

Praise and Prayer for Our Mission Partners in Palestine

Pray for Munther Isaac - Pastor of Bethlehem Christmas Lutheran Church, Academic Dean of Bethlehem Bible College, Director of Christ at the Checkpoint conferences, Chairman of the IFES Christian Students in Palestinian Universities and frequent speaker



- Thank God for First Pres Evanston's sister church partnership with Bethlehem Christmas Lutheran Church (BCLC). Pray for . . .
 - a regular means for Pastor Munther and our church staff and leaders to share, pray, study and plan together, developing together our mission partnership.
 - First Pres' Study and Mission Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and their visit to BCLC in June.
 - Munther's visit to Chicago to speak at NorthPark University and then at First Pres the weekend of September 28-29.
- Thank God for Bethlehem Christmas Lutheran Church's mission of '*continuing Christ's ministry of preaching, teaching and healing in His birthplace*'. Pray for . . .
 - Pastor Munther and his church leaders as they explore ways to encourage Christians to stay in Palestine in spite of all the compelling reasons to leave.
 - ways for them to encourage young families and youth to return to church.
 - the church's huge challenge for parking space and a venue for youth activities.

Pray for Mitri Raheb – former pastor of Bethlehem Christmas Lutheran Church, Founder and President of Dar Al Kalima College of Arts and Culture, President of Bright Stars of Bethlehem, author and speaker



- Thank God for the vision God has given Mitri for using arts as a means of inspiring and empowering youth. Pray for . . .
 - the continued growth of Dar Al Kalima College.
 - the students to succeed in the work they are pursuing; for the faculty to inspire youth to express themselves uniquely and powerfully through art.
- Thank God for Mitri's influence and connections throughout Palestine, including Gaza. Pray for . . .
 - Mitri's pursuit of peace and reconciliation in a divided society.
 - those community and government leaders with whom Mitri engages.
 - discernment and energy for those invitations that Mitri receives to build bridges not walls in society and, like Jesus, to serve the poor and marginalized.

Pray for both Mitri and Munther as they plan for two major events coming in 2020.

- Bethlehem 2020
 - Bethlehem has been designated the UN Festival Site for the Arab World on the theme of 'Art and Resistance'.
- Christ at the Checkpoint 2020
 - The theme will be "Hope and Resilience in a Broken World." Join us as what we consider what it means to follow Christ in the shadow of walls and conflict, and how to be resilient in our Christian witness, keep hope alive, seek just peace and ...

Pray for Nader Ghneim – General Secretary for the IFES national movement in Palestine (Christian Students in Palestinian Universities -CSPU), and staff colleague with Palestine Bible Society (PBS)

- Thank God for the IFES MENA Emerging Leaders Program. This program identifies key students and graduate leaders and invites them to participate in a two-year internship program. First Pres' Great Commission has helped support both the first (34 emerging leaders) and second training programs (30 emerging leaders).



Pray for . . .

- the eight Palestinian emerging leaders in this training program who volunteer to assist Nader and CSPU.
 - God's special blessing for each of these and for them to find employment so they can stay in Palestine.
 - significant education and training opportunities to enable them to serve students well in the Palestinian context.
 - at least one of the emerging leaders to be called to join Nader to serve as staff for CSPU.
 - Thank God for the CSPU Board. Munther (a former classmate of Nader's at Birzeit U) is current Board Chair. Pray for . . .
 - the Board as they explore ways to support Nader and the student work, strengthen the faculty and graduate involvement in the ministry and sustain the work.
-

Pray for these three brothers in Christ

- May God care for and bless each of their families.
 - Pray for their wives, each of whom have their own ministries.
 - Pray for their children, especially for their growth and safety at school.
 - Pray for Munther, Mitri and Nader that they continue to find quality time to be with their wives and children, especially as they each carry heavy work responsibilities.
- May God give each of them discernment for what to say 'yes' to and what to say 'no' to.
 - Each is very gifted and receives many opportunities to serve. Pray that they will be able to guard what God has given them most--- passion for and joy in serving others.
- May God keep them from despair and frustration, generously providing all that they need.
 - Pray for patience when driving to an appointment that takes an hour instead of 20 minutes because of road closures or checkpoints. And patience not just for them, but for the people they are wanting to see.
 - Pray for stamina in the midst of so many things that squeeze the life out of Palestine.
 - Pray for the rest of the world to know how to wisely and justly respond to the very difficult Palestinian situation

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

Colossians 1:9-