

PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017

Bill Nelson opened the meeting and welcomed those present (42 attended plus 20 apologies had been noted). Fiona Bruce and Sir Jeffrey Donaldson attended the meeting at various times.

Parliamentary News and Comments:

Freedom of expression for Christians – The need is for the same law as in Canada, Reasonable Accommodation. If someone has beliefs which can affect their job, as long as there are others that can carry out the same task, this should be allowed (Note Registrar at Islington). The Head of the Qualities Commission is not supportive but there are reasonable arrangements for consideration for Christian beliefs to be made law.

PMs response and “Speak Up” Booklet has been well received by many MPs. The Queen’s speech was very encouraging especially mentioning her Christian faith.

Life issue aspects - abortions not conducted ethically and much International finance to have abortions abroad. More help for the MPs to progress this matter, need a researcher based in London? PMs policy unit given about 40 ideas concerning family matters, some of which were being addressed already by the PM with “Shared Society” speech.

MPs are not allowed to get involved in court proceedings but they can pick up the principles and contribute in that way. Assisted Suicide campaign going to the Supreme Court, over human dignity and human rights, but Parliament should be making the Law. Large media campaigns but pray that MPs will not change their minds as the last vote was substantial in not allowing this. After Brexit, UK to develop its Bill of Rights so we are not held to account by Europe.

The general state of the NHS - concern over GPs not having time to see people.

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, is being celebrated in Europe, why not in the UK? We are encouraged to follow the model of Christianity in what we do.

Children are being exposed to violence in computer games, films etc. – a form of child abuse? Children’s mental health problems – harder to recover into adulthood. Behavioural problems, special education needs. Some may be due to chemical imbalance but these problems with children are increasing.

Human Rights - do we serve the Lord or human rights? Christians in Aleppo had Christmas for the first time in 5 years because the jihadists were evicted! When dealing with human affairs it is not always black and white. Conflict with debate in Parliament over Aleppo. Jesus said there will be signs of the times, confusion in Syria, wars, rumours of wars etc. Everything coming closer to Israel and Jerusalem with things of Obama still affecting them. As Christians, we won’t stop the wars but we’re not starting them, wars will continue but we can pray - this works. God intervenes when we pray, for the persecuted church. Involvement of Russians and Americans point to the gathering of the nations for the final conflict. Next in line, Israel?

The Northern Ireland situation needs prayers. Yesterday Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness resigned and with no other appointment, the First Minister is also removed. Tough times for Arlene Foster. When Arlene was at primary school her police father was shot and died in her arms. Later she was in a bus, blown up and she was injured. DUP stands between NI, Gay marriage and Abortions. They take a Christian stand on moral issues and are targeted as such.

Everything is being done to discredit the DUP. Objective is to minimise the number of DUP seats. Number of seats is being reduced from 108 to 90 which is a good thing but consequence of getting less than 30 seats is that the DUP would lose its veto. Spiritual forces behind many situations to try and break the spirit of the DUP. Pray for Jim Shannon, in hospital with kidney stones. Sir Jeffrey was to speak later in Westminster Hall in a debate on Stormont, so many left to support him there in prayer. NI process is that after 7 days of the resignations if there is no replacement then an election would take place. Pray for all of the current DUP members.

David Hathaway is to have a personal meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury regarding 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Pope is also getting involved. Ukraine will be celebrating in May. We need a National Day of Prayer in UK when every Christian denomination comes together to pray.

Other MP Prayer Requests - Homeless Reduction Bill, Transgenderism and Brexit.

Spoken Prayers: Open prayer time took place concerning most of the above items. The changes about to come in the USA.

Scriptures Shared: 2 Chronicles 29

Statement of Purpose; Since all authority comes from God (Rom 13.1), Parliamentarians carry spiritual as well as temporal authority whether they are conscious of the fact or not. This authority does not necessarily mean they automatically know how to pray since no one knows how to pray as they ought (Rom 8.26). If however, with one accord in Christ, those who have this God-given authority come together in the Spirit with anointed intercessors who have networks of prayer support across the Nation, prayer for Parliament and the whole Nation would have greater spiritual and practical accomplishment (Acts 1:14).