

PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT

Notes of Prayer Meeting 11th March 2015

The last meeting of Prayer for Parliament and the Nation before the General Election in May took the form of a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, underneath Westminster Hall. As around 80 gathered, the worship team was already stirring us to sing praise to our Lord, with “Alleluia (Agnus Dei)” and “The splendour of the King (How great is our God)”. As this is the only place in the Palace of Westminster where singing is permitted, we gave it our all! Welcoming everyone, Pat Brandon opened the proceedings in prayer. Further worship followed, with “I stand amazed (How wonderful, how marvellous)” and “Jesus, be the centre.” Julie Anderson led us in a time of powerful Scriptural intercession and proclamation before we sang again, “For Thou O Lord (We exalt Thee)”.

Pat Brandon spoke about prayer, suggesting how we might respond when we are sure the Lord has prompted particular prayer and then appears not to have answered it. We would do well to remember that free will is often involved, that God knows the whole picture, that a gradual change in the spiritual climate has been taking place in the House of Commons, and that in the end He will have His way! Yet we are required to pray and not to lose heart! He suggested, from his own recent experiences, that sometimes we simply need to stay close to the Lord, trusting Him, adoring and worshipping Him: that in itself can constitute an open invitation, giving the Lord totally free access to our situation. In praying for an MP we may not know the details of legislation being considered or of his or her personal life, but we can at least pray that the MP will hear God’s leading even if we don’t.

After further worship Jeremy Lefroy MP introduced himself, speaking of his own personal experience and knowledge of the reality of the power of prayer. He spoke of a recent visit to Nepal, along with Fiona Bruce MP (who was present) and of many encouraging things they saw there in regard to God’s work and answers to prayer. He asked us to pray that in this election period unity in his Stafford constituency would be not be lost. We prayed with him, thanking God for his Christian faith, asking for grace, wisdom and stamina.

Jeffrey Donaldson MP spoke of the ways in which things have been changing over the years and of his continuing work in setting up a Prayer Shield over the nation – Fiona Bruce MP is now part of this (register online at www.prayerforparliament.com). He hopes we can raise Prayer for Parliament and the Nation to a new level and introduce us to further MPs and Peers. He acknowledged Fiona Bruce MP and the work of Julie Anderson who organises weekly meetings and prayer walks around the Palace of Westminster. The changes we are seeing are in answer to prayer. Regarding the coming election he urged us to pray for all candidates, for God to anoint more who come through. It is good when we can pray in an informed way – hence the various meetings and bulletins available. He led us in prayer, for Christian MPs, the nation, persecuted believers around the world (and the opportunity to raise their plight in the Houses of Parliament), and for changes in our nation.

After a closing song (“Be Thou my vision”) we departed, encouraged and mightily blessed!

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Before the meeting in the chapel St Mary Undercroft there was an opportunity to meet with MP Fiona Bruce to h As you will see from the accompanying notes of our March meeting, this took the form of a service. It was in the nature of things that there was no opportunity for individual prayer, so it was pleasing that Fiona Bruce’s office were able to arrange a room for prayer before the service itself. I was not present but here are some items from that meeting and other notes that have come my way since.

Notes from the pre-service prayer – Timothy Webb opened in prayer. Fiona Bruce asked us to pray for the election campaigns and hustings events – clearly hustings have been reinvigorated by the churches. Pray that God will bring in godly MPs. She spoke of the recent debate about sex-selection in abortions, noting that there are organisations that make a lot of money from “abortions on demand”. It was agreed that the Department of Health would conduct a review – pray for good results from this. At least the unborn

child has been given a voice! It seems the voting may not have been recorded accurately – pray against ‘enemy’ activity in such things.

Three-parent children – this is by no means over as Miroslav Mikolasik MEP is taking this up in the European Parliament – it seems the Government’s decision contravenes a European Law or Directive. Please pray for all involved in this challenge, especially that MEP, Fiona Bruce MP, and Elizabeth Allan (working tirelessly in this regard). This will involve preparation of documents so as to present a clear case, and there is precious little time to do this! As it was, only 90 minutes were allocated for debate in the House of Commons, and that in the House of Lords was also limited, so not all the facts were presented. The law is complex and the biology even more so!

From the service (further to the report itself) Further to what the report includes about what we heard from Jeremy Lefroy, he told of his recent visit to Nepal (to do with International Aid). In Kathmandu he met Eileen Walker who leads and encourages 1,600,000 Christians in prayer! She is now over 90 – an example of the power of prayer! He told us too that the Chinese are now printing and distributing Christian literature so that missionaries will no longer be needed in the country!

Jeffrey Donaldson urged us to pray that there will be more godly people in Parliament after the election as there are big decisions to be made. Great Britain is an anointed nation with a purpose for God – we need to pray in an informed way, and pray for a life-changing experience for many involved in politics and for an emboldening of the Christian MPs in Parliament.