

News Update for Prayer March 2018

We hunkered down this week as the bitter winds and snow swept the UK. It was the perfect time to send out a warm prayer update.

The year certainly did not start as planned or hoped. Jan became very ill before Christmas spending the best part of 3 weeks in bed with severe flu' like symptoms. Then, in January, having made something of a partial recovery she went down again with the nastier form of Aussie Flu' spending a further 5 weeks in and out of bed devoid of all energy. Life was halted and it was enough just to look after each other! However, it is good to report that in the last week Jan is much stronger, making it possible to pray and plan. Here's the result.

Christian Friends of Israel (CFI) Prayer Conference, Bampton, Oxfordshire

"One generation will praise your works to another ... and will declare your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4)

We are joining our friends of CFI-UK, **23 -25 March 2018**, to pray for Israel and the Church. This year, 2018, marks the 70th Anniversary of the modern state of Israel – a momentous cause for great thanksgiving to God – a fulfilment of divine covenant promise. We recognise the increasing pressure on Israel with the volatility of change in neighbouring and surrounding countries in the region, including the threat of Iran and others. It begs an intentional and dynamic prayer response from Christians throughout the world. It is God who is working out His sovereign will in the spiritual, political and social arena. It is our God-given responsibility and blessing to speak of the amazing acts of God as He fulfils every promise made in covenant with our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 3:15). We are very much looking forward to this weekend. We engage with several organisations who relate to Israel and the Church – the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), Jews for Jesus and Issachar Ministries.

Israel Visits in April / May 2018

From 23 April – 8 May 2018, God-willing, we will be in Israel bringing presence, assistance and

encouragement to Christian workers. We have now secured accommodation in Jerusalem and the Galilee and are in contact with those who would like one-on-one pastoral times with us. As always, we hope to carry an offering to Jerusalem for the benefit of God's faithful workers. **Please join with us in this offering of blessing.** Cheques, cash and online giving are all possible. Please click here: www.makingdisciples.co.uk With the money raised, we will extend hospitality, prepare gifts, and give practical help and relief where needed. We will report nearer the time, providing an itinerary and highlighting items for specific prayer. Our own expenses are mostly covered – thanks to the faithfulness of the Lord through personal supporters. **Please pray for us as we find God's itinerary.**

Unbeknown to us as we planned, Pastors Reuven and Yanit Ross – our MDI associates based in Texas, USA, will also be in Jerusalem, intersecting our time by 2 days. It is a wonderful surprise. We never know how it will be possible for us to be together. They travel, we travel, but God orchestrates special moments to fellowship, catch up and pray together somewhere in the world. We will meet during the evening, 24 April 2018.

Missionary Care



Lilla with Jan & Mintie 2009

Ministry in our home continues. **From 12 – 19 April 2018** we welcome Lilla Matis from Hungary for a week of R&R (rest and recovery) and celebration. She has been through a tough time. We will prepare the beautiful Annex for her benefit and blessing. We have known Lilla for many years in the mission world. Her

heart is for the Jewish people and her association is the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. Lilla was a Danube Television producer in Hungary and she ably transferred her skills for making documentary style films promoting God's purposes for Israel. On a number of occasions, she volunteered with the ICEJ and successfully produced the official Feast of Tabernacles video/DVD.

From 17 – 25 May 2018, Jellina Braaksma from Holland will also visit. Jellina worked with Near East Ministries in Israel, and from time to time linked with us on staff for the Mission Encouragement Trust retreats for single missionaries that we hosted. She is a mission colleague and a dear friend. Now retired in Holland, she continues to have a heart commitment to serve in the Kingdom of God. She takes every opportunity to teach and inspire believers concerning God's love for Israel and His people.



We have a number of others who are prayerfully considering visiting this year. Our heart is to receive such missionaries and ministers to our home – giving them a space for reflection and recovery, and making ourselves available for debriefing and prayer. We always hope that the welcome and the attentive care received, imparts the delightful love of our Father God's heart – His attentive care and compassion, favour, and His encouragement. We are able to offer this service mostly free of charge because of the faithful giving of supporters. Thank you. It is a valuable Kingdom investment. **Please pray for Lilla and Jellina as they visit and pray for others who should come.**

Discipleship

Our Friday discipleship group continues to grow spiritually. In the last 6 months, we have seen amazing answers to prayer resulting in new spiritual freedoms. Even unbelievers, for whom we have prayed, are being positively affected. Prayer is God's tool for evangelism!

Having concluded the pattern of the Tabernacle teaching, we are moving on to consider how that divine pattern still governs when we embrace the principles of the Kingdom of God. It is challenging enough to consider that we entered into Almighty God's Kingdom, taking on a completely new citizenship - a kingdom which is everything other than the dark and dead kingdom of the world we left behind. But, there is another challenge. Today, as darkness pushes back to eradicate Christianity, how much of the Kingdom of God has infiltrated the blood stream of our lives, steering and controlling belief, attitude and conduct?

Kingdom-life changes us. The wonderful Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and renews our minds and transforms our hearts. If Kingdom power is active, it is seen (Matthew 5:14). It is a volcanic eruption of power and authority that refuses to be hidden, and irritates those who live in darkness. If only we could grasp that the Kingdom of God (His glorious righteousness, rule, reign and healing benefits) is designed to combust into a lava flow of irrepressible Holy Spirit life within us and outflow as salt and light to rescue an utterly lost world. The Kingdom of God is definitely not of this world (John 18:36) and dual-citizenship is definitely not offered. It is a Kingdom of penetrating light where humility and meekness forge a path of righteousness. It is a Kingdom that commands spiritual discipline and order. Such is its priceless value – to lay hold of it, it will cost all and everything. What a message Jesus presents in the "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5-7. We cannot wait to get started! Discipleship resources are listed on our website: www.makingdisciples.co.uk **Please pray for us as discipleship opportunities are presented by the Lord.**

With special love and appreciation, **Jan & Mintie**