Dear prayer partners,

“The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.” (Ruth 2:12)

It is a long-held custom to close our eyes when we pray. But why? Well, first of all it helps us eliminate distractions and focus on what we want to say. It also shows respect for God, to whom our prayers are directed. Finally, closing our natural eyes helps us see with eyes of faith.

The Bible is clear that God is invisible (1 Timothy 1:17). Yet, with our eyes of faith we are able to see Him. The book of Hebrews says of Moses that “by faith, he left
Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, *as seeing Him who is unseen*” (Hebrews 11:27). In fact, the unseen realm is more real and permanent than the visible world. The Apostle Paul taught that “… we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Even so, the natural world does provide us with evidence of God’s existence, as well as His wonderful attributes and immense power, which we can see in His handiwork all around us (Romans 1:20). And today, we have even more visible proof of His handiwork in the restoration of natural Israel.

The modern-day rebirth of the Jewish nation has been miraculous and at times totally inexplicable. Yet it was also foreseen and promised by a God who fully identified Himself with ancient Israel. In fact, throughout the Bible He repeatedly calls Himself the “God of Israel”. The saints of old prayed to Him as the “God of Israel”, and the Lord answered those prayers. We see this in the prayers of David (2 Samuel 7:27), Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:15), and Elijah (1 Kings 18:36). The prophet Ezekiel beheld “the glory of the God of Israel” (Ezekiel 8:4). And Boaz – upon hearing of the many kindnesses which the Gentile woman Ruth had shown towards his kin Naomi – blessed her “by the Lord God of Israel” (Ruth 2:12).

So let us always look at the restored nation of Israel with spiritual eyes and see the handiwork of God. And let us pray to the God of Israel, knowing that He rewards those with a heart for His people.

In Christ,

David Parsons
Vice President and Senior Spokesman
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem
The next day of prayer and fasting in our Isaiah 62 Global Prayer Campaign will be on Wednesday July 4th, 2018. Please join us!

Pray with us accordingly:

1. Prayer for Israel

Natural and Spiritual Restoration
This year Israel is celebrating 70 years since the modern-day rebirth of their nation back in the Land of Israel. Pray that the nation would continue to prosper and be secure, and that more Jews in the Diaspora would come home on Aliyah. Pray that the Israeli people would fully realise and acknowledge the handiwork of God in restoring them to their ancient homeland. Pray that this physical restoration of Israel will lead to their spiritual restoration, just as the God of Israel promised through the Hebrew prophets long ago.

“Therefore, Lord God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk in My law as you have walked before Me.’ And now, O Lord God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David.” (2 Chronicles 6:16-17)

“So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.” (Matthew 15:31)

Ethiopian Aliyah
There continues to be delays and challenges with the latest wave of Ethiopian Jewish Aliyah. The ICEJ has committed to paying for their flights to Israel. The main hold-up at the moment is that the Israeli government needs approval for the budget to cover the absorption costs for the next batch of newcomers.

Pray that the government funding would be approved quickly and that the doors would open wide for this last remnant of the ancient Ethiopian Jewish community to
come home to Israel. Pray for the 8,000 Ethiopian Jews still waiting and suffering in transit camps in Addis Ababa and Gondar. Pray that anyone still hindering or delaying this Aliyah would feel convicted of any wrong motives for doing so.

“I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth—“ (Isaiah 43:6)

“For beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, the daughter of My dispersed ones, shall bring My offering.” (Zephaniah 3:10)

Israel in Crisis

Israeli communities along the Gaza border continue to face a new kind of threat to their lives and livelihoods in the form of fire kites and balloons armed with explosives. Thousands of acres of farmland have been burned due to these deliberate acts of arson. Pray that Israel would come up with a quick and effective solution for dealing with this new terror threat. Pray that the ICEJ would have the funds to provide meaningful and timely assistance to those being impacted by these threats.

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.” (Isaiah 54:17)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.” (2 Corinthians 10:4)

2. Prayer for the Nations

Embassies Moving to Jerusalem

So far, Guatemala and Paraguay have joined the United States in moving their embassies in Israel to Jerusalem, while several other countries have appointed honorary counsels in the capital city. Pray that more nations would have the courage and principle to move their embassies to Jerusalem. Pray that the nations will fear and honour God and His word, more than they fear and honour men. Also pray that the Lord would pour out His blessing and favour upon those nations who have relocated their embassies to Jerusalem.
“The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills: and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob: He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people: They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:1-4)

“For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will name.” (Isaiah 62:1-2)

Protests in Iran
There are growing protests in Iran over the nation’s sharp economic downturn in recent months, especially the collapse of their currency – the rial. Many are blaming the radical Islamist clerics for wasting the country’s wealth on foreign wars in Syria and Yemen. Some are openly defying the ayatollahs by calling for regime change. Pray that the protests will not lead to a violent crackdown by the Iranian government. Pray that the police and security forces will restrain themselves and even join the protests. Pray that the Gospel would penetrate Iranian society as never before.

“...In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.” (Colossians 1:6 NIV)

“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.” (2 Chronicles 20:6)
Push for Peace

The Trump Administration has been consulting with Israeli and Arab leaders throughout the region in preparation for unveiling a peace plan to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Reports indicate some Arab rulers are growing frustrated with the Palestinian leaders for always rejecting peace with Israel. Pray for God’s will to be accomplished in the midst of these good-faith efforts by the Trump team to broker a peace deal. Pray that it might fully expose the truth about the Palestinian leadership’s stubborn refusal to accept Jewish sovereignty anywhere in the Land of Israel.

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

“Let him turn away from evil and do good: Let him seek peace and pursue it.” (1 Peter 3:11)

3. Prayer for the ICEJ

Haifa Home

The Haifa Home for Holocaust survivors has been a blessing to many survivors, so much so, that we need more space to house more survivors. Therefore, we are purchasing a new building for the expansion of the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors. Please pray that this expansion will bless many more Holocaust Survivors who are in need.

“Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings: Do not spare: Lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes.” (Isaiah 54:2)

“They shall be My people, and I will be their God: then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good: but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.” (Jeremiah 32:38-41)
ICEJ Headquarters
During the past 38 years, the Christian Embassy has rented property for our work and ministry here in Jerusalem and throughout Israel. Over the last year, the Lord has put it on the hearts of the leadership to purchase a property suitable for the vision and future development of the ICEJ. Please pray for divine guidance, favour and open doors as we pursue the options available. Pray in particular for our dealings with our current landlord, the Ivory Coast.

“When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: “For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel.” Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.” (Ezra 3:10-11)

Feast of Tabernacles
As we approach the Feast of Tabernacles in just a couple months, pray that this year’s Feast celebration will be marked by God’s presence, power and joy in our midst. Pray for all the Feast speakers and dignitaries we have invited, that they might be able to attend and come equipped with a timely and impacting message. Please pray for all the Feast team members who are volunteering their time to come serve the Feast pilgrims from all around the world. Pray for the Feast worship team as they prepare themselves to minister in song and dance. Pray that the Lord would draw more Feast pilgrims than ever to this year’s Feast. Pray that this Feast would bring biblical light and joy to the Israeli people as never before.

“Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.” (Zechariah 8:22)

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Thank you for joining with us in prayer!