

Watchman's Prayer Letter



Christian Friends of Israel

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Prayer: the great channel of blessing

“And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made...”
(Acts 16:13, NKJV).

The wonderful characteristic about prayer is that one can pray anywhere, at anytime and in any place. In the time of Early Christianity, it was often their custom to pray near a body of water. Perhaps it was because Yeshua said He was the “living water”. Also baptisms took place near pure, running and “live” water. I love to pray in my automobile, when I am driving, sometimes in my favorite chair or at other times near the garden. I wonder where you pray. Praying for Israel is imperative as they are the key to world redemption. With the way the world is trembling – and in particular, Jerusalem – redemption may be close at hand. Our opportunity to do what is right and pray for God’s Chosen People is **now**. Because of thousands of years of misunderstanding, on the part of Christendom of the Jewish people, and the sad history left behind by those who erred in the faith, the Jewish people often fear us, mistrust and are suspicious of us. Are we really who we say we are? Do we really believe in the God of Israel? Are we truly their friends? One true sign our love is real is to continue in prayer for them and for the country to which God has returned them to build and develop. Israel can face emergencies any time. *“Emergencies call for intense prayer. When the person himself becomes the prayer nothing can resist its touch. Elijah bowed to the ground on Mount Carmel with his face between his knees, and he became the prayer...in the case of Elijah, his entire being was in touch with God and was aligned with Him against the power of evil. And Elijah’s evil enemies could not withstand this kind of prayer in human form – something that is greatly needed today.”* (Excerpt from the “Bent-knee Time”, *Streams in the Desert*). Let us continue to be channels of blessing, through mercy and prayer, to God’s beloved people. Spurgeon once said “...we must pray to pray, and continue in prayer so our prayers may continue”. **“Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come”** (Psalm 102:13, KJV). “Now” is eternal – it is *always* time to pray for Zion at any time and in any place. This is pleasing to the Father.



Let’s Go to the Throne Room of Prayer

- **Fervently Pray** that as we enter into the times of the seasons of rain this fall, that we will be blessed with much rainfall from Heaven. Water levels have hit record lows in Israel. Israel’s Water Authority is calling this year one of Israel’s worst – ever in terms of water resources. **“...then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil”** (Deuteronomy 11:14, NIV). If Israel loved the Lord and followed His

Commandments with all of their hearts, they would receive rains of blessing. Just as our nations need to call upon the Lord and follow His Way, the Nation called to be a **“light to the Gentiles” (Isaiah 42:6)** must lead the way in holiness, righteousness and be an example for all to follow. Pray for their obedience to God and that they not follow the ways of the nations.

- **Thank the Lord** for a thirst for unity among the Jewish people and that divisions, i.e., equality for all people to pray at the Western Wall. Pray that arguments over small matters will dwindle away and that the important matters, such as embracing believers from the nations, accepting all denominations of Judaism, and being willing to heal the rift between Jews and Christians will be the norm for the future in preparation for the Coming Kingdom rule in Jerusalem. **“I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land” (Psalm 143:6, KJV).**
- **Beseech the Lord** that all Israel, in government and among the common man and woman in neighborhoods across Israel, will come together with one accord and one voice as decreed in **Exodus 24:3; 2 Chronicles 5:13**. There is power in unity. This is so needed here today as we see so much division in the nations among ethnic groups and citizens of other countries. In the Coming Kingdom there will be complete peace and unity – no one will raise his or her voice against God’s Royal Authority.
- **Call Upon His Name** as the nation of Iran poses a threat to Israel, and the Middle East, as a volcano ready to erupt. The false peace deal with America provided Iran with a financial windfall that has benefited the terror group Hezbollah in Lebanon. With a revitalized relationship between Iran and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, more boldness and rhetoric about erasing the Jewish state is coming out. Watch the Gaza Strip and Israel’s southern border, and her border with Syria and Lebanon in the north. **“I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication. I poured out my complaint before Him; I shewed before Him my trouble” (Psalm 142:1-2).**
- **Fervently Pray** for the upcoming festivals in Israel this year – Rosh HaShana (the New Year), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), Succot (Feast of Tabernacles) and Simchat Torah (Rejoicing of the Torah) – to be festive days and stock-taking days for everyone. Join with us as you check your calendar for the days in which we will all be in prayer, reflection, repentance and rejoicing. According to the Didache (the original Constitution of the Early Disciples and believers), believers in Jesus (Yeshua) continued along with the Jewish people to celebrate these Festivals of the Lord. **(Exodus 23:14, 17)**

In His Service Gladly,
Sharon Sanders

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Christian Friends of Israel
invites you to celebrate
Israel's 70th Birthday
April 16-19, 2018
in Jerusalem
Contact: events@cfjjerusalem.org