the coordinator for the 5 and 2 monthly meals that this will be a real blessed ministry and sustenance for those who receive it.

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Remember the local health and emergency services in prayer

today in their situation of never ending demand, asking God to uphold and maintain them in their work even while we are sleeping and especially at this time battling with those who are struck down with all forms of sickness.

Thur 14<sup>th</sup> Let us pray for all those who are sleeping rough on the streets and those who do not have a fixed place of abode remembering what planning is being considered at this time.

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Pray for our young people who have recently started school, colleges or university, asking God to be with them in their learning and experience. May they find out more about Him who is the true source of all knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Pray for those among us who are experiencing financial problems. As we bring these issues to our Saviour we have only to wait to see how great God is. Let us hold on to the words 'He will supply all our needs according to the riches of his glory.'

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Pray today for our Brigades as they contemplate their community projects with their leaders.

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> May we pray today for mission work in this country and abroad, remembering overseas mission and TEAR fund projects, often working in very challenging parts of the world where persecution and wars are taking place.

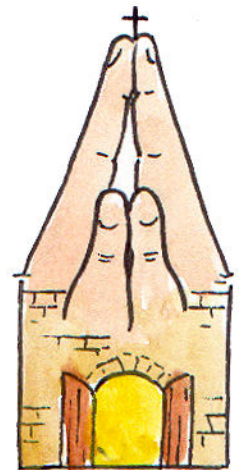


Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Let us remember in prayer the work of the Street Pastors as they come together to plan and co-ordinate their ministry and for their safety and protection on the nights they go out.

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Pray today for our local government and council leaders as we bring their responsibility before God, asking for guidance and wisdom in decision making for our town and county.

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Let us be attentive to the still small voice of our Saviour as He speaks to our hearts. Let us see him in the skies, the flowers, the hills the sunshine and rain. Pray that this will be our experience today even though its getting colder and the darkness of winter looms.

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Pray for those who are at this moment being persecuted because of their Christian faith. Ask that they will feel Gods presence with them more closely in the workplaces, schools, sportsfields, battlefield or parliaments.



Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> For those who are bereaved and have lost loved ones, pray that they will be comforted today in a special way which only God knows how to give.

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Today let us remember our youth culture and those who are in young offenders units around the country. Pray for those who are working with and supporting them; also those in prison and detention centres and the staff working in the prison service.

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Remember in prayer today our elderly folks and those who are contemplating going into care, asking that they will feel secure and safe in their choice.

Tue 26<sup>th</sup> Pray today for those who are fearful about the future, not knowing what will happen next. God knows the end from the beginning; He holds time and eternity in his hands. Let's pray to keep close to him in these uncertain times.



Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Pray for our local council and the services they provide, those who work in the county council and the borough council. Pray too for our police force and the demanding work they do.

Thur 28<sup>th</sup> May we pray for a closer walk with Jesus as we go about our daily challenges in life.

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Pray today that God will be reflected in our lives at our place of work, school, college, office, hospital, bank, shop, wherever he has placed us in the mission field. And may we realise that no person is better than another, we are all equal.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> As the winter days move nearer, let us walk close to Jesus who is the bright and morning star who gives warmth and joy to our souls. Pray again for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine as we enter Advent and prepare to welcome Jesus, the Prince of Peace.



## *Persecuted Church*

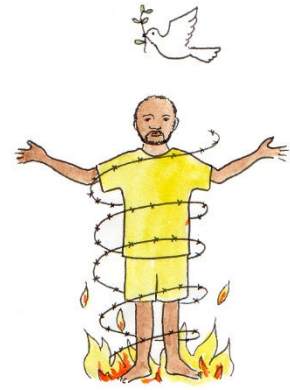
### NIGERIA

#### **Pastor's narrow escape**

Rev Kesmen Lawrence from Bokkos LGA was at home in the early evening when he suddenly heard people shouting 'that we should run for our lives'. He recalled: 'When I came out I heard the sound of guns everywhere. They told me that surrounding villages had been ambushed by men with guns. Then I realised that it was our neighbours, Fulani herdsmen, who had risen up against us, shooting guns at us, [and] then we began to run.'

