

**Prayer Petitions: 24 July 2017**  
**ACT PALESTINE FORUM**  
**PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**  
**24<sup>TH</sup> of every month**

*Every day in the month ahead, we continue to pray with and for our sisters and brothers in Palestine and Israel who have called for an ecumenical prayer vigil across the globe on the 24<sup>th</sup> of every month.*

APF encourages its friends and partners to visit the [APF website](#) and [APF Facebook](#) page often to find, and also contribute, updates, photos, stories, advocacy ideas, and special prayers.

A special thanks to the ELCJHL for contributing to this month's prayers.

---

ACT Palestine Forum Prayers

24 July 2017

Prayer Focus: Family Reunification

Israel's residency policy has left Palestinian families divided, spouses living apart, and children in single-family homes. Couples in which one of the spouses is a resident of the Occupied Territories (Israel) and the other a resident of the West Bank or Gaza, must choose between two options: One option is that the resident spouse leaves the Occupied Territories and the couple lives together abroad. Because Israel does not grant the West Bank/Gaza Palestinian spouse a due process toward legal status, the West Bank/Gaza spouse will never have a legal chance to live with their loved one in the Occupied Territories. The other option, available when the West Bank/Gaza spouse is already in the Occupied Territories, is to have the spouse live there without a legal status, as well. In this situation, the couple and their children must live in hiding, in constant fear of deportation, arrest, and fines.

[B'Tselem](#)

\*\*\*

Scripture:

**Matthew 19:6**

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

**Genesis 21:17**

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. <sup>18</sup> Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

<sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. <sup>20</sup> God was with the boy as he grew up.

**Exodus 4:18**

Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, “Please let me go back to my kindred in

Egypt and see whether they are still living.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in Peace.”

**Prayers:**

Holy God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus Christ your son,

**Look with compassion upon the whole human family.**

Take away the arrogance and hatred that infects our hearts,

**Break down the walls that leave families separated.**

Unite us in bonds of love, your love, marital love, and the love of family,

**So that in unity we can accomplish the work You have begun.**

Today we pray for the sanctity of marriage,

**We pray for Palestinian children who do not have the loving embrace of both parents.**

We pray for the freedom to love despite residency boundaries.

**We pray for those who make decisions that tear families apart,**

So that they may come to know your love reflected in the family.

**Strengthen our families so that they may grow together and become instruments to peace and justice for Palestine. Keep us steadfast in prayer, in advocacy, and in action.**

**Amen.**

\*\*\*

**Opportunities for Advocacy**

Listed here are a few sources that invite you to advocate for an end to family unification freezes:

**[Defense for Children International Palestine](#)**

**[Adalah: The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel](#)**