

PRAYERS FOR SYRIA



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**
Be love. End poverty.

In March 2011, pro-democracy protests held by young people in Syria sparked nation-wide protests against the regime of Bashar Al Assad. The Assad Government responded with violence and by 2012 a civil war had erupted. The conflict (which now involves a range of rebel fighters, Assad's militant rule and Islamic State) has engendered horrific acts of torture, violence and human rights abuses.

It is estimated that a staggering 11.5% of the Syrian population has been killed in the war which spans the last five years. Currently, 6.6 million people are internally displaced by violence; 4.6 million have fled Syria in search of safety; and 13.5 million people are in need of desperate humanitarian assistance.

The Syrian Crisis is now coming into its sixth year.

As Christians we believe in a God of love in Whom we put our greatest hope. And we cannot stand idly by while the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time rages on. We believe the church needs to be united; kneeling before our Lord and Saviour as we seek His kingdom together. Come with all that you are and join with us in prayer for peace, justice, mercy and grace for the victims of the Syrian Crisis.

We hope that you and your church will find these prayers helpful as you reflect on the Syrian Crisis.

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SYRIAN CRISIS – 5 YEARS ON

Gracious God, we bring before You the terrible situation in the Middle East.

These past five years have seen so much pain, destruction and suffering.

Our hearts particularly break for the children who have lost so much in this senseless conflict.

Father, keep safe those who are providing aid to the displaced victims of this conflict.

May we never become desensitised to the horrible images we see in the media and may we continue to respond with gracious generosity.

Though Christ our Lord, Amen.



PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND HOPE

Father of the heavens and the earth, Lord of creation and resurrection, Your generous love and heart of mercy keeps us holding onto hope in times of conflict, suffering and injustice.

We ask for reconciliation, peace and justice to reign over Syria.

We come before you now with our hearts broken for the lives lost; our minds disturbed by the stories of war; our souls seeking to see Your sovereignty bring healing to a broken land.

Please bring comfort to those mourning. Bring peace to those filled with rage. Please show hope to the hopeless.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Father, countless lives of Your precious children have been taken by this conflict which now spans 5 years.

Through one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time, we want to remember that you deeply love all children.

Please carry them safely through this conflict, hold them closely in places of refuge and wrap them in your tender compassion. May their fathers, mothers, teachers and community leaders seek to protect them from the severity of pain.

For our Christian brothers and sisters, help them to teach their children about Your love in the midst of unimaginable struggles.

Make us people who love and stand up for the most vulnerable. Transform our hearts that we may remember to always pray, seeking Your wisdom and grace.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

Spirit of wisdom and truth, the Syrian conflict has forced over 4 million to flee for safety from persecution and we desperately desire Your hand to intervene.

We pray for neighbouring countries to be places of true refuge, where not only are the basic needs of food, shelter and protection met, but where victims will be welcomed and loved as people living in foreign lands.

Help those running refugee camps to treat everyone with dignity. Fill them with the energy and strength to serve the refugees.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.





KEEP US FROM FORGETTING

Lord Jesus, we have been given the greatest love. We have been reconciled to the Father because of Your great sacrifice.

Because of You, our old selves have died and we are now risen to a new life in You.

Keep us from forgetting Your abundant grace as we remember those who suffer because of the Syrian Crisis.

Keep our ears open; willing to listen to people's stories.

Keep our hearts soft so that we may respond with compassion.

Keep our eyes ever lifted heavenward, that we may seek justice and walk humbly with Your people.

Jesus, please help us to know how to love our neighbours and not be afraid to cry out at the injustices in this world.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

WORLD LEADERS

Father, we pray for world leaders who are making key decisions about the situation in Syria and the surrounding region at this time.

We know Lord that You are sovereign and have power of all things on earth and under the earth.

We ask that Your hand will guide these decisions and have a great impact on peoples' everyday life.

We ask that the decisions which are made will bring peace and restoration to the people of Syria.

We ask that through Your mercy and love for creation that there will be rest for those who are suffering in Syria.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.





MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME

Dear Lord, You were born in displacement and in Your own words You had no place to lay Your head.

You know what it means to be persecuted. Persecution was a big part of Your time as man.

You, more than anyone, know the needs and hearts of those we pray for in Syria and those who flee her wars.

May Your Holy Spirit move among the victims of war, bringing comfort to their uncertainty; hope among hopelessness; belonging among rejection and displacement.

Lord, raise up those who represent Your hands and heart to those who know only violence and fear.

Enable those who serve Your kingdom to break through into the overwhelming number of personal and collective crises that surround Syria.

Move in the hearts of the Governments in whose lands victims of war seek refuge. Your heart for the women and children in this time must break. There are so many who are vulnerable.

Lord may Your kingdom come among them with power and peace.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



CEASEFIRE

Gracious God and Father. We watch hopefully as the ceasefire takes effect.

We know the opposition it will have because we understand the hearts of men and we know the previous actions of those involved.

Lord lead and guide our world leaders and the UN as they work with all parties to bring a lasting peace. Only You can bring true peace as You change hearts.

So we put this situation into Your hands, the God of peace.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.