

Our help is in the name of the LORD

It is a question that keeps coming up during Bible study groups: should I take action myself or should I leave everything entirely in God's hands? It is a question that is centuries-old.

The Italian monk Benedict of Nursia endorsed the importance of *Ora et Labora*, in other words: "Pray and work". In doing so he emphasized the importance of a balance between spiritual and physical labour. It can also remind us of the fact that taking action ourselves and leaving everything entirely in God's hands need not contradict one another. In Israel, we see that ultimately help always comes from the Lord. At the same time the people are asked to take action themselves. We see this, for example in the history of the attack of the Amalekites on Israel in the desert. While Moses raised his hands on the mountain and prayed to God, the Israeli men were fighting down in the valley to defend their people. Thus, prayer and action were linked and Israel was victorious.

Let us too, trusting that our help comes from the Lord, pray for Israel. At the same time, we may also be mindful for all the work being done in Israel to rule, protect and defend the country against attacks. They needn't be mutually exclusive.

Shalom,
The Christians for Israel Prayer Team

December 2026

Tue 1 Dec	In October elections took place in Israel. Pray that the new government will be full of wisdom and discernment. Pray that the members of the Knesset (MK's) will have great confidence in God and that the people will also have great confidence in Him.
Wed 2 Dec	From November 15 through November 26, a group of young people took part in the Eyewitness Tour through Israel. Pray that these young people will act as ambassadors for Israel and for what they experienced during this tour in their own countries.
Thu 3 Dec	On 30 September the co-pilot of FlyDubai's flight 1073, attacked the pilot with an axe, during the flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv. There were about 170 Israeli passengers on board. Partly thanks to the courage of the injured pilot and the travellers who managed to restrain the terrorist, all passengers could be saved. Thank God for this big miracle.
Fri 4 Dec **Hanukkah**	Tonight the festival of Hanukkah starts. This is the Jewish festival of the rededication of the Temple, which took place about 160 years before Jesus' birth. It is a festival of light, but also of redemption. The coming days we will focus our prayers on this festival. Pray today for a blessed and safe Hanukkah festival for Jews worldwide.

Sat 5 Dec Sabbath Hanukkah	Tonight the festival of Hanukkah starts. This is the Jewish festival of the rededication of the Temple, which took place about 160 years before Jesus' birth. It is a festival of light, but also of redemption. The coming days we will focus our prayers on this festival. Pray today for a blessed and safe Hanukkah festival for Jews worldwide.
Sun 6 Dec Hanukkah	The festival of Hanukkah reminds us of God's redeeming hand. Therefore, we shall pray in the coming days guided by Psalm 129: "They have greatly oppressed me from my youth," let Israel say…" The book of Psalms is Israel's Book of Prayers in which we also may join in prayer. We may bring the evil done to Israel before the throne of the God of Israel.
Mon 7 Dec Hanukkah	"They have greatly oppressed me from my youth, but they have not gained the victory over me." Psalm 129:2. After the Exodus from Egypt and even before the existence of the Jewish people, the people has had to endure a lot of oppression. Thank God that the Jewish people return to His Land after thousands of years.
Tue 8 Dec Hanukkah	"Plowmen have plowed my back and made their furrows long." Psalm 129:3. Israel has had to endure the cruellest persecutions. These persecutions not only took place in the countries of Christendom, but were committed by Christians as well. Pray to God for forgiveness for this sin. Pray that He will have mercy on His people and His Land.
Wed 9 Dec Hanukkah	"But the Lord is righteous; he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked." Psalm 129:4. Israel cannot save itself. But, especially in times of darkness God has liberated His people from the bonds of the wicked. Thank God that He grants deliverance over and over again to His people Israel.
Thu 10 Dec Hanukkah	"May all who hate Zion be turned back in shame. May they be like grass on the roof, which withers before it can grow" Psalm 129:5-6. Thank God for His promise to Abraham: He who blesses him and his offspring, will be blessed, but he who despises them, will be cursed.
Fri 11 Dec Hanukkah	A reaper cannot fill his hands with it, nor one who gathers fill his arms." Psalm 129:7. Thank God that He is graceful and full of love for His people and that He puts an end to the wicked deeds of his adversaries.
Sat 12 Dec Sabbath Hanukkah	"May those who pass by not say to them, "The blessing of the Lord be on you; we bless you in the name of the Lord." Psalm 129:8. Praise the name of the God of Israel. He alone is the source of all blessings. Pray for all who love Zion and ask for a blessing upon them.
Sun 13 Dec	"Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell." Pray today with these words.
Mon 14 Dec	Pray today for your own congregation or for a congregation near you. Pray that we may gain a better understanding of Israel's position in the Bible and of the reality in Israel today.
Tue 15 Dec	Pray for the pastors who want to devote more attention to Israel inside their congregation. Pray that they receive the right support and ask God for wisdom and courage when tensions arise surrounding Israel inside the congregation.
Wed 16 Dec	Pray for the Christian leaders in your country. Pray for insight and discernment when they speak about Israel and the Jewish people.
Thu 17 Dec	Replacement Theology is the view that the Church has taken Israel's place. This thought has not only been a stumbling block in the study of the Bible, but has also caused a lot of damage to the relationship between Jews and Christians. Pray that there may be greater recognition and insight on this subject within the Church regarding this subject.
Fri 18 Dec	The Church has a painful history of Jew-hatred and persecution. Pray today for humility within the Church. Pray for forgiveness for the sins committed against Israel and the Jewish people.
Sat 19 Dec Sabbath	"I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live." Psalm 116:1-2. Thank God that He turns His ear to the supplications of His people.
Sun 20 Dec	I will strengthen Judah and save the tribes of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them." Zachariah 10:6. The LORD is Israel's Lord. Israel is His property. Pray that Christians worldwide will acknowledge this.

