



PRAYER LETTER 69

This message is offered by Rev. Bchara Moussa Oghli, pastor of the Church of Christ in Aleppo, Syria, on behalf of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE). It was written the 10th of March 2025, in the midst of the events that are once again shaking Syria. We ask to pray for all Syrians, for the unity of the country, for the respect, rights and security of all communities and citizens.

يارب لا تَحْجِّلنا

ya rab la tekhajjelna

O Lord, do not shame us

I learned this prayer from my mother when I was a child. I would see her say it when she was about to do something that allowed no mistakes, like sewing a new dress.

My mother was a home dressmaker, and before she started sewing a new dress, she would lay the fabric on the table with the chosen design, draw some lines on the fabric and then the most sensitive moment came when she took the scissors in her hand and placed them on the fabric. Here she would stop for few seconds, close her eyes and say: *ya rab la tekhajjelna* (O Lord, do not shame us).

This morning while we were waiting for the rest of the ladies to the Bible study, we talked about the loud sounds of heavy gunfire yesterday evening coming from the west and northwest sides of the city. It was clear that none of us was able to get any convincing information about what was happening there. The house of one lady was closer to the fighting area than the rest of us. She said she was not afraid of being killed, her concern was to preserve her dignity.

Of course, living in a place like ours motivates us to persevere in prayer constantly. When sitting and getting up, when going out and coming back, we pray for our safety and the health of our bodies, minds and souls, for the ability to endure and to secure our needs. We pray for peace on earth, justice among people and wisdom in leadership. But sometimes, especially on days like these, we find within us only one prayer: *ya rab la tekhajjelna* (O Lord, do not shame us).

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Lent

Aleppo, Syria