

Prayer for Parliament

THE RT. HON SIR JEFFREY DONALDSON, MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd May 2018

The Date for the Meeting: Usually the meeting is held on the second Tuesday of the month when the House is sitting. Of necessity, the date for May was changed to 22 May.

Leadership of the Meeting: The Facilitator, Bill Nelson, already had commitments for 22 May which could not be changed and the meeting was led by Rev June Freudenberg. Through unforeseen circumstances, June was late in arriving and the meeting was opened by Mr David Hews who has a long time involvement with Prayer for Parliament.

Card: A supportive card was prepared for the SNP Leader in Westminster, Ian Blackford MP. He is the Chairman for the National Prayer Breakfast which is to be held on 19 June, 2018.

Call to Repentance. One of the prayer group spoke briefly of the need for repentance for the sin in the nation. The words of Nehemiah 1:4-11 were read out. At this point, June arrived at the meeting and, not being aware of what had been said, spoke of God's command in 1 Timothy 2:1&2 to pray 'First of all' for those in authority and that respect and courtesy should be our attitude as we pray for 'those in authority'. In so doing, the way for God's desire that 'all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth be fulfilled' would be opened. If we have not prayed 'first of all' there is a need to repent and to fulfil God's command.

Sir Jeffrey arrived. During his time at the meeting various matters were mentioned in relation to the need for prayer. Some of the matters mentioned are confidential and are not included in these notes.

- 1 The EU withdrawal Bill in the Lords.
- 2 For God's wisdom re decisions that need to be made at Cabinet level
- 3 That God's will be done in matters relating to the Irish Border and the Brexit effect.
- 4 That wounds in the Irish nation would not be re-opened and used inappropriately but rather, that God's will be done and the work of the Holy Spirit to comfort and heal would prevail as Brexit continues.
- 5 To pray for, and thus support the Prime Minister, as she leads the nation through the intricacies of Brexit as well as other national matters. Pray that she would be supported as Moses was supported by Aaron and Hur that God would grant her wisdom, direction and guidance in all matters.

Note: That Aaron was Moses' brother is known, and the historian Josephus, mentions that Miriam, Moses' older sister married Hur, a prince in Israel. It is likely that it is he, Moses' brother in law, who supplied the balancing support for Moses. As such, they did not forget the needs of a family member nor should we, as Christians, be less faithful in our support of the nation's political leader.

- 6 The world-wide persecution of Christians has received attention in Parliament. That there is also persecution of Christians in UK has also been noted. The need for laws of 'reasonable accommodation' which would allow people to state their beliefs without undue persecution is being given consideration.

7. In Ireland, the scrapping of the 8th amendment which gives protection of the unborn child was to be decided in the Irish Republic with a referendum. (The referendum result on 26 May resulted in a decision to end the abortion ban.)
8. Queen Elizabeth 2nd's ascension to the throne took place 65 years ago on 6 February, 1952 with the coronation on 2 June 1953. Continue to pray for Her Majesty and thank God for her as the reigning monarch who has given spiritual influence to the nation as a Christian.

The Royal Wedding Mention was made of the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle now known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. The sermon, in particular, drew attention as there was a clear salvation message included in the sermon. As a nation, we should continue to uphold members of the Royal Family that they may strengthen the Christian identity of the nation.

Time of Prayer. At this time Sir Jeffrey had to leave the meeting to fulfil his parliamentary obligations. Before leaving, he spoke of his desire to see more time spent in prayer during the meeting. While recognising the need for information, prayer has an effect beyond our understanding.

The meeting was opened for prayer. Instead of people praying one by one, everyone was asked to voice their prayer and the following surge of prayer was an eloquent expression of the hearts of all gathered.

As we came to prayer, June mentioned a Ceefax item she had read years ago that spoke of the power of prayer. For those interested, the item is set out in full at the end of these notes.

There were three items for prayer as there was little time left. Those three subjects were:-

- The Prime Minister as per details already mentioned.
- 'Peace in the land' based on Isaiah 60:18 *'No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.'* It is not enough to pray for something to cease ie, knife crime, but we need to pray in the positive aspects ie That there will be salvation and healing in the nation. Praise opens the door for the Lord to fulfil His promises.
- Pray for the Lord to move in the land that all will be drawn unto Him. Nehemiah 6:15 says 'So the wall was completed on the 25th of Elul, in 52 days.' If we have a mind to pray and to prayerfully work, what would we see accomplished in 52 days?

The meeting concluded with prayer.

Ceefax item of 16 May 2000.

Police use prayer power to tackle crime.

A Police inspector says the power of prayer led to dramatic fall in crime.

Inspector Alan Stewart, area commander for Arnold, near Nottingham, says crime in the area was reduced overnight after he sent out a prayer to 19 churches.

Youth crime fell by 40%, car crime went from 35 to one or two incidents a week and overall crime fell by 10% in two years, he told church leaders.

"My boss asked me what I was doing – I told him the town was praying," He said.