Mon 21 Dec	Pray that Christians will speak out against antisemitism and express their support to the Jewish people. Pray for courage and trust for all people to stand up for Israel and the Jewish people.
Tue 22 Dec	In some countries rallies are organised that glorify Hamas and the atrocities of October 7, 2023. It is a matter of great concern that such glorification of violence and terrorism is possible. Pray that this glorification of violence and hatred will come to an end and that the governments will take decisive action against it.
Wed 23 Dec	Pray for the leaders of the world. Pray that they will get to know the God of Israel and that they allow Him to guide them when making decisions.
Thu 24 Dec **Christmas Eve**	During the Advent season we looked forward to Christmas. Advent means expect. We are looking forward to the coming of Messiah, the King of Israel. Thank God today for the coming of Messiah. Pray for a blessing of Christians worldwide who celebrate the coming of Messiah during Christmas.
Fri 25 Dec **Christmas**	On this Christmas Day we reflect on the coming of Jesus, Messiah and Prince of Peace. Thank God that He sent His Son. Pray today for peace in Israel and in the entire world. Pray especially for the peace of Jerusalem. (Psalm 122).
Sat 26 Dec **Sabbath**	"O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel." Hymn 125. Pray for the physical and mental recovery of Israel.
Sun 27 Dec	"Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth." Psalm 47:1-2. Thank God today with the words of this Psalm.
Mon 28 Dec	Pray today for joy amongst the Jewish people. Pray that people, despite the difficulties and suffering of our times, may experience great joy in God.
Tue 29 Dec	"The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand." (Psalm 121:5). Pray for protection of Israelis who are travelling abroad.
Wed 30 Dec	God has promised that He will gather His people from all over the world into the Land He chose. Pray today for the organisations that support the realization of the return of Jews worldwide.
Thu 31 Dec **New Year's Eve**	Although Jews celebrated the new year (5787) at Rosh HaShanah, many of them also close the year 2026. As Christians and Jews, we share the hope and expectation that Messiah will come. Pray today for the soon coming of Messiah.

January 2027

Fri 1 Jan **New Year's Day**	At the beginning of the new year we reflect on our hope and expectation for the coming year. Pray that Christians and Jews focus even more on God and His Word before the end of the year. Pray that they will head into the new year with a deep trust in God.
Sat 2 Jan **Sabbath**	"The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens." Psalm 113:4. In the US mid-term elections several senators were elected who are making very anti-Israel statements. Pray that the alliance between Israel and the United States will remain as strong as ever.
Sun 3 Jan	"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." Psalm 42:11. Pray that more and more Israelis will place their hope in God and come to faith.
Mon 4 Jan	The four largest Israeli health insurance companies estimate that between October 2023 and December 2025 approximately 60,000 Israelis developed PTSD. Pray today for healing and recovery for these people.
Tue 5 Jan	Pray today for the former hostages who have been imprisoned in Gaza. Pray for recovery and encouragement. Pray that they may feel supported and loved by the people around them.
Wed 6 Jan	In October 2026 the fourteen-year-old student Elazar Yair Wilensky was killed during a school trip in the vicinity of the Lebanese border. During a walking tour a found explosive device detonated. Another 24 people got injured. Pray for the victims and bereaved families of this terrible accident.
Thu 7 Jan	God loves His creation. Not only the people, but also the plants and the animals. Pray today for a blessing upon the Israeli nature. Pray for the fertility of the soil and for recovery of the damage caused.
Fri 8 Jan	Birthright Israel invites Jews worldwide to discover their Jewish roots. Pray for a blessing on these journeys of discovery. Pray that Jews worldwide will be touched by the Land, their Jewish roots and especially by the connection with the God of Israel.