Kesmen found somewhere to hide until the morning. When he eventually headed back to his village he came across bodies of the dead, some of whom had been members of his church. 'As I was moving, not far from where we were standing, I saw my neighbour [a Fulani man] on a bike with a gun coming to kill me. Thank God there was a vehicle by the side and people were calling me to come. I ran to them and they picked me up and we left. We then went to a place where we were able to rest. The army was there.'

However, the soldiers initially refused to help. 'We begged them to go and help us but they did not listen. They only agreed to go and pick up some of the people who were injured and even at that we had to give them some money.' Eventually the soldiers helped to collect some of the corpses so they could be buried. Kesmen believes the Fulani attacked because they want the land's mineral resources. In fact they were digging up the ground even as they rampaged through the village, he said. Most concerning to the pastor is the weakening of faith of those in his community who are even returning to some pagan practices. 'Please pray that people will depend on Christ because the faith of many has wavered. Pray that people will



understand that the fact that they escaped was not by their wisdom, but it was Christ that enabled them to do so.’

Kesmen was a participant in a training programme for pastors funded by Release International. The programme addresses issues such as responding to those whose faith is challenged after bereavement and seeing church numbers dwindle, how to reach out to persecutors and Hostile Environment and Emergency First Aid Training.

*Release International VOICE of Persecuted Christians Oct-Dec 2024*

**Should Christians flee when threatened because of their faith?** Should they not remain and maintain a bold, resolute, active gospel witness, come what may?

While maintaining a Christian presence and witness is preferable, there are, in life, times when an ongoing witness is simply not an option. Furthermore, while denying Christ in the face of hostility is not to be encouraged, neither is a masochism that actively seeks persecution.

In the Book of Acts there are times when the Apostles fled – we might say ‘to fight another day’ and to continue in gospel ministry. Famously, at the beginning of his ministry, the Apostle Paul was lowered down the city wall of Damascus by friends, to escape a plot to kill him (see Acts 9:23-25). Shortly after Paul faced a similar threat in Jerusalem and was sent by his fellow Christians to Tarsus (Acts 9:26-30). This pattern continued later in his ministry (e.g., Acts 17:10; 17:14).

When Christians are forced to flee, in the face of violence around them, or because of the threat of violence (if, for example, they refuse to convert to another religion), it usually means leaving almost everything behind: treasured possessions, even the basic necessities of life.

In such situations Christians – like others who flee warzones – become refugees with desperate needs. Christians from Iraq and Syria, for example,



have fled in considerable numbers in recent years to the northern region of Kurdistan. Christians in Nigeria often flee areas ravaged by the Islamist group Boko Haram and end up refugees in their own country, in what are often referred to as Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. In the past two decades Christians from Eritrea have fled their nation's authoritarian regime and ended up in refugee camps in neighbouring Ethiopia.

Supporting Christians who have been forced to flee because of their faith is part of the ongoing work of Release International. Through key partners in these critical areas in the world we provide practical, life-sustaining support – but this is also combined with spiritual support and discipleship.

Christians in the UK and Ireland are unlikely ever to find themselves in similar situations of deprivation occasioned by the need to flee. They can, however, express the reality of Christian fellowship within the Body of Christ by supporting those who are currently living in those conditions.

*Release International UK 2024*

### **Thirty worshippers abducted, three killed in attack on churches in Kaduna State, Nigeria**

Three people were killed and 30 abducted when Islamist gunmen attacked two churches in Kaduna State in Nigeria's Middle Belt on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

The armed assault was launched at around 10am on the churches in Bakinpah-Marou community, Kajuru Local Government Area (LGA).

Bernard Gajera, pastor of one of the churches, was one of those taken by the attackers.

“The community is in shock, and we urge the authorities to take immediate action to rescue the kidnapped victims,” said Cafra Caino, the former Chairman of Kajuru LGA.

