

Israel Prayer Letter

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Dear intercessors,

“The source which we pray from is very important,” Ofer Amitay said a few years ago at a conference in the Netherlands. Next he spoke of unity, of sanctification, of consecration, of listening to God. And he continued: “Real intercession springs from a relationship rather than from information.” At the beginning of last year many intercessors felt the commission to be continually vigilant : “Be on guard! Be alert!” (Mark 13:33) “What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”(Mark 13:37) Jesus says this in His ‘Discourse on the last days’.

There are two more things that I do not wish to withhold from you, because they so clearly characterize the time we live in. Two years ago author Robert Wistrichs said 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 co clearly.”

Last year on 17 April well-known Bible teacher Lance Lambert spoke a prophetic word. Here I quote the part concerning the Arab world: “Take very seriously what is taking place in the Arab world. It is no good for Israel! It is not a move towards freedom and true democracy, but an enormous gain for militant Islam. They will seek to annihilate and liquidate Israel, but they will not only fail; their strength and power will be broken, and a huge harvest of souls will be saved from amongst them.”

Continue to be vigilant, in Christ.

Pieter Bénard, Prayer Coordinator.

ALIYAH

- Give thanks for the East, for the Jews arriving from India. For the South, the Jews from Ethiopia. For the West, the Jews from Europe and North- and South-America. For the North, the Jews from Russia and Ukraine. For the Jews who are returning to Zion from the four corners of the earth – Isaiah 53:5-7.

- Pray for safety in the countries where they are still staying at the moment. For the right documents and good health. For a good and safe trip.

- Thank God for the prophetic words, that give a clear insight into the restoration of the land and the people of Israel.

- Pray also for the many Israelis who – for whatever reason – have gone to live abroad. Pray that they will feel they can go back to Israel again.

- Pray that we as Christians, as the Church of Christ, will be able to point out to Jews: Israel, and God’s mercy. Isaiah 52:1-12, especially verse 7: “Your God reigns.”

Give thanks, that they are returning not merely to the land, but especially to their God. “...the people I formed for myself, that they may proclaim my praise.” (Isaiah 43:21)

- There is a spiritual battle going on concerning Aliyah. The Palestinian Authority is crying that the new immigrants should return to countries they have come from, because they are living on ‘stolen land’. This fits in with their thinking of Abraham as being a Muslim, and Jesus a Palestinian. Moreover, according to the PA Jerusalem never was a Jewish city, and the Holocaust never took place. Israel is being stripped of its past.

- Pray that this spiritual blindness will be broken, and these lies exposed.

- Pray that the spiritual power that demonizes the returning Jewish people in their thinking, will be broken.

- Give thanks and pray for the continuing Aliyah on the basis of Psalm 126: *“The Lord has done great things for them.”*

THE NATIONS / EUROPE

The situation in the Middle East – and particularly in the countries closely surrounding Israel – reminds me of the story of a certain rabbi. Early every morning he would open his window, find that the world had not changed, and then close his window and continue expecting his Messiah.

The neighbouring countries are closing the net around the Jewish people in the Jewish land. The State of Israel has to vanish and cannot be granted a right of existence amidst the sea of Islam. This sea ranges from Morocco, through North-Africa and the Middle East and continuing in the Far East, even to the utmost parts of Indonesia. Israel is a mere pin’s head in this sea.

Egypt’s new president Mohammed Mursi will never visit Israel. On the contrary, the Muslim Brotherhood aims to destroy Israel. Mursi owes his becoming president to this Brotherhood. And president Obama has invited Mursi!

Iran has indicated, that one single provocation suffices to have them attack Israel and wipe it off the face of the earth. Also they no longer fear any economic boycott; Iran considers itself stronger than ever.

Western countries and companies are violating this boycott. The problem is not just radical Islam, it is also the greedy West. The world has not changed.

- Pray for safety and protection for Israel; for its inhabitants and the Defense Force.
- Pray for consolation and encouragement. Many elderly inhabitants still live with the pain of Shoah. Living under the threat of war and terror is hard to them.
- Pray also for consolation and encouragement for those inhabitants, who have seen the formation of the State. Many live with war traumas because of the loss of relatives and friends.
- Thank God that there are wonderful initiatives for helping these groups. Both Jewish and many foreign Christian organizations participate in this.
- Thank God that as ‘Christians for Israel’ we have many opportunities to show Jesus through our actions. Our name is our message!
- Pray for the Muslim countries, the ‘sea of Islam’. These are 57 countries with great influence in the West because of petrol and trade. And great influence on voting in the United Nations because of manipulation. In many third world countries Israel is looked upon through the eyes of these countries.
- Pray that we as Christians will continue to stand for God’s people and not be ashamed of His Word. In the Islamic world, in our own country, anywhere in the world.
- Pray for the population in these Muslim countries. That they will come to know Jesus and learn to love the people that brought forth Jesus.

So the world has not changed, look out from your window every morning and check for yourself. But continue to look out for the second coming of Jesus Messiah, even though His return is tarrying. Maranatha!

ISRAEL / JERUSALEM

Pray to God for:

- Continuing Aliyah from the East, West, North and South. Isaiah 43:1-8.
- His Spirit, so that Israel will live – Your people in Your land. Ezekiel 37:9.
- His revelation, so the government will know how to act. 2 Chronicles 20:14 and on.
- Peace on all borders. 2 Chronicles 20:30; Psalm 125:5b.

- Rain, grain, wine and oil. Joel 2:23-27.

- Foreigners to rebuild your walls. Isaiah 60:1-10.