Sat 9 Jan **Sabbath**	"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Psalm 18:2. Thank God today with these words.
Sun 10 Jan	In September 2026 the Dutch government imposed sanctions on trade in products from East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and Judea and Samaria. Violating these sanctions could, in extremes cases, lead to a six-year prison sentence. Pray for a repeal of this policy.
Mon 11 Jan	Fathi Sharif, a Lebanese Fatah leader, was also head of UNWRA's teachers' union in Lebanon. This is one of the examples showing that UNWRA is not reliable and is abused by terrorists. Pray that terrorists working within human rights organisations will be exposed.
Tue 12 Jan	In September children in Gaza were able to resume their education. Recent years have shown that the teaching materials in schools often contain antisemitic and anti-Israeli content. Pray that Palestinian children will be educated with teaching materials without anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli propaganda.
Wed 13 Jan	Pray for an end to the Iranian regime's tyranny. For many years now this regime openly wishes to destroy Israel and the United States and with it the entire West. Pray for freedom and peace for the people in Iran and for protection of the surrounding countries.
Thu 14 Jan	Pray that much rain will fall in Israel this winter, so that the water reserves will be replenished and the sea of Galilee will be completely filled.
Fri 15 Jan	Pray today for good political and economic relations between Israel and the neighbouring countries.
Sat 16 Jan **Sabbath**	"Listen, my people, and I will speak; I will testify against you, Israel: I am God, your God." Psalm 50:7. Pray that the Israeli government will be aligned with God's will and His will for the Land.
Sun 17 Jan	"Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked." Psalm 43:1. Many lies are spread about Israel and the country is falsely accused of genocide and other horrible crimes. Pray that these lies will ultimately not cause any harm to Israel and will, as it were, slide off the Land.
Mon 18 Jan	Pray for humility inside the Church for everything we have done wrong towards the Jewish people.
Tue 19 Jan	"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them." Psalm 34:7. Pray that Israel will be protected by God's army of angels which surround the nation.
Wed 20 Jan	Pray today for the children's ministry in the Churches. Pray that those involved receive the right words and guidance to educate the children in an honest and good way.
Thu 21 Jan	"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." Psalm 23:5. Pray that this beautiful Bible verse may become true in Israel. Pray that the Jewish people will safely live, despite the surrounding enemies, and that it may live under God's blessing.
Fri 22 Jan **Tu BiShvat**	Tonight after sundown Tu BiShvat starts, the new year for trees. Pray that the Land that God gave to His people may bear much fruit.
Sat 23 Jan **Sabbath**	"So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites." Exodus 3:8. Thank God today for the rich blessing on His Land.
Sun 24 Jan	"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4. Pray today for the Jews who acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah. Pray for protection for them and that they may be a blessing to their environment.
Mon 25 Jan	From January 25 through January 31 Christians for Israel International is organizing a conference in India for pastors. Pray that many pastors from India and surrounding countries, like Nepal and the Kingdom of Bhutan, are allowed to attend the conference. Pray that they may grow in Biblical knowledge and understanding and will be equipped to be a blessing for the Jewish people.
Tue 26 Jan	Pray for the team of Christians for Israel in Ukraine, for Koen and Ira. Pray for wisdom, blessings and protection in their work.
Wed 27 Jan	In Jesus God came to His people as close as never before. If Jesus is moved about His people, then that should touch us as His followers as well. Pray for compassion among Christians for God's people Israel.
Thu 28 Jan	"Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a ruling rightly given." Proverbs 25:11. Words have power and can, if meant uplifting, have an enormous impact. Pray that we as Christians will more and more bless and comfort Israel, as Isaiah 40 calls us with: "Comfort, Comfort My people."

Fri 29 Jan	"That my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever." Psalm 30:3. Pray that the time will come when Jews and Christians alike will praise God on the new earth.
Sat 30 Jan Sabbath	"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom." Isaiah 40:28. Thank God today for His infinite strength and wisdom. Pray that more and more people put their own wisdom aside and will trust in God's wisdom.
Sun 31 Jan	"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans." Romans 8:26. Thank God today that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, even at times when we ourselves do not even know what to pray for.