

# Prayer for Parliament

The Rt. Hon SIR JEFFREY DONALDSON, MP  
HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Because of a misunderstanding on the time the committee room was available, the PfP group gathered to pray in the corridor until the room was available. People positioned themselves in a way that did not hamper the movement of Westminster staff or personnel. The meeting moved into the Committee Room at 3.30 pm and was attended by 46 people. Apologies were received from 6 people.

**Praying for those in Authority:** Information had been put together re all the Political Parties represented in Parliament and prayer was made (quietly) for them according to 1 Timothy 2:1&2.

**Card:** A card for Amber Rudd MP was circulated for signing by the group assuring her of our prayerful support in her role as Home Secretary.

**Interns from CARE:** During the prayer time, Fiona Bruce MP, joined us and introduced us to her CARE intern, Caroline. Prayer was made for all ten CARE interns that their internship would be one of development and envisioning and that the MP to whom they are assigned would be an inspirational example. 1 Tim 4:12

**Strengthening Families Manifesto:** Fiona Bruce MP spoke concerning this Manifesto that she has been presenting to the House. For details see <http://www.strengtheningfamiliesmanifesto.com/> She reported that this manifesto had been greeted with favour and support from an increasing number of MP's. Its main purpose is to support and strengthen family life in UK. 2 Cor 2:14

The importance of family was stressed and how family is the basis of the social health of a nation. With this in mind, encouragement was given to pray for **protection** for Fiona as she continues with all her work and particularly in this area. Ps 91.

Let us pray that the Lord will use this manifesto to strengthen family life in every aspect. The strengthening of family life is also to include prisoners whose contact with their families is under greater stress due to their previous lifestyle as well as ongoing issues. Jer 31.1 (Here the emphasis of God as the God of the families emphasises the importance of families in a nation.)

**Families of MP's:** The importance of praying for MP's families was also emphasized. In many cases, the families come under some form of pressure and our prayers and support for the families is as important as prayer for MP's themselves. Ps 91:9&10

**Problems in Hong Kong** were presented to us. At the time of the Chinese Government takeover, promises were given that democratic rights would be honoured. Concerns re this agreement have been raised as it is known that there are people who have disappeared or have experienced prison sentences because of their political views. Effectively democracy is under threat with the ongoing encroachment of these freedoms. Concern for the welfare of Ben Rogers of Christian Solidarity Worldwide was expressed. While on his way to Hong Kong he had been warned not to enter Hong Kong although he was due to arrive within a few days. The possibility of being apprehended could not be ignored. In actual fact, it has since been reported that he was denied access to Hong Kong. ***This is a sample of stronger limitations being imposed on Christians worldwide.*** Matt 24:9&10

**Brexit:** Sir Jeffrey Donaldson mentioned that it is obvious that the enemy, where he can, is sowing confusion everywhere. God's will had been sought over the Brexit situation and it is believed that Brexit is God's plan for the nation.

**The Prime Minister:** Currently some of the things that are happening are weakening the Prime Minister's authority. Specific prayer needs to be made for her to be able to fulfil the tasks before her with God's help. As Moses, at a critical time, had Aaron and Hur to uphold his arms so that the battle went in favour of the Israelites, so there needs to be similar prayer support for Mrs May. Pro 4:7&8

**Northern Ireland** was moving into a crucial time. At present, there was a vacuum where Government of N. Ireland was concerned. Sinn Fein had set certain conditions relating to marriage and also concerning a Bill of Rights. These conditions were not acceptable to the DUP nor to others in N. Ireland who have a different perspective from those in Westminster. Emergency legislation would enable a government to be formed in N. Ireland, but, if the stalemate continues, Westminster would have to legislate. Here there is a different perspective to that of the Northern Irish people. Pray that at this late moment a way forward will be found. Pro 11:10a

Some spoke of the witness they had that the Lord was going to do something in Ireland that would glorify His name and bring people to Him. The question was asked 'Is Brexit the first step?' If there is a failure to reach a deal in the Brexit talks this would result in a hard border which neither the south nor the north desire. The EU is looking for Stormont's voice on Brexit. Acts 10:34&35

The thought was expressed that churches on either side of the border in Ireland could join in prayer for God to give His answer to the situation.

**Abortion:** The fiftieth anniversary of the passing of the Law that legalised Abortion is almost upon us. It was noted that in the Irish Republic a referendum on abortion was to be held. If passed, this could bring pressure on N. Ireland to legalise abortion. Ps 66:7

**Christian Heritage:** We were reminded that there are Christian symbols throughout the Palace of Westminster indicative of the Christian heritage woven into the history of the United Kingdom and included in the very fabric of the building. Hosea 14:9

Even some UK coins contain a message. This was mentioned at the meeting and researched later. On the 1997 £2 coin the legend, '**Standing on the Shoulders of Giants**', is embedded in the rim and on £1 coins there are several interesting statements. Here are some of the legends inscribed in the rim of some of the £1 coins. They have real impact and speak for themselves and are included for interest and consideration.

*NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA* which means '**It is vain without the Lord**'. This is the Motto of Edinburgh.

*PLEIDIOL WYF I'M GWLAD* which is a line from the Welsh National Anthem and means '**True am I to my country**'.

*PRO TANTO QUID RETRIBUAMUS* which means '**What shall we give in return for so much**' is the Motto of Belfast.

*DOMINE DIRIGE NOS* which means '**Lord direct us**' is the Motto of London.

The significance of these messages could well be applied to remind us that there is much for which to thank the Lord and to honour Him for everything He has done for the UK. The true heritage of this nation is the Christian message embedded in its history. The Christian message has been sent out from this nation to the world. It is the Truth for which many have given their lives. Ps 112:1,4,8a

**The venue for the Commonwealth Games** for 2022 will be decided soon. The question was considered that if Ireland were to host the games would Dublin support a bid from Belfast and vice versa? It was unlikely that either would be able to host the games independently and would therefore need to support each other. The Games could be a vehicle for Reconciliation. Ps 133:1 & Eph 4:3

**The meeting closed with prayer.**