

PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT

Notes of Prayer Meeting 8th July 2015

Strikes on the London Underground and First Great Western deterred some of us from attending. As we were gathering we got word that in the next room there was a meeting involving some Pro-Life MPs so we prayed for them at once. We heard too that Fiona Bruce is meeting weekly with some of the new Christian MPs. When we first met her she told of her heart's desire to do just that! Before the formal start of the meeting we heard thrilling testimony from Rev Alphonso who'd been ministering in India (his home country) for the past three months, where he had seen some real miracles and been challenged by the way some lepers he had ministered to praised the Lord with joyful clapping, and they generously gave into the offering though many of them had to rely on begging.

Jeffrey Donaldson was unable to be with us but we sent a greeting card to encourage him and to rejoice with him at how the group has been growing. If it were not for him we would not be meeting!

Robert Ffello walked in while some deep prayer was in full flow, and when he spoke to us he said it had been like walking into the presence of God! He expressed his deep gratitude for our meeting to pray. His most urgent plea concerned the Assisted Dying Bill. He urged us all to get 5 (or 10 – or 50) friends to write to our MP simply to say "Please be there and please vote against the Bill!" Better still, include some personal testimony of how the Bill could affect you or has related to your family and so on. By the time he left he had been energised, he said, and had a spring in his step. We gladly prayed him on his way, asking the Lord to give him all the wisdom & boldness he needs.

Jim Shannon had just been to a debate about the UN report on Israel's actions in Gaza, to put on record his assessment that it is a highly biased document: only 4 pro-Israel MPs were there. "Pray that the truth will out!" Keen to urge us to write to our MPs about the Assisted Dying Bill: all 8 DUP MPs have committed to being at the debate, even if they have to fly over the previous day. Really appreciates our prayers: he tells all his friends about the group! Asked for prayer for peace during the July 12th celebrations. Also for Freedom Declared, the group he has become involved in to do with persecuted Christians: needing staff. We prayed for him, including for refreshing in the recess.

Fiona Bruce was not able to join us but sent a young assistant, Tommy. He brought us copies of a briefing paper concerning the Assisted Dying Bill and Fiona's urgent request for prayer that MPs will attend the debate and vote against the Bill! She is as ever, deeply grateful for our prayers. We prayed for Tommy, thanking God that Fiona has Christians around her, serving and supporting her.

Other news: David Hathaway had recently been ministering in Ukraine. Things are hopeless there in human terms and people are desperate for God. 'Thought police' make life dangerous for any who criticize the authorities – people disappear! Only hope is prayer and repentance. A day of prayer being planned: pray for the right date, a stadium, the organising, and the fruit of that prayer!

Note: This was the last prayer meeting before the summer holidays. The next meeting would be after the return of MP's from their summer holidays.