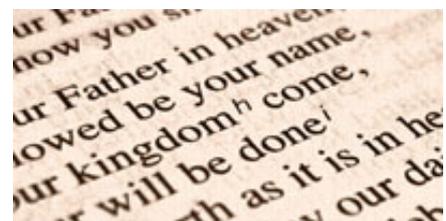


May 2011

The life of an MP or Peer can be extremely busy: just go to [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) and go to Bills before Parliament 2010-11 and you'll see how much business the Houses have to get through! While there are particular Bills being pursued in the Houses of Parliament at present, beneath them all there are underlying matters that need to be addressed - no sticking plaster will heal these wounds; major surgery will be called for! Many Christians are sensing that we are in crucial times - prayer is urgent!



Our politicians have to make important and far-reaching decision about NHS reform, reform of the House of Lords, immigration, cuts in defence, constitutional matters to do with the succession, the nation's covenant with our armed forces, sex education and religious education in schools, and so on. Some we are alerted to, some pass unnoticed. The UK Parliamentary Sovereignty Bill, for example, might have been heralded, but we may not have spotted that it was soon dropped. This was aimed at ensuring that no EU decision that would reduce the sovereignty of Parliament would be accepted without the people being consulted through a referendum.

In praying for our political leaders it is well to remember they have research assistants and policy advisers who need prayer too: and locally we have leaders in politics, education, law enforcement, medicine and such who make decisions concerning implementing the laws: they need prayer too!

### Join Our Mailing List

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



### Continuing Suspicion and Distrust of MPs

The expenses scandal continues to hit the headlines, whether through continuing court cases or the apparent desire of MPs to scrap the new rules. Other allegations of dishonesty cause concern too. It is essential that our leaders have our trust. They are human and prone to pressures, carelessness, and temptations. So we are commanded to pray for them.

#### 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV)

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

#### Proverbs 12:21-22 (NIV)

*No harm overtakes the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble. The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.*

**A Prayer:** Lord, our righteous Judge, in obedience to Your Word we pray for our leaders, that they may deal honestly and righteously, so that Your people may live in peace and proclaim the message of salvation in this land. Let no untrue accusations take root, but rather let the good reputation of our leaders be re-established. Amen.

## Weekly Prayer Meeting

### Prayer for Parliament and the Nation

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



## The Coalition and its Survival

There have been recent signs that the coalition may not be as sturdy a partnership as was hoped, especially after recent elections. The hope of the two parties involved has been to work in the interest of the nation rather than of their party, yet they clearly need to be true to their ideals. The nation needs stability.

**Isaiah 10:1 (NIV)**

*Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees.*

**A Prayer:** Lord, we know that not all our leaders acknowledge You, but it is from You that their authority comes [Romans 13:1]. So we pray that they may exercise that authority with wisdom and justice, in accordance with Your will and purposes. Amen.



## The Future of the Union

Talk of the possibility of Scotland breaking away from the Union is causing disquiet, even though it is argued that the rest of the United Kingdom would also have to agree to such a move. If God gave this united nation a special role in spreading the gospel around the world, He surely wants it to survive, especially if it is to be restored to His favour, as many believe. The place of the monarchy is affected in this too, in that our Queen reigns over the whole of the UK (and the Commonwealth).

**A Prayer:** God, save our gracious Queen! In Your Word You command us to pray for our Monarch [1 Timothy 2:1-4]: this we do, thanking You for our Queen's faithfulness and continuing good health - Long to reign over us! May all that has been achieved over the centuries in bringing the British nations together be protected and honoured. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## Europe and Our Financial Situation

The price of belonging to the European Union seems to be growing, even though the UK is not in the Euro zone, with nation after nation needing a 'bail out'. We too are in financial straits and many wonder about the wisdom of remaining in the EU. Pray for our leaders to know God's guidance: they need heavenly wisdom rather than earthly wisdom!

**James 1:5 (NIV)**

*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.*

**A Prayer:** Lord God, merciful Father, You said that if anyone lacks wisdom and asks You for it You give it, to everyone who asks: so we ask on behalf of our leaders for wisdom - give liberally, Lord, as You promised! When Solomon was about to become the leader of Israel he asked you for a "discerning heart to govern [the] people and to distinguish between right and wrong" (1 Kings 3:9). Grant such wisdom to all who lead this nation!



## Reform of the House of Lords

For many years the House of Lords has provided a healthy forum in which legislation brought forward by Parliament can be scrutinised, and the wisdom and experience of many of the Peers can be brought to bear in the discussions. The question of an elected second chamber is a difficult one - is democracy really a case of election or of accountability? A major concern is the possibility of the removal of the 'Lords Spiritual', leaving only the 'Lords Temporal' - this could have a significant spiritual impact on the

House of Lords. Or the 'Lords Spiritual' element could become multi-faith, which would undermine many aspects of our constitutional monarchy. After all, our Queen swore in the Coronation Oath, 1953 (based on the Act of 1688) to "maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the (Christian) Gospel..." (and) "...in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law..."

**Proverbs 22:28 (NIV)**

*Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors*

**A Prayer:** Oh Lord God, our King, You alone established authority (Romans 13:1) and we

cry out to You to ensure that this authority is not misused in this nation. Let those who will decide whether and how the House of Lords is to be reformed know Your perfect will and honour You in all they do. Let no change be made that would destroy our heritage. Amen.



## Northern Ireland

Following the recent visit by Her Majesty the Queen to the Irish Republic, there is the hope of further reconciliation between the United Kingdom and our Irish neighbours. The elections in Northern Ireland have also helped to stabilise the political institutions but the threat of violence from dissident republican terrorists remains following the tragic murder of Police Constable Ronan Kerr. Please pray that the men and women of evil would be overcome and that the peace of God would reign. Pray also that as the UK and the Irish Republic have improved relations, the people of these two nations would not only be reconciled as neighbours but also be reconciled with God through Jesus Christ His son and that the Holy Spirit would bring revival to both islands.



## Unrest in the Middle East

The recent "Nakba day" (Day of Rage) called throughout the Arab world, to mark the birth of Israel, which Muslims refer to as a catastrophe, stirred up considerable violence. Often such things are reported in a way that can portray Israel as the aggressor, and so increase the pressure of world opinion on her. Recent uprisings in other nations could affect the relative stability in that whole region. Our leaders need much wisdom in their approach to, and dealings with, Israel and other Middle Eastern nations.

### Isaiah 41:8 & 11 (NIV)

*"But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend...."*

*"All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish."*

**A Prayer:** Lord, God of Israel, as priests in Your Kingdom, who minister before You, we "weep between the portico and the altar", standing in the gap for Your ancient people, the Jews. We say, as You command us to in Your Word (Joel 2:17), "Spare Your people, Lord. Do not make Your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' " Show Your hand, Lord, and deliver them! Amen.



## Financial Instability

Many Christians foresee trouble on the streets of the UK as financial restraints and cuts in services really begin to bite. Great wisdom is needed, not only in decisions taken but also in presenting them to the people. There is a real danger of self-interest in our responses to such developments. We need to be convinced of the wisdom and rightness of all decisions.

### Isaiah 10:1 (NIV)

*Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees.*

**A Prayer:** Lord, in Your Word You tell us that You "enter into judgment against the elders and leaders of (Your) people," charging them, "It is you who have ruined my vineyard; the plunder from the poor is in your houses" (Isaiah 3:14). Have mercy on our leaders and guide them so they will never hear such a charge from You against them! Neither allow the people to pressure them into unwise actions on the basis of our own interests at the expense of others, or of national interests. Amen.

## Contact Us

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