An eyewitness said, “When the bandits arrived in large numbers, many worshippers fled the church. It was a horrendous sight. We were helpless as we watched the bandits wreak havoc.”

As recently as August 2024, the Maro community raised funds to build a security post for law enforcement agencies to address ongoing security issues after repeated attacks kept farmers from their fields.

The attack happened almost exactly two years after gunmen abducted 43 residents, including many worshippers from a church service, in a raid on another community in Kajuru LGA on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Pray for the safety of Pastor Bernard and the other Christians abducted and ask that they are released from captivity unharmed. Pray that improved security in Kaduna State will prevent further attacks.

*Barnabas 18/9/24*

### **Prayer and assistance for vulnerable Christians after Nigeria flooding**

“We need your assistance. We need your prayers, wherever you are.” These were the words of Elkana, a Christian man speaking to one of our project partners in Nigeria, following devastating floods that have engulfed the north-eastern city of Maiduguri in Borno State. Elkana was distraught in the video our project partner sent to Barnabas this week.

He explained that the floodwaters had affected many churches, swept away homes and destroyed crops.

“We were just sleeping and suddenly the flood came from nowhere,” he said. “All the plants are dying ... there are so many chemicals in the water right now. It’s killing all the plants.

“We need your help right now, in this critical moment where we are.”

### **Thousands of believers affected by Nigeria floods**

It’s estimated that one million people have been impacted by the flooding, caused by persistent rains and the Alau Dam collapsing.

Thousands of believers have been displaced amongst them. While floods aren't uncommon in this region, experts have said that this is the worst flood to hit Maiduguri in three decades.

Cars and livestock were swept away as water levels rose to consume villages.

To make matters worse, many Christians affected have already been displaced by constant attacks from Islamist terror group Boko Haram. This latest disaster has compounded their dire situation, wiping out the life they were rebuilding, leaving them extremely vulnerable once again.

**Stepping in to provide hope and aid to our brothers and sisters**

Through our project partners, Barnabas is looking to help Christian families affected by this disaster.

Our project partner has told us that, while the authorities are doing all they can to assist, “ ... the Christian communities have seen nothing. Past experience has shown us that this aid will never get to us.”

With your help, we can provide Christian families with urgently needed food essentials, to help them endure. Above all, whether you can give a gift or not, please pray for our brothers and sisters at this time.

*Barnabas 23/9/24*

**Please pray** for our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters in Nigeria and for the work of Barnabas and Release International in supporting them

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| <p><b><u>Deadline for December Knightrider Street News:</u></b><br/> <b><u>Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup></u></b><br/>         Please e-mail contributions to the address on inside front cover<br/> <b><i>No later than 20.00hrs on this date</i></b></p> |
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**Lebanon: Hoping for peace,**  
**living in conflict**



British Lebanese are starting to arrive at Heathrow to escape the escalating conflict, uncertain of when it might be safe for them to return to their homes and lives in Beirut. But back in Lebanon Samer\*, who doesn't have the option to run from his beloved country, is moving from his house in a coastal town to stay in the home of his parents further south. This puts him closer to the conflict, but he says, 'That way, no matter what happens we're at least together. And it helps with trying to minimise our bills.' Samer's story is one of many. So far, more than a million people have been forced to leave their homes because of the impact of the conflict. Many, especially those living close to the southern border, have found themselves running for their lives.

Lebanon is facing this new escalation in the conflict in the region on top of an already dire situation: the Covid pandemic, political instability, an economic crisis, the massive influx of refugees fleeing Syria and the horrific Beirut blast. These have all contributed to a very challenging set of circumstances for people living in Lebanon, particularly in the past five years. The country has seen a sharp increase in poverty and humanitarian needs, with access to essential things like food, healthcare, education and employment becoming increasingly limited.

