

ISAIAH 62 PRAYER INITIATIVE

Prayer Letter for May 2019

Dear prayer partners,

Thank you for praying for Israel's elections in April. Benjamin Netanyahu will likely return as prime minister once again after a narrow win over Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz.

This is a good time to remind ourselves that God still rules in the affairs of men and puts those in power whom He chooses to accomplish His will. Daniel 2:21 declares that "He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." With this in mind, let us pray that God will lead Netanyahu to form a coalition that will be able to lead the country in wisdom and understanding of the times.

During May, Israel will mark several important days that are dedicated to remembering the past as well as celebrating what God has done in this nation today. Beginning on the 2nd of May, the nation will mourn and remember the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Then on the 8th of May, Israel will mourn and remember the fallen soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country in battle. Later that day at sunset, there begins a great celebration of Israel's independence after 2,000 years of being scattered throughout the nations.

How then should we pray during this month? First, we should pray for the aging Holocaust survivors who are living out their last days. Pray for God to heal the scars on their hearts according to Psalm 34:18 - "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (NIV)

Secondly, pray for those families who have lost their relatives who fell as they fought to defend the country or were victims of terrorism. Pray for these families and friends to have strength and peace to continue life without their loved ones. Psalm 29:11 says, "The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace."

Thirdly, let us pray with thanksgiving and rejoicing in the fact that the restoration of an independent Israel is a testimony that God is faithful to fulfill every word He

has spoken. Ezekiel 37:21 foretells exactly what God is currently doing in bringing the Jewish people back from the nations to live and thrive once again in their ancient homeland of *Eretz Israel*: “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land.’”

Thank you for praying together with the ICEJ. Shalom from Jerusalem!



David van der Walt
Vice President of Finance
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

PRAYER POINTS

For May 2019

*The next day of prayer and fasting in our Isaiah 62 Global Prayer Campaign will be on **Wednesday, 1st of May 2019**. Please join us!*

1. Pray for Israel

Netanyahu and the new coalition

Benjamin Netanyahu came out of the national elections in April with a clear path to return as Israel’s prime minister for a record fifth term. As Prime Minister Netanyahu works to form the new coalition government and with around 40% of the next Knesset being brand new members of parliament, there is much to pray about. Pray for Netanyahu to have a stable coalition that will be favourable toward Christians and other minorities in the country. Pray that he will be able to lead Israel with God’s wisdom and grace during this new season and with all the challenges that lie ahead.

*“And He changes the times and the seasons; He remove kings and raises up Kings, He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.”
(Daniel 2:21)*



“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.” (Proverbs 21:1)

Holocaust Survivors

According to recent reports, there currently are some 200,000 persons recognized as Holocaust survivors living in Israel. Please pray that they will be able to receive enough benefits to live out their last days in dignity. Please pray for the ICEJ’s Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors, which houses and takes care of over 70 Holocaust survivors. Pray that the ICEJ would receive increased funds to meet their needs and for us as Christians to be a true comfort to them in their last days.

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God.” (Isaiah 40:1)

“Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19:32 NIV)

2. Pray for the Nations

Peace with Egypt

This year marks 40 years since Israel entered a peace treaty with Egypt, but relations between the two countries have often been described as a “cold peace.” Tragically, Egyptians have been taught from their youth to harbor hatred and suspicions towards Israel and the Jewish people. Even traditional Coptic Christians have been influenced by the prevailing antisemitic attitudes in Egypt. However, there are signs that God is doing a deep work in the hearts of many born-again believers in Egypt towards Israel and the Jewish people. They are realizing that their Saviour, Jesus, is Jewish, and that God is gathering the Jews back to their land just as He promised long ago. Meantime, most Israelis would welcome a genuine historic reconciliation between their peoples. They know Israel and Egypt share a unique history with each other, but more can be done on their side to bring them closer together, even as the Bible prophesies in Isaiah 19 and elsewhere.

Let us pray that God would continue to work out an historic, and even prophetic, reconciliation between Israel and Egypt – both among their respective leaders and at the people-to-people level. Pray that more and more Egyptian Christians would realize and embrace the unique role God has destined for them in this process.

“In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My

people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.” (Isaiah 19:24-25)

“When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ‘Out of Egypt I called My Son.’” (Matthew 2:14-15)

Terror in Sri Lanka

On Easter Sunday, several churches, three hotels, one restaurant and two public places where Christians were celebrating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus were bombed in Sri Lanka. So far, the death count has surpassed 300 people with hundreds more wounded, many still fighting for their lives in hospitals. It appears these coordinated terror bombings were carried out by Muslim radicals in revenge for the recent Christchurch mosque massacres in New Zealand.

Please pray for the local and visiting Christians in Sri Lanka, for their protection, that their testimony would reach many hearts, and that the Lord may turn this barbaric act of terror into a wave of salvation which would sweep the island nation. Pray that the power of the Lord would be present to heal the wounded and to intervene in many miraculous ways in the lives of those impacted by this tragedy.

“Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Defend me from those who rise up against me.” (Psalm 59:1)

“... And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.” (Luke 5:17b)

3. Pray for the ICEJ

ICEJ International Leaders Conference

On 13-16 May, the ICEJ will host its annual International Leadership Conference here in Israel. Most of our representatives from around the world will gather together to learn new insights about Israel and receive fresh vision and motivation for the coming year to reach their nations with the ICEJ’s message and mandate to comfort God’s people, teach biblical truth about Israel and stand against antisemitism.

Pray for a fruitful time together as the ICEJ family from around the world gathers



together for a time to seek the Lord's heart for this coming season! Pray for unity around the vision and work of the ICEJ, and for God's guidance, favour and blessing on the plans and decisions made there.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye." (Psalm 32:8)

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ," (Philippians 1:9-10)

One Year Anniversary of the PrayerWave

On May 14th, the ICEJ PrayerWave will be marking its one-year anniversary! We are going to celebrate with a time of prayer and worship for 24 hours! We will gather on the night of May 13th and once it hits midnight, making it May 14th, we will begin the celebration of prayer and worship for 24 hours! We also invite you to join us on this day to pray and worship all day long! Tune in on the ICEJ official Facebook page that day as we stream the entire event live. And don't forget to send us your prayer requests! <https://www.facebook.com/ICEJofficial/>

"O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You." (Psalm 88:1)

"... rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer..." (Romans 12:12)

Thank you for joining with us in prayer!