

Israel Prayer Letter

December 2013 / January 2014



Dear intercessors,

Is the present quiet the lull before the storm for Israel? Let's realize that not only in politics many things are happening behind the screens. Most of all is happening in the heavenlies. Isn't that the thing we ought to do, setting our hearts on the things that are above? So do intercede for Israel on the basis of God's word and promises for His land and people. But also considering present events, mindful of Him who said: "Israel, I will not forget you!" (Isaiah 44:21) Also take inspiration from Isaiah 40:1-11, Isaiah 41:8-20, Isaiah 42:8-17, Isaiah 43:9-21 and Isaiah 44:21-28.

Pray for Israel, as the country is surrounded by terror and enmity/ Pray for protection for the land, and inner certainty for the people: here we may live, here we are at home!

Wishing you a good turn of the year, connected with you in Christ,

Pieter Bénard

Prayer coordinator Christians for Israel

ALIYAH

- **Thank God, that in August of the present year the last Jews from Ethiopia have made Aliyah to Israel.**
- **Pray for good integration in society; f learning Hebrew, employment and housing.**
- **Pray especially that there will be good understanding between the several generations; the older ones need to get used to things, while young people embrace anything that is new.**

In recent months my (Pieter's) wife Heleen spoke at speaking engagements about two extraordinary women from Ethiopia, who are now living in Israel and have made a great impression. One is young beauty queen Yitish Aynow, who in a conversation with president Obama asked him directly when Jonathan Pollard will finally be released. The other is Member of Knesseth Pnina Tambu-Shata, aged 30-odd, who stands up in parliament for the Ethiopian Jews and their place in Israeli society. Heleen compares Yitish to Esther and Pnina to Ruth. A good occasion to read both Bible books once again, and to realize that, just like Ruth and Esther stood for their people then, there are extraordinary women who do this emphatically even now.

Here follows a prayer for Israel, taken from the Siddur (Jewish prayer book), translated from Hebrew.

Remember our brothers, all the house of Yisrael, in whatever countries of dispersion they may be. Speedily bring them in full freedom to Your city of Zion, to Yirushlayim, the seat of Your Majesty, as it is written in Your servant Moshe's Torah: 'Even if you would be expelled to the far end of heaven, the Eternal One, your God, will gather you from there and take you to the land that your ancestors possessed and that you will possess. He will prosper you and make you even more numerous than your ancestors. The Eternal One, your God, will remove all hindrances from your heart and from the hearts of your offspring, so that you will love the Eternal One, your God, with all your heart and all your soul, that you may live.' (Deuteronomy 30:4-6)

- **Pray for the so-called Amazone Jews; there are hundreds of descendants of Jews from Peru who desire to make Aliyah. Since 2010 the number of those who want to come to Israel has grown; they settle in the town of Ramle, where Jews from Peru are living already.**

Also pray for the Jews who continue to arrive from Russia, Ukraine, America and Canada. But people are also making Aliyah from countries like Argentina and China. From all corners of the world they are returning, as the prophets foretold, and as we may witness. We are a privileged generation.

THE NATIONS

The big question that is haunting the Israeli population and politicians is: 'What will the agreement between Iran and the six great world powers bring us?' Countries like Russia, France or Saudi Arabia are also worried, and rightly so, but Israel is the only country that has to live under a genocidal threat. And that threat comes from Iran. Directly, by threatening with total destruction. Or indirectly, by supporting terrorists in Lebanon, who have tens of thousands of rockets there, aimed at the towns and villages of Israel.

- **Continue to pray for the protection of Israel, take a map and expressly mention the names of towns and villages.**
- **Pray on the basis of Psalm 86:14-17. "Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God; ruthless people are trying to kill me - they have no regard for you." (verse 14)**
- **Pray for the nations, including your own nation, that politicians will realize how serious the situation is for Israel. That they will recognize the threat and take action about it.**

In the seventies I (Pieter Bénard) lived in eastern Jerusalem, at the Garden Tomb, the Protestant location for the hill of Golgotha and the grave of the Lord Jesus. Back then little children in the nearby Islamic school would already sing: 'First we will deal with the Saturday people, then with the Sunday people.' That is, with Jews and Christians. Now when these children have grown into adults, they not only sing it, but also do it! Not much has changed over the last forty years, on the contrary. Islam is dominant in more and more countries, and disparages both Jews and Christians.