**'What keeps us moving is hope'**

'What keeps us moving is hope that the war will end with minimal losses and damages,' Samer tells us. 'Because we've already had enough of that. And the hope that life will resume back to normal so that we can rebuild the damaged cities and towns. It will take months to do that, but at least we can secure education for our children and get back things like the primary health care centres that used to provide health services for the local

residents at not too much cost. For people to be able to go back to their businesses. Even if it's just baby steps, at least this is our hope.'

For people in all of the areas affected by this conflict – Gaza, Lebanon, the West Bank and Israel – the attacks have led to loss of lives and homes and forced a massive wave of displacement. Many civilians have been forced to flee with only a few belongings.

### **Finding shelter**

In Lebanon, public institutions including schools, education centres and vocational institutes have been turned into emergency shelters to welcome some of those who have fled their homes. Other people have sought refuge in the houses of friends or family, and still others have used up their savings renting accommodation in other parts of the country, including Beirut – which until a few days ago had seemed like a safer place to be. 'All of this has affected children's education, increased vulnerabilities, caused psychological distress and has even led to different abuses.' Samer goes on to explain. 'Households have been separated as men take the decision to stay in areas that are more at risk to try and continue to make an income while they send their wives and children to safer places.'

### **The impact on agriculture... and food**

'The agriculture has also been impacted by the shelling of phosphorus bombs, leading to minimal or zero harvest of vital crops like wheat and olives and vegetables. The land will need around ten years of rehabilitation before it is healthy enough to replant.'

'Usually, you can easily get vegetables and fruits during summer, or even wheat for preservation during winter at very low costs because it's locally raised. But this is no longer the case. And even for olives and olive oil because there has been no harvest since last year. So now, this year, one oil tank costs double or triple the amount it did before. So, it's affecting people's ability to buy food. It's affecting the harvest, the agriculture and

the farmers.’

### **The struggle for a place of safety**

‘People who have been internally displaced also face opportunistic landlords who spike rental fees insanely, for nothing, just trying to make profit out of this whole situation. And this creates a greater burden on the IDPs\*\*. Some people fled to Beirut last October after the conflict first escalated, hoping that the war would end in a few months – maybe by Christmas. They paid from their savings for their rent fees, but all their savings are gone now. So, they prefer to go back to their villages, even though it’s unsafe, because they can’t pay the high amounts for rent. And this is the case, many people returned to the south with their children, to live with daily, ongoing fire.’

### **Normalising war**

‘And for most families, that’s been normalised. You’re normalising war. It becomes part of your daily bread. Some children are now able to identify and recognise different ammunition – whether it’s a sonic bomb, for example, or if it’s some other type of ammunition. They are not in school learning about the things they should be, but they can tell you what’s happening. This is really sad, because it is damaging the childhood of a full generation. Struggling with education, struggling with living a normal childhood life. Affecting and impacting their mental health as well as that of their parents.’

Samer’s family home was damaged earlier in the year when there was a target hit next to the house. They’ve covered the shattered windows with nylon. Hopefully, a time will come soon when they can replace the glass, but for now the fear is that it may not be worth the investment as they don’t know what’s going to happen next. ‘If you have any money,’ Samer explains, ‘you’re keeping it as a contingency because you might have to leave at any time.’



Or, you might need to prioritise food and meeting the basic needs. This is the story of my family and many other families.’

### **Livelihoods lost**

Samer’s dad’s job is one that has not been feasible since last October, so he, like many others affected by the conflict across the region, has been largely without an income since then. It’s one of the reasons Samer is moving back home, to help share the bills. ‘We’re adapting,’ he says. ‘We’re coping, we’re seeing what is the best lifestyle we can have in light of the ongoing situation. The hope of an end to the conflict keeps us moving. You can see it’s mixed with resilience as well, and mixed with faith.’

### **Tearfund response in Lebanon**

Since last October, Tearfund’s local partners in Lebanon have been helping to support people who have been displaced by the conflict, working to address the urgent needs of families by providing food, shelter and essential items like mattresses, clothing, hygiene products, dignity kits and babies’ nappies. It’s a challenging context to work in because the risks are great and can also change very quickly.

