



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).

Bet Lehem meaning **“House of Bread”** (*Bayt Lahm* meaning *“House of Meat”* in Arabic) in Hebrew, now resides under Palestinian rule of law. For someone living in Israel, it is like going to another country. Tourism to the “little town of Bethlehem” was dramatically affected during Christmas because of threats to Christians who live there, from Islamic fanatics. With a long history in the Bible, it is known as the site of Jesus’ birth. Now it sits at the heart of the conflict of Islamic hatred toward Israel. Also known in the Bible as *Bethlehem-Ephrathah*, a well-known town in the ancient world, Joseph and Mary made their way there before the birth of Messiah. God used a “census” to get them to Bethlehem, where Jesus was to be born.



Bethlehem has been the place where countless international choirs from churches around the world used to come to sing the praises of the “newborn King”. It is only a few miles from Jerusalem but these days it’s mostly Arabs who live there, not Jews. Every Christmas eve faithful Christians gather at Bethlehem’s Church of the Nativity to worship. For many it’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to commemorate Jesus’ birth in the city where he was born. One just has to remember to take their passport to get across the official border checkpoint. The church of the Nativity was built around the original structure and is known to be one of the oldest churches in the world. Bethlehem is also the traditional burial site of Rachel and her tomb. We need to pray that the little town of Bethlehem will once again ring with joy to the world announcing Good News to man (whether through singing choirs or messages). Perhaps next year will once again give Israel control over areas precious to the Christian world. Many would like to visit but fear danger. We are called to be at our Watch Stations. The Hebrew word *“shaliach”*, means *“sent one”*. Jesus is the Shaliach of God. We model our work and our prayers after Him. We remain at our prayer watches but sending prayers up to the Lord God of Israel, and as Christians we do it in the name of Jesus, for this precious little town so known around the world.



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

Let Us All Pray in One Accord

PRAYER POINTS for Bethlehem

- **Pray that** deliverance will arise from Heaven for the Christians in Bethlehem, where hated of the Christian faith has caused much fear – ironically in the town where Jesus was born. **“God is to us a God of deliverances; And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death”** (Psalm 68:2).
- **Pray fervently for** the welfare of Bethlehem’s Christians who are declining and leaving for other countries (for fear of Islam). As the Lord was, and is with Israel, He will be with them. **“He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged”** (Deuteronomy 31:8).
- **Rejoice for** those who are standing strong amidst threats and danger of losing their lives from Islam in the “little town of Bethlehem”. **“Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you He will not fail you or forsake you”** (Deuteronomy 31:6).
- **Thank God that** Christians can proclaim Hope for the World, pray that Bethlehem will once again be under Israeli rule and that Christians will be able to come from around the world to “adore Him” and sing His Praises. **“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal”** (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).
- **Proclaim His Word that** from Israel the Savior’s Light will shine again, that His Story will go around the world and that multitudes will come to the area where He was born. **“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope”** (Romans 15:13).

May a new and glorious morn dawn one day soon, and the return of Messiah come to usher in His Peace to Bethlehem, to Israel and to the whole world. Only He can do this. We await His Return, and will watch and pray until He Comes. **Blessings to all of the intercessors who pray for Israel, young and old**, who use this Wall of Prayer to pray for a town or village in Israel every two months. *Your prayers make things happen and they also limit what the enemy can do, so lift up the Name of the Lord!*

In His Service Together,

Sharon Sanders

Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem



 Christian Friends of Israel • A Personal Invitation

Come to the Feast! 25, 26, 27, May 2020

THEME:
“Meat in Due Season” Matthew 24:45

PLACE:
Jerusalem, Israel

Come to Feast on **God’s Word**
from top speakers
and scholars from Israel

**UNCOVERING
HEBREW
NUGGETS**

SAVE THE DATE!!!

CONTACT: events@cfijerusalem.org