- The riches of the nations. Isaiah 60:11-22.

- The Lord as King in their midst. Zephaniah 3:14-20.

A prophecy about the land: Ezekiel 36:1-15.

A prophecy about the people: Ezekiel 36:16-38.

The days are coming: Jeremiah 30.

A new covenant: Jeremiah 31.

Pray for safe and good days during the festival of Hanukkah, from Sunday 9 to Sunday 16 December.

- Pray that there will be sufficient rain in Israel. The land needs a lot of fresh water. Rain already fell on the first day of Sukkoth, which is rare.

- Pray for safety and protection for the inhabitants of the south of Israel. The rockets from Gaza just keep on coming in. *"Spare your people, Lord."* (Joel 2:17)

The population of Israel were given gas masks, as a 'protection' in the event of an attack with chemical weapons. The threat from Iran is increasing. And what will happen if Syria's chemical weapons would fall into wrong hands? Lebanon is unstable. The Muslim Brotherhood is trying to gain more influence in Jordan, taking as its example the situation in Egypt.

- Pray for Israel and the surrounding nations on the basis of Psalm 2. *Blessed are all who take refuge in Him!*

PRAYER / CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." (Hebrews 13:3)

Last month in the Netherlands three days before the Day of Atonement we held Services of Humbling before the Lord in the cities of Zwolle and Gorinchem, for those that 'suffer for the sake of God's Name'. For the suffering of the Jewish people and the Church in this world. In this letter we want to share with you prayer points about our brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

Early October dozens of Christian students in Nigeria were shot to death by Islamic terrorists. These terrorists force Christians to leave northern Nigeria, and stimulate Muslims to settle in this area. Here, like in other parts of Africa, it is visible that Islam spreads by means of violence.

- Pray for the eight million of Coptic Christians in Egypt. They are also blamed for the showing of the recent anti-Islam film on the Internet. They feel growing pressure from fanatical Muslims and from the Muslim Brotherhood.

- Pray for safety and protection. Many Christians from Egypt and Iran have fled to Canada and America in recent years, but even there many of them live in fear, because against several of them a 'fatwah' was issued in their home country. So they are not safe even in a Western country.

- Pray for safety and protection. In Pakistan churches are set on fire, in Iran Christians are being arrested. In Gaza Christians hardly have a life – there are 3,500 Christians amidst 1,5 million Muslims.

- Pray for the Christians in Bethlehem. Only 40 years ago 80% of the population were Christians; today it's only a meager 12%.

- Pray for the Christians in the Palestinian territories and in Israel. That the Churches will be a salt and a light, a living testimony to Jesus.

At the recent feast of Tabernacles (Sukkoth) almost a million people visited Jerusalem during the eight days of the festival. Among them many Jews, of course, but also many thousands of Christians. People spend as much time as possible in the *sukkah* (tabernacle), where beautiful stories are told – about God’s greatness, among others.

“Where does God dwell?” With this question the rabbi of Kotzk surprised some learned men, who were his guests. They laughed at him and said: “Now what are you saying? The whole world is filled with His glory, isn’t it?” But he answered his own question: “God dwells there, where he is welcomed in.”

The rabbi of Kotzk was asked: “What new thing is King David introducing, when he says: “You shall not bow down to an alien God”? Because the Ten Commandments already state clearly: “You shall have no foreign God among you”. He answered: “The meaning is this: God will not be a stranger among you.” (Psalm 81:10)

Rabbi Buman taught: “Just like with a person who made all the preparations for his wedding, but forgot to buy his wedding ring, the situation is with a person who exerted himself all his life, but forgot to sanctify himself. In the end he will wrench his hands and will be eaten up with remorse.”

INTERCESSION

With the commission from Psalm 122: “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem” we want to call on you to intercede for Israel. Below you will find some topical prayer subjects, so you will be able to implement this commission.

In Psalm 83 we read: “Let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.” (verse 5). How topical this word is today! Iran threatens to wipe Israel off the map; terrorist organizations like Hamas and the PLO aim to push Israel into the Mediterranean.

Psalm 83 submits the need to God!

- Pray for protection for Israel – its people, land and state. For protection against the threat from Iran and from terrorist organizations.
- Pray that the UNO will finally take appropriate measures to stop the development of nuclear weapons in Iran.
- Pray for wisdom and resolution with Israel’s leaders.
- Pray for protection for the army, whose commission is the protection of the land and the people.
- Pray for a return of Israeli people and society to serving the God of Israel.

There is a lot of unrest in the Arab world. And everywhere the Muslim fundamentalists seem to take the most advantage of it. The anti-Israel utterances in those circles are getting stronger all the time; it’s clearer than ever before that Israel is surrounded by enemies.

- Pray that the plans of fanatical Islam will be thwarted.
- Pray for the ordinary Arab population; let us not forget them in our intercession. And especially the Christians among them, in the Palestinian territories and in all the Muslim world, to whom the situation is getting more unbearable all the time.

More and more Israel is becoming ‘a people who live apart’. Unfortunately, all over the world Christians and Churches as well are turning away from, or even turning against Israel.

- Pray that there will be a spirit of humility and renewal in the churches, and in your own country as well, so Christians will learn once again to bless Israel. In this time of spiritual and religious crisis in Europe and in many countries it is more necessary than ever that Christians realize they cannot have salvation without Israel. There is no revival apart from Israel!
- Pray that God will send out fiery preachers of this message in our country and yours; pray that He will open hearts to truly receiving this message and choosing to stand with Israel.