

ISAIAH 62 PRAYER INITIATIVE

November 2018 Prayer Letter



Dear Prayer Partners,

It is a great privilege to be able to pray to God our Creator, and we should never neglect it or ever take it for granted.

I remember a testimony from one minister years ago who had a powerful gift for leading large gatherings into prophetic worship and prayer. But one day she needed an operation on her throat and afterwards was under doctor's orders not to speak for several months. She was miserable, not being able to pray out loud or sing to the Lord. And it made her appreciate even more the amazing opening we have to communicate directly with God. "I want my voice to be heard in Heaven," she would always say!

The easiest way to defeat one's prayer life is simply not to open your mouth in prayer. Yet far too many Christians do this, and we cannot blame the devil for it. We each have a mouth and it is under our full control. So we need to speak to God as often as we can, knowing that He longs to hear our voice.

The Bible also teaches that prayer is a privilege which we need to guard and highly value. It is not just a given that He automatically hears all our prayers.

The Old Testament is full of examples where the prayers of God's people were not getting through because of sin in the camp. In 2 Samuel, we find the story of a severe drought and famine in the land and King David sought to know why. The Lord answered that it was because Saul and his house had unjustly slain the Gibeonites, a non-Israelite tribe who had joined themselves by covenant to Israel under Joshua some 400 years earlier. But David made it right, **“and after that God was moved by prayer for the land.”** (2 Samuel 21:14)

The Lord also told Isaiah and Jeremiah quite bluntly that He had reached a point where He would no longer listen to the prayers of the Israelites because of their rebellion and idolatry; and He even forbade these great prophets from personally interceding for them. (See for example, Isaiah 1:15; Jeremiah 7:16 and 14:11).

Yet God also reassured Jeremiah there would come a time when He would be open to their prayers again (Jeremiah 29:10-14). Indeed, we are to “seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.” (Isaiah 55:6)

This is a New Testament principle as well. Jesus taught that unforgiveness can impede our walk with God (Mark 11:25), while the Apostle Peter warned that failing to properly honor the marriage covenant can hinder our prayers (1 Peter 3:7).

Now not every unanswered prayer is because of sin in the camp. In so many instances, it is just a matter of patience and timing, and we should keep praying and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). Sometimes we have simply failed to ask, or we may be praying amiss (James 4:2-3).

But if we are faithful in prayer – with a believing, humble, grateful and repentant heart – God will indeed hear us and answer in His good timing and according to His will. For in Christ, our sins are forgiven and the promises of God are Yes and Amen! (2 Corinthians 1:20). And the open invitation we have to turn to the Lord in prayer, to seek His help through every challenge in life, is a very precious privilege and gift which we must always cherish and exercise – for our own good!

Richest blessings from Jerusalem!



David Parsons
Vice President and Senior Spokesman
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

PRAYER POINTS

For November 2018

*The next day of prayer and fasting in our Isaiah 62 Global Prayer Campaign will be on **Wednesday, 7 November 2018**. Please join us!*

1. Prayer for Israel

Middle East peace plans

US President Donald Trump and his Middle East team keep promising to roll out a peace plan to resolve the Israeli-Arab conflict. Trump has repeatedly stated that he has sided with Israel on Jerusalem and he expects Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to give something in return. Some anticipate the Trump peace plan to be unveiled after the US mid-term elections on Tuesday, 6 November. Meantime, France has vowed to present its own peace plan if the Trump Administration does not act soon. Pray that the Lord would give wisdom to PM Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders involved in making decisions regarding these still undisclosed plans. Also pray that the Lord would expose any hidden agendas behind these plans which would endanger

Israel. Also pray that Israel will be able to normalize relations with several Arab nations that are beginning to accept Israel's rightful place in the region.

*"There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."
(Proverbs 14:12)*

"To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:79)

Tensions with Gaza

For over seven months now, there have been weekly violent Palestinian protests and clashes along the Gaza border, together with renewed rocket attacks and incendiary kites and balloons launched from Gaza into Israel. The Israeli government and army have been debating how to respond to the relentless cross-border attacks short of outright warfare, while also dealing with the serious humanitarian crisis brewing in Gaza. It seems the Palestinian Authority and Iran, among others, are trying to stoke a war between Israel and Hamas for their own advantage. Let us pray for peace and calm along the Gaza border, that no escalation in violence would occur, and that effective ways would be found for the international community to deal with the mounting humanitarian needs of Gaza without endangering Israel.

"Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the Lord, 'Nor be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar, And your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid." (Jeremiah 30:10)

Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:39)

2. Prayer for the Nations

New challenges for Israel at UN

Recently, the Palestinian Authority received a disturbing upgrade in status at the United Nations when they were appointed to head the so-called G77 of non-aligned nations, which controls the majority of votes in most UN forums. The move will allow the PA a more prominent role in pressing its anti-Israel

and anti-peace agenda at the international body. Meantime, several key European countries continue to help Iran skirt US sanctions imposed to curb Tehran's renegade nuclear program. A new set of US sanctions will go into effect in November with the potential to seriously impact the Iranian economy. So pray for more world leaders to take a courageous, moral stand for Israel at the UN, and that the EU and other leading nations would finally decide to confront Iran's ambitions to threaten Israel with nuclear blackmail.

*"For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy."
(Psalm 61:3)*

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12)

Anti-Semitism in the US

The horrific attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh that claimed the lives of eleven Jewish worshippers has revealed an ugly truth about the growth of anti-Semitism in the United States. More than fifty percent of religiously motivated hate-crimes were already perpetuated against Jews, but the uptick in hateful rhetoric online and the defacing of Jewish institutions has put the entire Jewish community on edge. Pray the families of the victims of the Pittsburgh massacre, that they would know the Lord's comfort during this difficult time. Pray for the Jewish community in America, for their protection from further attacks and for the police to be effective in curbing anti-Semitic attacks of any kind. Pray for organizations such as the ICEJ to be effective in combatting the rise of anti-Semitism and that we would raise up the next generation to stand against this ancient evil

*"Do not keep silent, O God!
Do not hold Your peace,
And do not be still, O God!
For behold, Your enemies make a tumult;
And those who hate You have lifted up their head.
They have taken crafty counsel against Your people,
And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.
They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation,*

That the name of Israel may be remembered no more.” (Psalm 83)

3. Prayer for the ICEJ

Envision Pastors' Conference

In January of 2019, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem will be hosting our annual Envision conference for pastors and ministry leaders from around the world. Pray for the planning and decisions still to be undertaken for this gathering, and that the Lord would draw the right pastors to take part in this event.

“Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.” (Deuteronomy 1:13)

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

ICEJ headquarters building

Please continue to pray for the decisions to be made concerning the ICEJ Headquarters building here in Jerusalem. We have been in negotiations over acquiring the building for more than a year now with the government of the Ivory Coast. Let us join together and ask the Lord to release the answer to our prayers and to free up the building and property into our hands for the Kingdom of God.

“My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places...” (Isaiah 32:18)

“... in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:22)

Thank you for joining with us in prayer!