

ISAIAH 62 PRAYER INITIATIVE

Prayer Letter for March 2019

Dear prayer partners,

How do you react when you hear reports of atrocities in the media? Does it fill you with desperation, rage, or feelings of revenge? Unfortunately, these are all too common in the media today. So, as Christians, how should we respond?

The Spirit which indwells us, strengthens our inner being and gives us a different perspective. Let us look at how Jesus handled similar cases: *“There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.’”* (Luke 13:1-5)

Jesus turns the question completely around by telling them not to dwell on what happened over there, but instead to inspect their own hearts to see where they need to repent. Evil has the power to fascinate us and draw us to inspect the bloody scenes like moths drawn to light. But Jesus reminds us of the ultimate truth: we will all die and face the Eternal Judge.

If we look at the context of the Jewish community in the first century, we see that they knew exactly what the Lord their God required of them because they recited it every day. Jesus confirmed that this was the most important commandment: *“Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”* (Mark 12:29-30)

If the Lord is the only God, He wants us to turn away from all other gods and submit every area of our lives to Him. Ask the Lord to show you if there is a place in your life where He does not rule and where you need to repent. Repentance and obedience have sweet fruits, and here are a few wonderful promises for obeying God:



*“But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.”
(Proverbs 1:33)*

“Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments... He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established; he will not be afraid.” (Psalm 112:1,7)

Do you want to be free of fear, even if you hear evil tidings? If you fear God, you have no one else to fear. And as children of God, we have even better promises. We are no longer slaves, we have been adopted as sons and daughters, and God is our good Father. As Paul says, *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8:38-39) Because we are children of God, we can rest in peace, no matter what goes on around us.

With the restoration of Israel, we have entered an era which will be characterized by judgment coming on the nations. Jesus has summed up the signs as follows: *“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”* (Luke 21:24-28)

So, let us lift up our heads, for we have nothing to fear.

Shalom from Jerusalem,



Mojmir Kallus
Vice President – International Affairs
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

PRAYER POINTS

For March 2019

*The next day of prayer and fasting in our Isaiah 62 Global Prayer Campaign
will be on **Wednesday, 6 March 2019**. Please join us!*

1. Pray for Israel

Elections in Israel

Election season is heating up in Israel, and voting is set for April 9. Therefore, March will be an important month to pray for God's will to be done in the government here in Israel. Incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is now under a cloud of indictment in several scandals that could hinder his chances to continue as Israel's top ruler. His main rival is a newcomer to politics, former IDF chief-of-staff Benny Gantz, who has said little about where he stands on key issues. Meanwhile, there is also a new extreme right party that is ardently antagonistic to Arabs as well as to Christians. So we need to pray for God to put the right people in leadership over the nation of Israel. Please pray for civil and constructive dialogue between candidates and wisdom for voters.

*"For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding."
(Proverbs 2:6)*

Israel Celebrates Purim

On March 21-22, Israel celebrates Purim, which is a commemoration of the Jewish people being saved from Haman's evil plot to annihilate them. Israelis celebrate by giving gifts of food, dressing up in costumes, and rejoicing in God's protection over the Jewish people. Pray for the Jewish community to have hearts of thankfulness towards God this Purim, as He continues to protect and defend the nation and people of Israel.

"...the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time, that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation,

every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.” (Esther 9:27-28)

2. Pray for the Nations

India and Indonesia

Israel is not the only one coming up on elections. India and Indonesia also have their general elections in April, so please pray during this month leading up to these big decisions over these nations.

India has recently opened up to deeper ties with Israel. Let us pray that this trend continues, irrespective of the composition of the new government. At the same time, pray for freedom of worship for Christians who form a minority in this second most populous country in the world.

Indonesia is a Muslim-majority country with no formal relations with Israel, yet there also is a growing Christian minority. Pray that the new government will give freedom to Christians and reconsider its policy towards Israel.

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Northeast Syria

Northeast Syria is increasingly becoming an autonomous region made up of mostly Kurdish peoples living alongside many Christians. The region’s emerging Kurdish rulers are very tolerant and protective of their Christian neighbours, and of women as well, who are even serving in the Kurdish armed forces. Please pray for international support and protection over this developing government and for the Lord to bring forth a great harvest in that region.

For more information, please visit CBN news here:

<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/israel/2019/february/a-new-democratic-government-emerges-out-of-syria-ndash-but-will-it-last>

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.” (Romans 13:1)

3. Pray for the ICEJ

New Beginnings in a New Building!

After weeks of packing, cleaning, and organizing in addition to our regular work load, the ICEJ staff in Jerusalem has finally moved into our new headquarters across town. We have moved from our staff spread out over several floors in two buildings to now all of us working on one floor of a large building. We ask for your prayers for God’s grace and love to be shared among us as we adjust to all of the changes in this new beginning. Thank you for standing with us in faith believing our new building will represent the love of Christ here in the city of Jerusalem. And pray that we will be able to cover the estimated \$150,000 dollars in expenses associated with this move of offices.

“Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly.” (Job 8:7)

“Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Thank you for joining with us in prayer!