

## **Mission partner prayer and update from Embrace the Middle East**

Thank you once again to everyone at St Andrew's for your steadfast support. In these very difficult times, it is so good to know that people are praying for our friends and partners and standing in solidarity with them.

PBS (the Palestinian Bible Society) is beginning preparations for the next phase of the Jericho Leadership Academy. They are hoping to focus on church and scout groups and so Elias has been visiting these groups and hosting introductory training sessions to help them to understand the ethos behind the programme and get involved. They are praying that many will want to join the training and take the idea of imitating Jesus as a leader and a servant seriously, applying it in their own communities.

Elias has also been reaching out to teachers in Christian schools with the training and also working with a youth group in Hebron, please pray for these ventures. The pressures on schools are immense as so many of the children and young people, as well as the staff, face mental health challenges as a result of the ongoing occupation and cycles of violence.

PBS has also asked for more general prayer for the youth in Palestine to be more mature about the role that they can play in their communities, both serving and leading. So many feel there is no point in working for change in their communities. Faithfulness to God is itself an act of resistance in the face of oppression. We ask especially for prayer for those Christians who live outside of Bethlehem in places like Birzeit, Nablus Ramallah and Zababdeh.