

Prayer for Parliament

THE RT. HON SIR JEFFREY DONALDSON, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 June 2018

The Date and Time of the Meeting. The date of the meeting happened to coincide with the date for the National Prayer Breakfast. This led to alteration in the room booking which was shortened to one hour. Bill Nelson opened the meeting with prayer.

Prayer Walking. David Hews reported that during his 20 years of prayer walking he had not experienced the presence of the Lord as much as one particular occasion when the Prime Minister came into the chamber during a debate re Brexit. On that occasion, the Speaker, John Bercow, presided over the entire 3 hour proceedings and it was noted that 80% of questions were granted to Remainers and 20% of questions granted to Brexiteers. The challenge to the government was resisted with a total of 326 votes against 298.

Card. A supportive card had been prepared and sent to the Prime Minister assuring her of our prayer support during this very special and critical time regarding the future of the nation.

Re Protocol.

- Bill emphasised that the group met to intercede for God's will to be established. Irrespective of personal political beliefs, our prayer agenda was to pray according to scripture.
- Data Protection Returns. These forms were required to help us comply with new laws that had come into effect and, at the same time, were a practical way to regulate attendance at the meetings. Numbers had grown so much that it was becoming difficult to accommodate all who attended.

David Hathaway was asked to give a report on the Day of Prayer in Ukraine where more than 1,000 Christians have been killed since the Russian invasion. It is challenging that President Poroshenko, president of a former communist country that had consented to the killing of Christians spoke on the Power of Prayer to change a nation. For a full report on this miraculous event refer to <http://www.propheticvision.org.uk/ArticleOverview.asp?ArticleID=885>

The National Prayer Breakfast. This year's breakfast was led by Rt Hon Ian Blackford MP for Ross Skye and Lochaber. He has a strong Christian testimony. About 140 MP's were present with all political parties represented. There were also 60 of the Lords who attended. Of special note, the Prime Minister attended the Prayer Breakfast and is only the third Prime Minister to do so. The Revd Dr Tim Keller spoke at the Breakfast. Even if you were unable to attend, you can read the report and hear the recordings of the event by using this link. <https://www.nationalprayerbreakfast.org.uk/>

Sir Jeffrey joined the meeting at this juncture.

- He spoke of his wish to have an up to date mailing list with a core network to be secured and comply with all regulations. Over the years, the need for greater security had increased exponentially so that this had become a necessity.
- He spoke of his desire to have a prayer network that would reach across the nation. Some ways of doing this could be with a Facebook page. This and other possibilities are being investigated so that more praying people would be reached.
- To have more MP's attend this meeting would be a great asset.
- Some of the matters discussed must remain confidential to retain the integrity of the group.

- These meetings are Prayer for Parliament and not the occasion for a political debate. Some of the people attending come from different groups and have different persuasions. The main purpose is to pray for Parliament and not debate political issues.
- The actual notes that are sent out are for general use and may be disseminated.

Paul Girvan MP for Ballyclare spoke of our need for God's guidance.

- Paul mentioned the Prayer Breakfast and that he believes a work of God is going on at Westminster.
- He also mentioned the difficulty MP's experience of being away from family. Note this is a real sacrifice that most MP's live with on a day to day basis. They miss some special family events as well as the day to day family life. Let us pray for God to strengthen and aid all in this situation to strengthen and uphold them.
- The need for wisdom and favour with the media. Their reporting has strong influence. We need to pray for godly balanced reporting

Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton joined us at this point. Fiona mentioned again, the blessing that the prayer support means to MP's and the effectiveness of such prayer.

- There is an aggressive lobby re abortion to sweep away any protection for an unborn child. Some have asked for the right for abortion up to the time of birth. Some female MP's are being targeted particularly to support this practice and some are supported by charities that have a financial interest in decriminalising abortion. Let us pray that God will reveal to them a better way. It is noted with gratitude that there are 10,000 people alive today due to the existence of the 8th Amendment ie the Right to Life for the Unborn Child.
- Fiona is seeking to see progress in the strategy to strengthen family life. The support of the Prime Minister is necessary for development of these issues. Pray for doors to open to enable Fiona to carry this strategy forward.
- Praise God that there is progress in strengthening prisoners' family life. The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice are beginning to work coherently to strengthen and uphold family life. Support for military personnel for their family life is also under way. More needs to be done. Pray for wisdom and direction for all concerned.
- It is a sad comment on today's life styles that many millennials do not feel they have family support. This is both a general and specific need for all.

General

- **Concern that the low cost of discounted alcoholic drinks** is increasing the level of drunkenness at all ages – even young children. This is the number one cause of death in homeless hostels. Excessive drinking is a danger in the community.
- **Issues relating to slavery.** In this modern day, slavery is still a human tragedy. Slavery is also happening in UK. Pray for people to be freed from this horror and for their recovery.

Northern Ireland.

Sir Jeffrey was asked about Northern Ireland situation. He mentioned the need for a devolution settlement. There are some who are seeking to take advantage of this lack and to push Northern Ireland electorate into reproducing social changes granted in the Irish Republic.

During the shortened time of the meeting some of the time was given to prayer. However, the gathering of prayer information is also important and these prayer points are circulated as soon as possible for all to be able to pray with common purpose and effectiveness.

The meeting closed in prayer.