

PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017

Bill Nelson opened the meeting and welcomed those present (61 attended plus 13 apologies had been noted). Sir Jeffrey Donaldson and Jim Shannon attended the meeting at various times.

Parliamentary News and comments:

MP updates - Fiona Bruce in her wheelchair was in the lobby last night to vote – pray for a speedy recovery for her.

Jim Shannon has an operation later in the week.

Remember Sir Jeffrey and his family at this difficult time in NI. Cards were signed for Fiona and Dawn Butler. New staff members for Christian MPs are to be recruited.

Brexit and Scotland - Article 50 has been approved by both Houses and will be law by the end of March. SNP are calling for a second referendum for independence. Pray that God's will be evident in this. The focus on this could derail Brexit and the integrity of the UK with the threat that the Union will dissipate.

Pray that the UK will prosper as one Nation; because of Brexit and the belief that the United Kingdom was created for a special purpose (Kingdom is a special word)! Hope that the Irish Republic comes towards the UK.

Northern Ireland – The election was difficult with constant attacks on Unionists and individuals. DUP has a reduced number of seats, 28 but is still the largest party. Negotiations are taking place but if a Power Sharing Government can't be formed then it would either be another election or direct rule from Westminster. DUP leader Arlene Foster is under all sorts of attacks, many personal! SF will not go into government if she is still the first minister. The outcome of this election is in God's hands (as a result of our prayers. We want peace but there are many agendas with changes to abortion, marriage and human rights. All building blocks to our society are being eroded and undermining the family. Political changes on law that are not good create damage being done to communities, because these laws are against God's principles and the stronghold of the family. The UK is a prosperous nation but underneath we are falling apart. Use St.Patrick's Day to focus on prayer for Ireland, both North and South. We need to move forward, all working together in peace and harmony.

10 minute Rule Bill on Abortion - 650 MPs in Parliament but only 142 voted against this proposal, 172 in favour! Again the dignity of human life is being diminished. A lot of MPs did not vote, why? If every Christian had written to their MPs then perhaps more would have voted against because of letters sent to them. Our Churches need to be made aware from attendees and the Church needs be mobilised. Don't rely on the person in the pulpit – reach out to people individually. This vote was surely a wakeup call! CARE had written to their subscribers but for some reason this was not effective this time. Maria Caulfield MP spoke very well against this Bill. Next vote is on the 24 th March. All were encouraged to contact their MP, with written letters as the most effective means.

PM and Government - PM and her ministers with Article 50 to be triggered. Pray for the negotiations with the other 27 nations that they will progress with wisdom and courage.

David Hathaway – There is to be a day of prayer in the Ukraine in late May. This National Day of Prayer was possible as it has a common cause which unites them and they can all relate to, in this case Russia. We need a Day of Prayer in the UK and our reasons are now clear, Brexit and the need for the United Kingdom to stay together. Rosie Ross from Jerusalem - This year is the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and 70 years from the events of the boats going to Israel, the most famous being the Exodus, asked for prayer for the events this October.

Other Items - Human Rights issues in Turkey, currently much discrimination against Christians. Vote in this country to give President total power will not be good for democracy! With those that were absent, some were ill and others were looking after someone who was ill. Bill had been in hospital for a week and took the opportunity to minister.

Pray for Hospital Chaplains, some good, some bad - patients need to hear the message of hope.

The Dutch elections could have impact on European future debates.

Open prayer took place at various times concerning most of the above items. There was 5 minutes of silent prayer so we could all petition the Lord on these matters.

Suggestion that at 9.00 am every day, we pray to invite the Lord to take His seat in the House of Lords and Commons, leading up to the 31 st March. Emphasised the power we have through prayers.

Prayers were said for the healing of Jim and Bill.

There is a sense of crisis that needs to be averted. It needs Divine intervention.

Turn back the tide against the erosion of family values.

Scriptures Shared: Psalm 2, Jeremiah 26 v 18, Jeremiah 17 v 14 and Proverbs 31 v 8-9

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).