For now, the immediate requirements are things like food and safe shelter. In the long term, along with needing to rebuild homes and businesses, for the survivors of this conflict, dealing with the toll on mental health will be another significant hurdle.

### **The conflict’s toll on mental health**

Samer spoke to us about his own family. ‘My dad is stronger, but my mom is very vulnerable to the sounds. Here, we speak about a generational trauma, since there was the long Civil War (1975 to 1990) and the Israel invasion in 1982 to South Lebanon. It’s a compilation of different traumas in the minds of the different generations. Sounds trigger different things

in your mind. They can make you either black out or feel paralysed and not focused, or not even able to do your ordinary daily routine. And this is very common among all families. Not only my family. So, we want this to end. We keep in mind options and plans of where we might go or what we should do, for example if this happens or that happens or if this gets worse. You're constantly just busy thinking about how to save yourself and your family. You live in anxiety, you live in tension, you live in stress – and it's affecting people's mental health and impacting their focus. People forget things easily. Sometimes, they can ask the same question several times. And, of course it has an impact on daily work. For example, you can sometimes have sleepless nights because of rocket fire or military movement or the sound of aircraft. It slows your ability to pay attention or concentrate. And, of course, it shows different symptoms physically too. It can make you feel unable to do any physical activities, and many people are turning to medication to cope. To feel calmer because they are stressed. Even the sound of a loud voice brings on fear. You may just be chatting with someone, but you can sense that they're not fine.'

### **Middle East Emergency response**

Samer's story is just one person's account of some of the devastating situations hundreds of thousands of people across Lebanon, Gaza and Israel are facing. Beyond the loss of homes and livelihoods, many have lost loved ones or are living with injuries. And it seems that, for all, any sense of safety or security has been destroyed. Along with Samer, we pray for a swift solution that brings peace to the region and for an end to the loss of lives.

If you would like to join us in prayer for the region we've created this guide:

#### **Pray for peace**

- Pray for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the violence, and the release of all hostages.

- Pray for world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that lead to lasting peace.
- Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict.

### **Pray for safety**

- Pray for all civilians – that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people, and people with disabilities.
- Pray for humanitarian workers – for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies.
- Pray for the safe distribution of food, water, sanitary items, medical supplies and fuel.
- Pray for people forced to flee their homes. Pray for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home.

### **Pray for strength**

- Pray for church leaders – for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty. Pray for bravery as they guide their communities and offer loving support.
- Pray for faith leaders and communities across the region – that they would stand firm, and for unity, connection and mutual understanding so that they can help bring people together and show kindness.
- Pray for Tearfund and our partners in Gaza, Lebanon and neighbouring countries – that God would strengthen them as they support schools and hospitals, and as they provide food and essentials to families who have been displaced.

### **Pray for hope**

- Pray for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering. Ask God to save them from despair – for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.
- Pray that people across the Middle East wouldn't lose hope – that peace is possible.

## **Pray for healing**

- Pray for people who have been traumatised or injured; ask God to heal their physical and emotional wounds and bring them deep comfort.
- Pray for hospitals and medical staff – for strength as they continue to provide life-saving services to all those affected. Ask God to provide all the resources and equipment they need to treat the sick and injured.

## **Prayer for the Middle East**

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in the Middle East. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you would stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.

*Amen.*

*\*Name has been changed for protection.*

*\*\*What is an IDP/refugee? People who have been forced to flee their homes and find safety in other places within their own country are often referred to as internally displaced persons (IDPs). Refugees are those who seek safety across country borders.*

Written by Tearfund's Tarryn Pegna 3/10/24

TF website: <https://www.tearfund.org/>



## Regular Sunday Meetings.

Every Sunday: 10.30hrs In-person Worship at Knightrider Street

Services also streamed via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube when possible.



Would you like to join our Street or Prayer Pastor Team? We are always looking for volunteers to join us.

Please email: [maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk) for more information



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