

21 January 2024

Mission Partner Prayer and update from Embrace the Middle East

Su McClellan, from Embrace has sent through the following update:

We continue to despair at the news coming from Israel and Palestine. Sunday marks 100 days since Hamas' attack on Israel and we're inviting churches to hold a minute's silence to remember before God all the victims of this terrible war. There is a prayer to be used at the end of the period of quiet. To read the prayer [click here](#).

My colleague Rhiannon has been in touch with Elias and I can bring you the following news:

- The activities scheduled for the last quarter of 2023 had to be postponed because of movement restrictions. These are now due to be conducted in the coming months, but instead of training participants travelling to Jericho, Elias will travel to them to deliver the training locally.
- We will be contracting the new grant for 2024-25 imminently. This programme differs slightly from the previous one because its focus is on developing and training young scouts and scout leaders with the aim of developing their leadership, community influencing and mobilizing skills, as well as developing strategic thinking and civic mindedness.
- A second element of the programme is to work with around 100 young people a year from Jericho to provide training around leadership, community interaction and development. This element of the project has been developed at the request of the local municipality to try and support young people amidst the ongoing violence in the West Bank, to try and ensure that they are equipped to be positive changemakers and leaders in their communities.
- Palestinian Bible Society (PBS) continues to support the churches in Gaza and people in economic need in the West Bank due to the ongoing war in Gaza. Please pray for them, particularly as the Jerusalem and West Bank staff have friends and family who are in Gaza at the moment. The PBS office in Gaza has been badly damaged and the family home of Elias, who runs the Jericho programme, was destroyed before the temporary truce - his brother and family are sheltering in the church at this time.

Thank you once again for your love and commitment and please do pass on my greetings to everyone at St Andrew's.

Blessings, *Su McClellan*