- **Pray for protection for Israel, for the Jewish population and for the Christians, for our brothers and sisters.**
- **Pray for the nations and for your own nation, that the eyes of politicians and journalists especially will be opened to this situation, that they will investigate and make decisions.**
- **Pray for the Christians in Muslim countries – for protection, for hope for the future.**

ISRAEL

Israel is the target of so many treats, both close by and far off. This summer the organization 'Intercessors for Israel' submitted Psalm 124 as a guide-line for standing in the gap for the land and the people. I cite this Psalm to you from the NIV.

*If the Lord had not been on our side—
let Israel say—
if the Lord had not been on our side
when people attacked us,
they would have swallowed us alive
when their anger flared against us;
the flood would have engulfed us,*

*the torrent would have swept over us,
the raging waters
would have swept us away.*

*Praise be to the Lord,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird
from the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

- **Father, bring all snares that the enemy has set up for Israel to light and destroy them. "They encourage each other in evil plans, they talk about hiding their snares; they say, 'Who will see it?'" Psalm 64:5.**

David Silver, of the organization 'Out of Zion Ministries', distinguishes six anti-Israel strategies. I pass them on to you, so you will be able to pray for protection for the land and the people of God. But also to enable you to recognize them and take action.

- 1) Discrediting Israel intellectually.
- 2) Reducing the size of the country.
- 3) Putting enormous pressure on Israel's Prime Minister.
- 4) Constraining the Israeli army.
- 5) Causing financial damage to Israel.
- 6) Taking away Israel's friends.

Anyone will recognize these strategies in politics, science, the news media. In Church life, in birthday conversations, wherever. There are authors who turn away from Israel, singers and musicians who refuse to perform there, business people who do not want to do business there. And so on.

In Jerusalem there are many Christians who intercede continually and encourage others to do so. Here I give some of the websites, you can take a lot of inspiration from them.

* Bart Repko, praying on the wall of Jerusalem: www.neverbesilent.org

* King of Kings congregation: www.kkcj-org

* Prayer for Israel and the nations: www.jhopfan.org (Jerusalem House of Prayer for All Nations, led by Tom Hess)

* Intercessors for Israel: www.ifi.org.il

This is wonderful: our God is a God who hears our prayers and puts us up to further intercession. It is good to take refuge with Him!

- **Continue to pray for the State of Israel, that God will guide them to their prophetic destiny; that other countries will understand and accept this.**
 - **Continue to pray for protection of the State of Israel; acts of terrorism and problems at the borders are always there.**
 - **Pray that biblical territory will be preserved: Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria make up the 'heart' of the country.**
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Almost 40% of the children in Israel are living below the poverty level. Necessary medicines cannot be bought and so their health deteriorates, a vicious circle. There are children who drop out of school and start working or begging. Here Romans 15:25-28 applies. We as Christians have become partakers of their spiritual goods, therefore we ought to serve the Jews with our earthly goods. Just verify in this scripture, primarily it is not about giving but about serving! What a privilege to be able to serve the Jewish people!

- **Pray for the children of Israel, that more practical help will become available and more attention will be given to this dire problem.**
- **Also pray for the many elderly and Holocaust survivors, who try to make ends meet with too little income.**
- **Thank God that as 'Christians for Israel' we are able to offer help through the 'Jaffa Institute' and the soup-kitchens of 'Hineni'.**

PRAYER

Recently I received the following scriptures from someone who prays much for Israel. *"Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar."* (Isaiah 33:17, also read verses 20-22.) And the following scripture: *"[The Lord] who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be rebuilt,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'"* (Isaiah 44:26). Her comments and the reason she passes on these scriptures? "This is what the Lord God of Israel says, while the UNO and the world are aiming at the opposite. Whatever is yet to come, everything will happen as the Word of God indicates!"

- **Thank God for His prophetic Word, for clarity as to what is going to happen, for His love and grace towards his people and His hope for their future.**

By know Iran and six great world powers have concluded a preliminary agreement about Iran's nuclear ambitions. The media are full of it. Israel is very concerned, and Prime Minister Netanyahu expresses this in a very clear manner. Sunnite states in the Gulf region are considering what to do. Iran is Shiite, and the axis with Syria and Lebanon, strengthened with terrorist organizations Hezbollah and Hamas, are not only a threat to Israel, but also to them.

- **Continue to pray for protection of Israel, and that God will bring about His purposes in the Middle East.**
- **Thank God, that a intercessors we may recognize the time we are living in, be vigilant, and encourage each other with the prospect of Jesus' coming.**

Next year

Next year
we will sit on the balcony
and count the migrant birds
Children on holiday
will play tag
between the house and the fields.

You will see, you will see
how good it will be
next year, next year.

Ehud Manor, Israel, 1941-2005