

PRAYERS FOR PEACEMAKERS

PREMISE

Often the only news we hear out of the Holy Land regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is negative. We hear about the political posturing, military movements, and loss of life, but equally as important are the stories of those striving for peace in the nation. As Christians we pray together for those working to make peace in a turbulent area.

MATERIALS

- Information table tent (ATTACHED)
- Copies of prayer cards (ATTACHED)

SET-UP

- Set-up a table and lay out the information as well as multiple copies of each of the prayer cards

FACILITATION

No facilitation is needed for this station.

(Print and fold to make a tent)

Prayers for Palestinians & Israelis Working for Peace

We usually hear news from Israel/Palestine only when there is violence to report. Our media miss the everyday stories of those who are working for reconciliation and the stories of hope.

Today we pray for those Palestinians and Israelis who have dedicated their lives to making peace. Take a prayer card, read about peacemaker and say a silent prayer for them. Keep this person in your prayers for the next week.



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Issa Amro founded Youth Against the Settlements, teaching the youth of Hebron non-violent resistance. They are routinely stoned by settlers or arrested on their way to school. Issa is receiving death threats. "Security is a mutual concept. Our kids are not safe. Half of them are arrested. Settlers carry guns; I don't. A gun is a killing machine."

Prayers for Palestinians & Israelis



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Dorothy Naor, New Profile. Dorothy says she used to march in protests against Israel's occupation, but now, in her 80s, she peruses the daily news and sends out a digest of stories documenting Israel's violations of Palestinians' human rights— laws discriminating against Palestinians, home demolitions. She says the only way her country will end the occupation is if the international community pressures Israel, using boycott, divestment and sanctions, BDS.

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Mitri Raheb, Pastor, Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; President, Diyar Consortium; and founder of Dar Al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. "Palestinians today stand in historical continuity with biblical Israel." "The New Testament introduces a new lens; instead of identifying with one people over and against all others...it calls people to reflect on the entire process of identification as misleading."

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Angie Saba is Public Relations Coordinator for the Diyar Consortium—the ministries of Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem—schools, music and arts programs, empowering youth. "Bethlehem is surrounded by the wall...but we convince (our students) not to look at the wall, but to look up. We teach them the sky is the limit. We incorporate the message of hope in everything we do."

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Daoud and Amal Nassar farm their land, just south of Bethlehem. Purchased by their grandfather in 1916, they have Ottoman, British and Jordanian deeds to their land, but they have been in court for twenty-five years trying to keep their farm, which is now surrounded by Israeli settlements. They have made a peace camp on the farm—Tent of Nations—where international visitors come to learn and experiment with sustainable farming. They reach out to their Israeli neighbors, saying “We refuse to be enemies.”

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Farhan Al-Kham, engineer and poet, was elected mayor of Beit Ummar on the Hamas party ticket in 2006. Shortly after, he was arrested and imprisoned by the Israeli army. Farhan is a gentle man, a peacemaker, who works to make his city a safe and prosperous one, but with Israeli settlements surrounding Beit Ummar, Israeli soldiers are a constant presence in the village. Farhan teaches his son Salahad-Din: “I teach my children to love, not hate. Love takes courage; hate does not.”

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Jeff Halper is a Minnesota-born anthropologist, political activist and cofounder of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. “The occupation is Israel’s worldwide export.” Israel uses Palestine as a lab for testing police and military weaponry and tactics. Dr. Halper writes about this in his latest book, War Against the People: Israel, Palestine and Global Pacification. For almost 20 years, with IDAHD, Jeff has rebuilt demolished Palestinian homes.

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Jean Zarou, Quaker peace activist living in Ramallah, where she is Clerk of the Friends Meeting. Jean is a leader in non-violent resistance to Israel’s military occupation, which she describes as “offering of respect and concern on the one hand, while meeting injustice with non-cooperation and with defiance on the other.” Her granddaughter, a university student in the US, is following in her footsteps.

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Noga Kadman. In her book, *Erased from Space and Consciousness*, she documents the Palestinian villages that were destroyed when her country, Israel, became a state in 1948. Noga leads tours of these villages; many have been made into Israeli parks. While signs in the parks explain the Jewish history, no recognition is given to the Palestinian history and the villages that were destroyed. Her work gives witness to that Palestinian history.

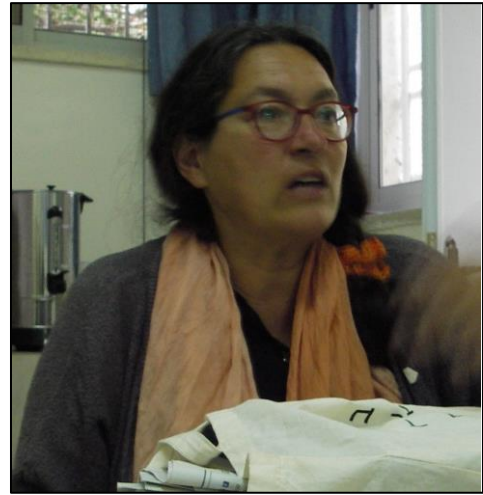
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Amira Hass, Israeli journalist, living in the West Bank. She covers Palestinian human rights for Ha'aretz, one of Israel's daily newspapers. "When I think of all my friends in Gaza that haven't been out of the Gaza Strip for the past 20 years ...In practice, Gaza has become a huge, let me be blunt, concentration camp for 1.8 M people."

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Nora Carmi is the Project Coordinator for Kairos Palestine in Bethlehem. An Armenian Christian, she was born in Jerusalem, and has spent her life working in community-building. "I feel that faith is translated into action, and it's within these actions that I find faith." She was one of the drafters of Kairos Palestine, the Palestinian Christians' cry to the world to stand with them in their suffering and calling for a just peace. "I hope that we are not alone...the churches are with us and will do their utmost."

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Jamal Muqbel, peacemaker—organizer for Wounded Crossing Borders, bringing together Israelis and Palestinians who have been wounded or suffered personal loss. Jamal and his wife Sadia host the group in their home in Beit Ummar, just south of Bethlehem in the West Bank. They share their stories to better understand one another and find their shared values.

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