



# Wall of Prayer

Christian Friends of Israel

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## Bethlehem

***“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.” (Micah 5:2, NASB)***



**A street in Bethlehem**  
(CC BY-SA 2.5, Wikimedia)

The little town of Bethlehem, sung from the hearts of Christians around the world, especially at Christmas time, needs to be on our prayer list. Reports of religious oppression in the famous city, which is controlled by Mahmoud Abbas' Palestinian Authority, is ongoing. Jewish Israelis are forbidden by law to even visit the little town.

This Biblical place had an 85% Christian population before the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993.

Twenty-five years later it is reported that they represent a mere 10% of Bethlehem's population, the majority having fled out of fear of oppression. Under Israel's supervision and control, the religious freedom for all was assured. (Reports from Israel National News sources) It is our responsibility to pray for our brothers and sisters who remain in the holy city. Having friends who live there, Arab Christians, I have come to love and respect many who are under Godly leadership in Pastor Stephen Khoury's church. Pray for this church and its leadership as it stands for Israel and the truth. Praise the Lord for those who meet with Jewish believers from time to time to fellowship in the Lord.



**Bethlehem skyline from Church of the Nativity** (CC BY-SA 3.0, by Daniel Case, Wikimedia)

# Now is the Time to Pray:



- **Pray for** believers who come under persecution for being local Arab Christians. ***“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...” (Matthew 5:44, NIV).***
- **Thank God that** there are Christian aid workers working among the people in Bethlehem. ***“Ye shall know them by their fruits...” (Matthew 7:16, KJV).***
- **Beseech the Lord** to open the way for Israel to once again have sovereign control over Bethlehem where freedom to pray, sing, worship and love the Lord who was born there will once again bring the freedom for Christians and Jews to freely visit this Biblical place. He answered, ***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27, NIV).*** Everyone should have the freedom to love God with all of their hearts and to be able to freely show it.
- **Pray fervently for** members of the Palestinian Authority, that they might receive a revelation of the One who was born there. Jesus replied, ***“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven” (Matthew 16:17, Berean Study Bible).***
- **Pray for the Khoury family** as they minister to their families and friends who live in the town. ***“The LORD protects and preserves them – they are counted among the blessed in the land – he does not give them over to the desire of their foes” (Psalm 41:2, NIV).***
- **Intercede for** all true pastors who are sharing the gospel in the town of Bethlehem. Pray for their safety and for protection for them and their families. ***“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you received, so freely give” (Matthew 10:18, World English Bible).***

Let us all pray for the day when the lion shall lie down with the lamb in the Holy Land and where none will be afraid because the King will have ushered in His Everlasting Peace.

Until He Comes,

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