

Israel Prayer Letter October/November 2014



Dear intercessors,

Years ago Hani Al-Hasan, a prominent member of the Palestinian Fatah movement, declared that 'armed battle sows and political battle reaps' and 'who does not sow will not reap'. He stressed: "The sowing has to be done at the proper time... everything at its time. Right now we have a time of reaping. In this time diplomacy has prominence over the gun, but in the time of sowing the gun has prominence over diplomacy."

What the terrorist movement Hamas 'sowed' last summer in the south and middle of Israel, to them was a logical preparation to 'reaping': the negotiations with Israel through Egypt's mediation. Meanwhile Iran promised advanced rockets to Hamas, other countries have offered financial and logistic support. Poor Gaza population, to have a government like that!

My summons to continuing prayer for Israel can be summarized in one Bible verse, which at the same time shows the seriousness of the situation: "Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" (Joel 2:17) The nations scorn Israel and mock God. So we have the more reason to humble ourselves and continue to stand with Israel.

This intercessory letter focuses on humbling ourselves.

With a warm greeting,

Pieter Bénard, Prayer coordinator Christians for Israel

ALIYAH

- **Continue to pray for the work of the Christians for Israel team in the Ukraine in cooperation with the organizations Ebenezer and Ezra and the Jewish Agency.**
- **Give thanks for the help these organizations are able to offer to many Ukrainian Jews who want to leave in order to escape from violence and war.**

"Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north," declares the Lord." (Zechariah 2:6) This is exactly what is happening now. Ukrainian Jews flee for safety, to Israel.

- **Pray for the many Jews who are fleeing from France and making Aliyah to Israel.**
- **Give thanks for increasing Aliyah from other countries – from east and west, from north and south.**

In Jeremiah 30 and 31 we are summoned eight times to open up our eyes, to see. To see and to marvel at what God is doing. This 'seeing' that the prophet calls us to do is very much connected with Aliyah, with the days we live in, and with God's interference in the fate of His People.

- **Thank God for these extraordinary developments – we have the privilege to see what the prophets foresaid.**
- **Thank God that both individually and as "Christians for Israel" we can defend God's people, comfort them and help them in these dark times.**
- **Give thanks that we can make ourselves heard wherever needed. Let us make use of the opportunities and not slacken.**

THE NATIONS

In this time of rampant anti-Semitism it is good to humble ourselves and make our voice heard in heaven! An anti-Semitic attitude of a people towards Israel brings disaster over a nation, because it enrages God. Such an attitude can be:

- Unwillingness to help Israel - Ezekiel 35:5-6.
 - Indifference concerning Israel- Ezekiel 29:6-7.
 - Rejoicing in Israel's misfortune – Ezekiel 25:6-7.
 - Not respecting Israel's election – Ezekiel 26:2-3.
- **Pray: Lord God, give me an attitude of humbleness. Give me [a heart of] compassion for the people of Israel, Your people.**

Not only anti-Semitism is gaining ground, actions of boycotting Israel as well. Movements towards delegitimizing and eventually dismantling Israel, and mocking and ridiculing the God of Israel, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We may humble ourselves concerning this matter, too.

"...If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God will do three things (hear, forgive and restore), if we do four things (humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face and turn from evil ways). Effective intercession is only possible on the basis of sincere repentance.

- **Pray: Lord God, give me an attitude of repentance. Give me compassion for my own nation.**

ISRAEL

"For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is He who will save us." (Isaiah 33:22)

- **Thank God for His preserving hand in the recent period of war in Gaza.**
- **Pray for the relatives and friends of the Israelis who died, and of the inhabitants of Gaza that perished.**
- **Pray for prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, president Reuven Rivlin and for the commander in chief of the army Benny Gantz.**
- **Pray for these authorities, for wisdom from God's Word, Tenach. For them to be able to make righteous decisions in so many difficult situations in the land and at the borders.**

Years ago Robert Wistrich, a professor at Hebrew University, wrote the following: 'Once again we find ourselves in an era, in which the Jewish people have to live under threat of genocide. For a long time we had not been in such a situation. This may be the first time since the Shoah, that Jews sense this danger so clearly.' Meanwhile Israel has been living for years under this 'genocidal' threat, and it is only increasing.

- **Pray that the powers of intimidation, destruction, war and terror that threaten the people of Israel will be broken. Read and pray on the basis of Psalm 149, especially verses 6-9.**
- **Pray for the soldiers and the border police, that they will see and hear everything that is necessary to be able to protect Israel.**
- **Pray for all the inhabitants of Israel, for comfort after all tensions during this summer, for a hopeful future. The Lord is their keeper!**