

September 2012

### The Need for Prayer Continues

As MPs and Peers gather for the new session after the Summer recess - during which hopefully they had time to relax and spend time with their families, as well as catching up with constituency work - there may well be a sense of "more of the same"! Party conferences too will preoccupy our leaders no doubt. But the needs of the nation remain critical and urgent.



Prayer is vital! In a world being shaken in every area of society, God remains consistent and stable.

Praying God's Word, which is God's will, is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: (we are sure) that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us. And if (since) we (positively) know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know (with settled and absolute knowledge) that we have (granted us as our present possessions) the requests made of Him (1 John 5:14,15.)

Some major issues we could usefully pray into are below. Scriptures and model prayers offered may help us to get started.

### 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



### Church and State

The longstanding link between Church and State is being challenged, whether deliberately or as an unintended consequence of policy decisions, especially in regard to an apparent determination to redefine marriage. Many Church leaders are openly declaring their unwillingness to quietly let this pass, and many Church members are leaving political parties. This could all lead to a major crisis with huge implications that may not be fully understood before it is too late! In the midst of all this, the matter of assisted dying has come to the surface again. It appears that spiritual forces are rising up against Almighty God himself, as the author of life, and the Creator of marriage and family.

#### Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV)

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

#### Psalms 39:4-5 (NIV)

Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.

#### Psalms 139:16 (NIV)

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

**A starting point for prayer:** Father God, Creator of all, grant Your people the grace to

## 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

stand firm when Your unchanging laws and precepts are under threat of being changed by our political leaders. May those in authority in the Church have the wisdom to know when to speak out, and the boldness to do so. May our Government see fully the implications of the major changes they are pursuing, and relent, in Jesus Name. Amen.

**Scripture prayer** - from Ephesians 1:17-20 (Amplified): Father in the Name of Jesus, we pray always to You, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that You may grant our Legislators, and our Political leaders, a spirit of wisdom and revelation (of insight into mysteries and secrets) in the (deep and intimate) knowledge of You, by having the eyes of their hearts flooded with light, so that they can know and understand the hope to which You have called them, and how rich is Your glorious inheritance in the saints (Your set apart ones) And, (so that they can know and understand (what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of Your power, in and for those who believe, as demonstrated in the working of Your mighty strength, which You exerted in Christ, when You raised him from the dead and seated Him at Your own right hand in the heavenly (places) Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named (above every title that can be conferred) not only in this age and in this world; but in the age and the world which are to come.



## Finance and the Economy

The constant stream of troubling news about national finances and corporate dishonesty continues to shake the nation. Major figures talk of 'mistakes' and of 'learning lessons', rather than offering apologies, or acknowledging guilt and responsibility. The gap between poor and ultra-rich continues to grow. For the individual citizen it is hard to feel confident in our future security! Our political leaders are in great need of wisdom and courage. Prayer is urgent!

### Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

### Proverbs 18:11 (NIV)

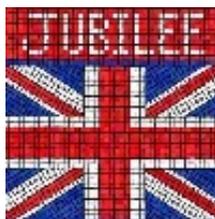
*The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale.*

### 1 Timothy 6:17-18 (NIV)

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

**A starting point for prayer:** Lord, Your word teaches so much about greed and the love of money, yet still the leaders of financial institutions and of nations appear to care little for the plight of the poor. Your word makes it clear that the poor and needy are close to your heart: so we cry out to You with confidence on their behalf - let justice be done and needs recognised and addressed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scripture prayer** - from Hebrews 13:5, Psalm 23:1, Psalm 9:9. Proverbs 31:20 (Amplified): Father, in the Name of Jesus, we pray that our leaders will keep their characters free from the love of money (including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions) and we pray they are satisfied with their present circumstances and what they have) because You GOD, Yourself have said, You will not in any way fail them, nor give them up, nor leave them without support. Never leave them, and never forsake them. We pray they will act. We declare over those who are poor that because You Lord, are the Shepherd, (to feed, guide, and shield us) we pray that none shall lack. We thank You that You also will be a refuge and high tower for the oppressed, a refuge and a stronghold in times of trouble (high cost, destitute, and desperation) We pray, like the Godly woman in Proverbs, our leaders open their hands to the poor and reach out filled hands to the needy (whether in body, mind, or spirit).



## The United Kingdom's Year of Jubilee

The joyful celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, followed by the hugely successful Olympics and Paralympics, have done much to unite this nation with a real sense of purpose, optimism and national pride. The Bible speaks of the 'Year of Jubilee' as a time when property reverts to its owner and debts are cancelled - a time of freedom and restoration.

Let us pray that we will find ways of building on these events and ensuring that what the Lord has granted us through them will endure long into the future.

**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.*

**Psalm 9:7-10 (NIV)**

*The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.*

**A starting point for prayer:** Lord God Almighty, King of the Universe, we bless You for our gracious Queen, for her already long reign, and her faithful service of this nation. We thank You for the way this nation has come together to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee, and to welcome the world here during the Olympics and Paralympics. You have truly blessed us, and we thank You. Please now grant that we will by Your grace sustain and preserve all You have given us, to Your glory, and for Your name's sake. Amen.

**Scripture prayer** - from Lev 25, and Isa 49:17 (Amplified): Father in Jesus Name we thank you for our Queen's Jubilee year, and all jubilee means to us who believe. We also thank You for our children and our builders making haste, and our destroyers and those who laid us waste, going forth from us.



## Northern Ireland

Compared with previous years, this summer has been relatively quiet despite the rioting that has erupted in North Belfast in recent days. The political stability grows stronger with each passing year but the legacy of the dark past continues to cast its shadow over the peace process and threatens to diminish the hope of a brighter future. Whilst we cannot forget the past, with the hurt and painful memories that come with it, the people of Northern Ireland must not be required to live in the past. This will necessitate strong and visionary leadership to promote reconciliation and healing. Jesus reminded us that apart from Him, we can do nothing. This is especially true of peace-building.

**Matthew 5:9 (NIV)**

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

**Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)**

*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

**Psalm 127:1 (NIV)**

*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.*

**A starting point for prayer:** Heavenly Father, we pray for the political leaders of all persuasions in Northern Ireland. Imbue them we pray with wisdom and courage so that they might be equipped to offer the vision and the leadership that is now required to bring about healing and reconciliation in this beautiful but troubled land. May those who have walked in darkness encounter you Lord Jesus on their journey and be brought into the light that comes from repentance and personal salvation. May your redemptive power sweep the island so that this land might become a beacon of hope for troubled souls across the world. We pray that as the world looks on they would see the love of Jesus shining out in place of ancient hatreds and that the Christian witness of the island would again be a light to the world. In Jesus mighty name we pray, Amen.

**Scripture prayer** - from Psalm 46:9, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Jeremiah 29:7 (Amplified): Father we thank You according to Psalm 46:9 (Amp) that You make wars to cease...and according to 2 Chron 7:14 (Message) You have said IF Your God-defined people, respond by humbling themselves, praying, seeking Your presence, and turning their backs on their wicked lives, You'll be there ready for them: You'll listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land to health. Father we thank You as people in Northern Ireland and beyond humble themselves to pray, and seek Your Presence, You are there ready for them to listen, forgive, and restore their land. And we also pray according to Jeremiah 29:7 that people will seek (inquire for, require, and request) the peace and welfare of the cities in Northern Ireland which You have caused them to be carried away captive; and pray to You for it, for in the welfare of [the city in which they live] they will have welfare.

## Contact Us

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