

# Prayer for Parliament

The Rt. Hon SIR JEFFREY DONALDSON, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

## Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The meeting was opened in prayer by Bill Nelson, who thanked God for the privilege we have of coming together to pray for God's hand to be upon the Parliamentary process. Matt 5:3-11 was read and Bill reminded us that the blessings of God are on His people. We are to 'rejoice and be glad'.

The meeting was attended by 65 people with 10 apologies.

Please note that related subjects have been co-ordinated and may not appear in the order they occurred.

**Prayer:** A time of open prayer followed. Prayers were made –

- with thankfulness to the Lord that we are able to gather and pray at the place that is the seat of Government; the seat of power; the place where history is made.
- that the Holy Spirit would move in the House which is, effectively, the centre of the nation.
- that God's power would be seen again, and that once again all would see the Lord honoured.
- Yet again, there are scandals that have rocked the nation. Prayed that Godly standards and morals would be re-established.
- that God would redeem the nation and raise up the nation to honour Him.
- that Prov 19:21 would be affected. (There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel – that will stand.) May God's plans prevail.
- that the nation would turn back to the 'ancient paths'. Jer 18:15

**Card:** A card for the Prime Minister was sent around to be signed by the group assuring her of our prayer support for her at this time of intense Brexit negotiations as well as the normal Parliamentary business.

- Prayed that she would have a divine encounter - that God would guide the way forward.

**Jim Shannon** joined the meeting at this point and introduced another MP, Paul Girvan, rep for South Antrim. Later, Sir Jeffrey also spoke of His delight in having Paul along and said that - Paul is a committed Christian and has had a good impact in the House - that he doesn't 'ram Christianity down people's throat' but lives his experience. Paul gave his testimony briefly and information of his political background and experience. Sir Jeffrey also commented that people need to see the freedom of the gospel in us.

Jim thanked the group for their prayers. He mentioned the debate on Article 18 relating to the persecution of Christians. There was a good reception from the All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG). More attention is being brought to bear on the persecution of Christians so that there is greater international awareness. There is a sense that things are moving from rhetoric relating to the need to give support to reality.

- Prayer request that the DUP would be able to maintain Godly standards as they work with the Conservative party.
- Prayer for God to use the DUP influence for good.

**Sir Jeffrey Donaldson** expressed his concern regarding social policies that are deemed to be 'right' but are not so while matters that are considered 'wrong' are proposed as 'right'. The desire is to have a democracy with God in the centre. The DUP is a group of 10 out of 650 MP's. Today, the Media, in general, is socially liberal and against Christian faith. Although the Media were antagonistic to the DUP during the latest election, the DUP gained the highest number of votes.

- Pray that their desire to represent Godly values, although frowned upon, will be effective.

The N Ireland Assembly has still not been able to negotiate a satisfactory way forward. Among issues under discussion are those regarding to SSM (Same Sex Marriage) and abortion. Sinn Fein has a high level of influence but have refused to take their seats in the Assembly, effectively taking themselves out of the Parliamentary process.

- Pray for favour and wisdom that a functioning government will be formed before long and in God's time.

## Need for Strategic Prayer

Sir Jeffrey spoke deeply of his vision for intercessory prayer.

As in Moses's day, there were Aaron and Hur to uphold Moses, so today, let us pray that there will be similar strong intercessory support for the Prime Minister. Ex 17:12

There is a need for informed, intercessory prayer groups throughout the nation radiating out from Westminster across the nation in every direction.

There is a rising hunger for prayer information that is informed and strategic.

Strategically it would be wonderful to have an intercessory group available to pray into the business of the House as business is proceeding.

Sir Jeffrey testified of how he had seen informed, targeted prayer be answered and miraculously change events that would not have otherwise changed.

Ways to put this vision into effect are being actively sought.

## Various comments relating to attitudes and prospects today.

There is a secular tide coming against Christians and the godly foundation stones in the nation to topple them.

People want to 'go with the flow'. Is 1:4

The church needs to be fortified and this can only be done by prayer and prayerful action. Is 41:10 1 Pet 5:10

There needs to be a 'turn around' from the direction we, as individuals and as a nation, are taking.

The Church should be standing in the gap for the nation and be the conscience of the nation.

Westminster has been the centre for centuries from King Alfred, the time of Magna Carta until now.

We must find God's agenda and grieve him no more. Psalm 103:17 Eph 4:30

This will be the finest hour of the church?

A social gospel is powerless religion.

Irrespective of man's plans, God has let this nation go so far – no longer a Christian nation? A move of God is needed that will bring people to repent and be ready to hear God. Eph 6:12

There is a need for a call for people and the nation to come back to God's way. Ezek 18:23

Encourage one another that change is coming and that God will intervene so that we are ready and prepared to do what God wants. Acts 2:17

Let us not forget God's word in 2 Chron 7:13 & 14. When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land or send pestilence among My people, ***if my people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*** (In bold for emphasis) God warned that when disaster struck a nation and matters did not go well, the answer was with the people that they are to seek Him. God was waiting for the people. He is just the same today.

At this point Sir Jeffrey had to leave and Fiona Bruce arrived.

**Fiona Bruce** thanked people for their prayers and praised God for His help and guidance.

**Abortion** – Feminists are pushing to have protection pushed aside. There is a heated battle going on. The Govt has agreed to pay for women from N. Ireland to come to UK for an abortion. Lord Alton raised questions re this. Feminist groups and BPAS and similar groups are pushing for this to happen. Sometimes it seemed as if those standing for Godly standards were facing the enemy with a bow and arrow while trying to protect themselves and the situations from nuclear missiles! Statistics show that 100,000 people are alive today in N Ireland who would have been otherwise aborted. These statistics have been substantiated.

- Pray that protection for the unborn will not be pushed aside. Ezek 9:9
- Intercessors who want particular prayer points can look on Parliamentary business of the day to know what needs prayer.

**Family Manifesto** has been greeted with favour by many MP's who are giving support. Doors for effective action are opening.

- Pray that all policies will be pulled together and that an over-arching authority will be established that will facilitate the implementation of any inevitable changes. 1 Cor 12:8
- Pray that this will proceed with favour from all involved at every level. Ps 5:12

It is anticipated that strengthening family ties for prisoners and their families will prevent many children from going to prison themselves. Pro 20:11

- Pray that prisoners' family ties will be strengthened and that re-offending will lessen. Ps 147:13

The meeting closed with prayer