

Prayer for Parliament

The Rt. Hon SIR JEFFREY DONALDSON, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday 12th December 2017

The venue for the meeting was amended at the last minute and the Prayer for Parliament meeting was transferred to the Emmanuel Centre. The meeting opened with prayer and an acknowledgement of the kindness and courtesy extended by the Emmanuel Centre. Regrettably, Bill Nelson, the Facilitator, was not able to be present. As the result of a bout of food poisoning, he suffered a re-occurrence of the illness that has affected him so much. Bill is making excellent progress and wished to thank everyone for their prayerful support.

The meeting was attended by 38 people with 16 apologies

With more space available, the meeting was run on a different format from the usual thus enabling more people to participate and pray.

The meeting began with prayer. Consideration was given to the occasion that Moses and the Children of Israel were standing at the Red Sea with the Egyptians following up close behind them. When Moses spoke to the Children of Israel and said 'Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord', God spoke to Moses and told him to tell the children of Israel to go forward even though it seemed impossible.

At the present time, the usual challenges of government with the additional complexities of Brexit are like a sea of confusion before the government and the nation. The way ahead cannot be seen clearly. Should we look to God to do a miracle before we move forward? Just as with Moses, God asks us to exercise our faith that He will make a way and to move forward. When we do so, God opens up the way. With this in mind, we began to thank God for what He has done and to seek His direction for what He is doing and is about to do.

Psalm 46:10 'Be Still and know that I am God' is a reminder that it is at times of stress that the inner stillness of the peace of God in our hearts is what we need.

A time of open prayer and thanksgiving.

- Thanked God for His voice of wisdom and direction.
- Thanked God that He is with us.
- As the 'Red Sea' of opposition is faced, to remember that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.
- Thanked God for the Prime Minister and prayed that God would give her a new experience with Him.
- Prayed that when the Prime Minister seems at her most vulnerable that God would strengthen and guide her.

Scriptures to consider. Is 51:7 & 9,10; Is 54:27: Psalm 46:10,11. Psalm 97`

A time of prayer and intercession. The intercessors gathered in a circle around the seating area and prayed over that area as a representation of the United Kingdom. All prayed simultaneously for God to move on the nation.

- Prayed that God would open the way for the Brexit process.
- Asked God for forgiveness for the laws in place that did not honour Him.
- Prayed that, in His mercy, God would move on the land again in revival power.

One of the intercessors held a Bible aloft over the seats as the encircling intercessors continued to pray.

- Prayed that the Word of God would once again be given its rightful place in the affairs of the nation.

Note: As the intercessors were standing in the circle around the seating area, it was as if they represented a line of defence against the power of the enemy. It is so, that intercessors, standing in harmony and voicing their heartfelt thanksgiving and prayers, ARE a line of defence against the onslaught of the enemies of God who come against the welfare of the nation.

Prayers for Unity in the nation. Although known as the United Kingdom, there are times when it seems that it would be more correct to call the nation a 'Dis-united Kingdom'! Four people representing England, Scotland,

Wales and N. Ireland prayed for the nations they represented. Thanks were given for the unique characteristics given to each of the national groups and honoured their God-given heritage. As prayers were offered, a sense of unity was experienced until 'United Kingdom' was a fact and not just a name. Ps 133.1

Words given.

A prophetic word was given challenging people to 'Prepare themselves for war in the spiritual realm. To be ready to fight the good fight in the Name of the Lord. God will not share His glory with another.'

We were reminded of Samson in the context of Britain in the EU. Samson groaned and pulled on the two supportive pillars thus bringing down the building. He killed more people in his death than in his lifetime. In these last days, UK will have more favour. Just as Samson's hair grew longer and re-established his vow, so UK will regain its walk with the Lord until there will be greater power and a great move of God.

The importance of words was highlighted, and, with particular reference to Ecc 10.20. The importance of words is often overlooked. The scriptures tell us that the way we speak of those in authority has spiritual impact even when the one(s) spoken about is not present. What can always be done when a leader is obviously at fault is to pray for God to overrule and give His guidance to all in authority and to the particular leader for whom prayer is being made. 1 Tim 2:1,2. Ps 149:6

As the meeting continued - People had broken into groups and were praying for various aspects of the expression of Government when Sir Jeffrey arrived. As is the custom, he was given the floor.

Information given.

There are forces at work trying to trip up our Prime Minister. Because the European Union regard Mrs May as 'weak' it is likely that they will not put the best offer forward re Brexit. The Conservative Party recently rallied around the Prime Minister which could help her to reposition.

We need to remember the saying, 'A week is a long time in politics.' Prayers need to be constant and consistent. The opportunity of one day may not be there the next day.

- We need to continue to pray for Mrs May that the Lord would protect her and enable her.
- Pray that she will know God's guidance and wisdom.
- Pray that she will have good and wise counsellors who speak as the oracles of God.

2018 will be an important year for Parliament and the nation. It is important that the nation be encouraged to pray and that we redouble our effort to establish an even wider group of praying Christians.

In the world, there is a record number of persecuted Christians who must be allowed to exercise their conscience. Even in UK, in the workplace, there are teachers, midwives, doctors among others who are particularly in the firing line relating to changes in UK law.

- As Brexit continues, pray that this nation will come into a Godlier era and formal stand against the tide of opposition to the Word of God.
- Pray that the concept of 'Reasonable Accommodation' be promoted, become widely accepted and ultimately founded in UK legislation.
- This concept where people are able to give 'Reasonable Accommodation' ie expression to their faith without being penalised/persecuted could then be taken up through the Council of Europe to protect God's people.

Sir Jeffrey recommended that everyone listen to the Annual Theos Lecture given by the ex-leader of the Liberal Party, Tim Farron. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItvCI9enldw>

Sir Jeffrey prayed and then returned to the Palace of Westminster for his next meeting.

Fiona Bruce's meeting with the Home Secretary.

The subject of 'buffer zones' around abortion clinics will be discussed. It is noteworthy that the only abortion clinic in N Ireland closed last week. Everyone in the group prayed briefly for Fiona Bruce for favour and direction. The meeting concluded with this time of prayer for the effectiveness of Fiona Bruce's 5.30 pm meeting with the Home Secretary.

The meeting closed with a prayer for the safety of all as they travelled to their homes and for their safe return travel in the New Year.