

Prayer for Parliament

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

Notes of Prayer Meeting held on Tuesday, 10 July, 2018

100th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force. The Royal Air Force was formed in 1918 at the end of the First World War to overcome the complex international challenges brought about through technological development. It became the world's first independent air arm and the 100th Anniversary was celebrated with a Fly Past over the river Thames, the Palace of Westminster and onwards to Buckingham Palace, serving as a reminder of how much is owed to the RAF.

The Facilitator, Bill Nelson, opened the meeting with the reminder of how much is owed, not only to the RAF, but all the armed forces as well as the essential services, among these are the Ambulance, Police and the Fire Brigade. A brief time was given to thanksgiving and quiet contemplation. We were reminded of Winston Churchill's memorable quote "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few."

- Perhaps there is a parallel of that thought with the few intercessors who truly intercede for 'those in authority'.

Recent political resignations. There was an underlying sense of anticipation following the notable resignation of David Davies, the Brexit Secretary and of Boris Johnson, the Foreign Secretary. The impact of these resignations would be far reaching so far as the political environment is concerned. There may be a sense of frustration and, perhaps, even bitterness but ***no one is to let that come in. We are not to let anything interfere with our prayers.*** Scriptures Mark 11:23-25, Mal 3:16 Col 4:2

- Bill Nelson reminded us that, irrespective of personal political leanings, we are here to pray for those in authority.
- Pray for Dominic Raab, the new Brexit Minister that he will make wise choices. Much will be expected of him.

Cards - As there were three people who had recently come into new positions and, given that Prayer for Parliament would not be meeting until after the summer recess, three cards of good wishes and promising prayer support were sent to Dominic Raab, the new Brexit Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, the new Foreign Secretary. and Matt Hancock, the new Health Secretary.

Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton, joined us at this point. There are many intricacies relating to Brexit. The issue of Sovereignty in relation to the Brexit White Paper needs more research and understanding. There is a 'Common Rule Book' that includes EU legislation but it does not provide the clean break one would desire.

- Pray for all MP's to be able to understand and do what is right re the Brexit situation.
- Pray that they will have grace and patience to communicate the facts to their constituents.

The Abortion Referendum in the Republic of Ireland has, in the name of Women's rights and equality, triggered a thirst for further liberalization of Abortion laws in Northern Ireland. As there has been no Northern Ireland Assembly in operation since January 2017, the so called 'liberal' Westminster Parliament has taken the initiative to push for similar women's rights north of the border. This is an abuse of power. Local (NI) democracy has given rise to a meeting to be held in Westminster on Wednesday, 18 July, and hosted by Fiona Bruce MP so that various Northern Irish women will be able to participate on a Speaker's Panel to clarify the Northern Ireland Abortion Law. This opportunity will allow them to speak for themselves as guardians of Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, the Prime Minister has also summoned all female MP's from all parties to attend a lunchtime event at the same time promoting a statue of Sylvia Pankhurst. There is also the long awaited Trade Bill which occurs on the same day so many MP's will be giving their time to that debate in the Chamber.

- Let us pray that there will be wise and spiritual counsel to prevail and that the slur of 'spiritual abuse' would not be attached to traditional Biblical teaching. Instead may this be an opportunity to prize open the door of truth.

Concern was also voiced regarding Conversion Therapy and the one-sidedness of the 'Freedom of speech' debate by those to speak against it. The principle of freedom of choice is being denied to those who request Conversion Therapy so that they may return to their original sexual orientation.

- Let us pray that freedom of choice will not be denied to those who, of their own volition, request this assistance.

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, joined us at this point. At this time all political parties will be preparing their adopted negotiating positions in Northern Ireland; stages of progress are incremental. There are complications in the Brexit situation.

- Keep praying for the Prime Minister that she will have wisdom and good counsel to know how to proceed.
- The Prime Minister is surrounded by competing voices so she needs clarity and the Lord's presence that she may remain focused.
- Pray for Dominic Raab as the new Brexit Minister that he will be honest and sincere. Much will be expected of him.
- Pray that as our faith is tested that we will remain consistent and faithful to God's Word. Isaiah 64:4
- This nation has a Godly heritage. We need to call to mind the faithfulness and faith of those who have gone before and claim the Godly heritage they have left behind.

David Hathaway was asked to pray into the current situation.

- He recalled our responsibility to bring the nation before the Lord.
- That the government would uphold a spiritual and godly delivery of Brexit.
- That we would have the faith that God's will be done – as Jesus told us to pray.
- For Godly leadership
- A sense of unity.
- To overrule evil minds.
- Thanked God that He has a great plan for this nation and for His promise never to leave us.

Sir Jeffrey reminded us that September/October were the crucial stages of the Brexit negotiations this year.

Closing remarks

We were reminded of the occasion in Scripture 2Chron 20:15 when Jehoshaphat brought an insoluble difficulty to the Lord for His leading and intervention. The prophet Jahaziel brought a prophetic word from God that the battle was not theirs but the Lord's.

- May it be so, that as we continue to look to the Lord for His leading and guidance, that, we, also find that wonderful truth that the battle truly is not ours but the Lord's.

We were also reminded of the prophetic vision given to Sister Barbara. That Britain would be brought to her knees, but saved by her praying women. We were also reminded about our Queen's loyalty and faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

- We should give thanks for Queen Elizabeth 2. The reality of her life and witness has had a great spiritual influence on the nation even if there are many who are not aware of it.

Note: The prophetic word that the nation would be saved by praying women is often quoted. It begs the question 'Where are the praying men?' In fact, there are many praying men but both men and women have a responsibility to pray that needs to be taken up with greater consistency.

The meeting was closed with a benediction.

(Attendees – 62: Apologies - 14)