

# February

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Aqaba (Jordan)</b> - Prayers for Raeid Tashtoush who is our Welfare Manager and is based at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. It's a lonely existence being as Raeid is isolated. Aqaba main port is 25Km's way from the town and is very difficult to access. Raeid is able to visit the Container Terminal which is close to the town. Recently Raeid visited a remote port in Saudi Arabia and helped two ship crews who were in distress. We give thanks for Raeid, that he was able to 'navigate' his way inside the port with the help of the port officials and give aid to the seafarers in word and action.
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Looking ahead we pray for our continuing work within the <b>Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East</b> .
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	We also pray for a way forward so that we can be present in the <b>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</b> and provide welfare services in their ports.
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bahrain</b> - Prayers for Fr. Issac Franklin (known to us all as Franklin) We continue to pray and give thanks for the work of the Mission in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The relationship we have with St. Christopher's Cathedral and their council.
Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	Prayers for a new Dean which hopefully will come in the middle of this year 2026. Fr. Franklin leads the Tamil speaking church as well as being the Mission Chaplain. The Seafarers Centre is run by the Bahrain International Seafarers Society (BISS) and is in Khalifa Bin Salman Port. We give thanks for a good relationship with BISS and APM, the terminal operator, who has been doing some upgrades to the centre.
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	We continue to pray for good access to the ships. For the Council members of the Cathedral as the seek for a new Dean, as our relationship with them is very important, and we pray for the BISS board members and their Chairman Capt. Ali.
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Cyprus</b> - Prayers for Rev. John Attenborough, Chaplain to the Cyprus ports, Limassol, Vassiliko and Larnaca - we pray for the relationships within the maritime community that they may be strengthen and flourish. We also give thanks for the Cyprus Shipping Chamber and for their support shown to the Mission to Seafarers over many years
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Praying for a breakthrough with DP World Terminal in Limassol - which they may start to provide a welfare facility - so that the seafarers from the ships - especially the passenger / cruise ships will have a place to go & where they can rest and relax.
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Giving thanks for the management of Eurogate Container terminal and for their ongoing kindness and generosity for providing a space - free of charge - for the seafarers from the container ships.

Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	Prayers also for a new team of ship visiting volunteers that is slowly being formed - may they continue to grow in number and enthusiasm. Rev. Deborah Moorgas - Assistant Chaplain and Priest at St. Barnabas Anglican Church - Thanks for her help and assistance over the last 2 years but prayers for her next move back to South Africa - she leaves Cyprus in April 2026.
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Chennai (India)</b> - Prayers for recruitment as we seek to employ a Welfare Officer who will be the Port Chaplain and Welfare Officer at the Indian Maritime College Chennai Campus. This is a new position and has been in the planning stages for a while. We pray for the right person to apply for this position and for open doors when they are in place.
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kolkata (India)</b> - Prayers for Joel Das our Chaplain - He serves the port of Kolkata (Calcutta and Haldia) - We especially pray for his ongoing access issues that he has - that the doors of the port remain open for him to carry out his ministry. For his safety as he travels more than 3 hours down to the port of Haldia to visit the big Oil tankers and Bulk ships-
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	We also pray for the relationship Joel has with Bishop Paritosh Canning and give thanks for his support to the work of the Mission to Seafarers.
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Colombo (Sri Lanka)</b> . We give thanks for the team ably led by Fr. Perry Brohier - Each month the team visit around 160 ships and transport around 400 seafarers - a similar number visit the seafarers' centre. We give thanks for the relationships they have built up within the maritime community and that these will continue to flourish. We pray for the safety of the ship visiting team as they climb the steep gangways each day.
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	Giving thanks for the Executive Committee led by Capt. Ravi Jayawickreme that they may continue to rise up to meet the challenges that they face. Praying for shore leave for all seafarers in the Port of Colombo. Prayers for the recruitment of a new team member to enable more ship visiting and flexibility within the team - Team members are Ravin, Stanley, Samantha and Peter.
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	Also we as the MESA Team are having our Regional Conference from 20th to 24th July 2026 in Colombo. Prayers that this time together will be a real blessing of sharing, learning and fun.
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mumbai (India)</b> - Praying for our Chaplain and Indian Coordinator Rev. Nitin Dethe. We give thanks for the support of his family. Also for the relationships he has built up over the last 10 years. Giving thanks for more port access that enables him to visit more terminals and meets more seafarers.
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Praying for his outreach in the maritime community that more support will be given to support the work in India.
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	Prayers for the Mission to Seafarers India Association led by Capt. John Menezes and the recently retired chairman Capt. Mohan Naik who now is

the treasurer. We ask for support from the local community to support the work of the Mission through the CSR.

- Fri 20<sup>th</sup> **Tuticorin (India)** - Giving thanks for the Chaplain Fr. Stephen Thanapaul and team members, Samson, Ebenezer, Pitchi and Sunniah. We continue to pray for the ease of access into the port and on to the ships. We ask for a better understanding from the Port, Immigration and Custom officials about our work and ministry.
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> We also pray that the shore leave rules will be more relaxed and that more seafarers will be allowed ashore.
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> We hold the family project up for prayer also - for the outreach into the 17 local villages and the connections that are being made. We give thanks for the after school clubs that we run and for all the children that attend in the villages.
- Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> We pray for the first aid courses that will soon start and the sewing courses also. We pray for the issues around the banking issues - it's not easy sending money in.
- Tue 24<sup>th</sup> **UAE** - We pray for Willy our Welfare Officer and Lily our office manager and give thanks for their ongoing commitment to the ministry and outreach. We particularly pray for Willy and his ship visiting in all the different ports in the UAE. We ask for more doors to be opened for him so he can visit more ships and to connect with more seafarers in these hard to access areas.
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> We also remember all those seafarers who are on board stranded ships that Willy is dealing with - that justice will prevail for them.
- Thu 26<sup>th</sup> We give thanks for the Shipping community - that there will be more support for the Mission which will enable us to do more work. We also pray that as Willy and Lily look forward to retirement we will look for a new person to lead our very important welfare work. It's a harsh climate, especially in the summer months where day time temps reach up to 50C.
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> We also remember and pray for the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf which is 50 years old this year 2026 - we give thanks for the current Bishop Sean Semple - and we thank God for the Diocese and Mission relationship and friendship that it will grow and flourish.
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Also for me - **John Attenborough as Regional Director** - prayers for wisdom, guidance especially as we start to begin to plan a new strategy for 2027 to 2032.

## February 2026

### MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REGION

**Regional Director: John Attenborough**

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the Mission to Seafarers Monthly Prayer Diary.



This month we are praying for the work Middle East and South Asia Region.

The Prayer requests have been prepared by the Regional Director, John Attenborough and his team.

The Middle East is a huge region. Mission to Seafarers has an active presence in Sri Lanka, India, the Gulf, and the eastern Mediterranean. John, the regional director, is based, with his family in Cyprus. Please pray for the leaders as they seek to expand into new areas and look to develop their support for seafarers in this complex and changing region.