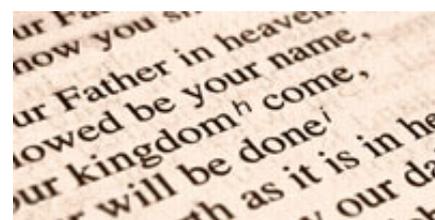


August 2013

Although Parliament is currently in recess, over the summer weeks much business will continue in many Government offices, and situations will doubtless arise which demand attention from our political leaders. Our MPs and Peers need rest and refreshment, and may look forward to quality time with their families, but holiday plans may well be interrupted. It could even be that advantage might be taken of the apparently quiet season to announce changes and such that may not be wholly welcome. We must therefore be alert in our prayers!



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Please feel free to forward this email to praying Christian friends and family.

If you would like to receive these prayer bulletins from Prayer for Parliament on a regular basis, please click on the link below this message and add your contact details to our mailing list.

Please also encourage your praying Christian friends to do likewise.

Join Our Mailing List

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Prayer for Parliament and the Nation

We meet on Tuesday nights in the The Chapel at Methodist Central Hall, near



Democracy And The Monarchy

The birth of the third in line to the throne gives us cause to rejoice and thank God, but it would not be premature to start praying for that young man as he is brought up, educated and trained for his future role as king. His father too is in need of the Lord's guidance, and indeed his mother. We must not forget Prince Charles either, as he waits in the wings for a possible reign as king. Still there are voices questioning the rightness of having a monarchy at all. Democracy too has taken some knocks in recent months, with a

large minority opposing the redefinition of marriage but being largely ignored. There are accusations of improper influences within the corridors of power, and hints of corruption come to light.

2 Chronicles 19:2 (NIV)

Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is on you."

Acts 2:40 (AMP)

And [Peter] solemnly and earnestly witnessed (testified) and admonished (exhorted) with much more continuous speaking and warned (reproved, advised, encouraged) them, saying, Be saved from this crooked (perverse, wicked, unjust) generation.

A starting point for prayer:

Lord of mercy, our refuge and strong tower, we acknowledge Your Word to be the unshakeable Rock on which we stand. We thank you for our Queen and for her strong faith. We pray for her successors that they too will know You as Lord. We implore You to have mercy on this nation and our leaders. We do not know what we ought to pray for, so we ask you Holy Spirit to intercede for us as we cry out to You with groans that words cannot express, in accordance with Romans 8:26. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

parliament square to pray for parliament, and our nation's leaders. Please come join us.

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday
From 6pm
The Chapel, Methodist
Central Hall, Westminster



Justice And The Fear Of The Lord

As our Government tries to bring the nation's economy into order, with ever-increasing costs involved in running and sustaining the NHS and a clear need to change the benefits system to encourage responsibility much wisdom and clear-sightedness is needed. In the midst of all this we hear all too often of dubious practices or downright corruption, undermining the confidence of many. Fairness and compassion are needed, and often determination to see things through. The Lord alone has the answer - pray for

wisdom!

James 1:5 (NKJV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)

*One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

A starting point for prayer:

Lord our God, father to the fatherless and defender of widows [Psalm 68:5], help and guide our leaders as they attempt to encourage the long-term unemployed back to work without depriving them of necessary support. Bring justice to the poor and save the children of the needy [Psalm 72:4]. Defend the weak and fatherless and do justice to the afflicted: free them from the hand of the wicked [Psalm 82:3-4]. Show Your mercy, O Lord, to those who know no mercy! For Jesus' sake. Amen.



The Middle East - A Threat to World Peace?

Syria is still an enormous cause for concern, and the possibility of the UK becoming embroiled in the civil war is alarming many. Egypt too is in turmoil, and the uncertainties concerning Iran have not been resolved. Some of the possible outcomes would have dire consequences for Israel, and indeed the stability of the whole region. In this situation it seems that there is also an increase in anti-Semitism, or at least in anti-Israel attitudes. And alongside all these, the unrest and sectarian violence in Afghanistan and Iraq

continue.

Psalm 27:3 (NIV)

*Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.*

Psalm 83:4 (NIV)

"Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more."

A starting point for prayer: Lord Jesus, King of kings and Prince of Peace, we thank You that You warned us that we will hear of wars and rumours of wars and that nation will rise against nation; but as You commanded us, we are not alarmed, since all these are the beginning of birth pains [Matthew 24:6-7a and 8]. In obedience to Your commands, we stand up and lift up our heads as we see these things begin to take place, because our redemption is drawing near! [Luke 21:28] Praise You Lord Jesus! Amen.



The United Kingdom

The traditional values and morality many of us have known throughout our lives are changing around us. Abortions are more common, often for less pressing reasons than the law ever intended; repeated attempts are made to change the law regarding assisted suicide; binge drinking is leading to mayhem on our streets and killing many young people; child abuse and domestic violence are more widespread and access to pornography online may play its part in this; embryo research (including 3-parent embryos)

attracts less concerned attention; standards in public office are too often questionable. Yet prophetic voices declaring the Word of the Lord are rare, and threats to freedom of speech sometimes silence us!

Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Psalm 111:10 (NIV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

*all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.*

Psalm 112:1-3 (NIV)

Praise the Lord.

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,

*who finds delight in his commands.
His children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.*

A starting point for prayer: Almighty God, whose Word never changes and who is ever faithful to Your promises, we pray for this our nation that You will restore us to Your favour. Bring us to our knees if need be! Lord, ancient boundary stones set up by our ancestors are being moved [Proverbs 22:28]. Lord, when the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do? [Psalm 11:3]. It is time for You to act, O Lord; Your law is being broken! [Psalm 119:126]. Amen!



Northern Ireland

This summer has seen renewed violence in the form of riots on the streets of Belfast as sectarian tension rises. Worryingly, young people from both sides are drawn into this confrontation and become vulnerable to recruitment by the remnants of the illegal paramilitary groups. At a political level, there is continuing disagreement about how to deal with the legacy of a troubled past, with contentious issues such as parades as well as flags and emblems. Further negotiations are planned for the autumn, chaired

by a former American Envoy Richard Haass. The problems associated with a divided past are undoubtedly holding back progress towards a shared future.

Proverbs 15:1,18 (NIV)

*1. A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

...

18. A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict,

but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.

John 14:27 (NIV)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

A starting point for prayer: Heavenly Father, be pleased to pour out your love upon the people of Northern Ireland and grant to them a spirit of peace-making. Jesus tells us that the peace-makers are blessed [Matthew 5:9] and we pray that you will anoint the leaders on all sides with an abundance of grace that they might temper their words and seek reconciliation rather than confrontation. Help them to come to the realisation that, apart from you, they can do nothing [John 15:5].

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