



Prayer Breakfast Jerusalem

On June the 6th and 7th this year I was privileged to be able to gather in Jerusalem with more than 500 Christian leaders, Politicians, Businessmen and Media representatives from around the world for the inaugural Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast. This three day event was in part inspired by the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem, and the growing awareness that we are entering a new season of Judeo-Christian co-operation and partnership.

While hosting the group at his residence, President Rivlin said; *"This is a significant convening ... the meeting at the Knesset and here at my residence is important as we long to receive the prayers of Christians for Israel. Doing nothing is doing harm, and I know you will do something. Pray."*



Earlier in the day Robert Ilatov, Knesset Member, President of the Christian Allies Caucus and the initiator of the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast, told the assembly at the Knesset, *"We are grateful that Christian world leaders have assembled here in this great city ... your physical presence is symbolic of your spiritual strength and support. Thank you."*



Dr Jürgen Bühler addressing the JPB at the Knesset

As you would expect, the programme at the Knesset was full of speeches, greetings, Scripture readings, prayers and performances. Among these Michele Bachmann, the former United States Presidential Candidate and Congresswoman, said, *"In this day of rejoicing we vow that never again will Jerusalem fall or be divided. We are allies because we are firm on the basis of our laws. The law found in the Bible."*

Dr Jürgen Bühler also addressed the gathering on behalf of ICEJ and commented on the Jubilee cycle of 50 years and how this was a significant time for Israel and the City of Jerusalem.

For me a stand out moment was the singing of the great Reginald Heber hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy" which at the end of the first verse has the line, *"God in three Persons, blessed Trinity."* To be singing that in the Knesset together with Christian and Jewish leaders, among them senior Politicians and Rabbis, was to me a sort of Kodak moment. A moment to look around, to take it all in and say to yourself, 'something historical and unprecedented is happening right now.' It would not be the only time during the JPB that I felt this way.

The next morning on the anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem on the 7th of June 1867, the group was hosted to a breakfast at the Waldorf Astoria. It truly was a prayer breakfast with many Christian leaders from around the world praying for Israel and for God's purposes to be established in the nations and in particular in the nation of Israel.



Worshipping together at the Knesset

Once again former U.S. Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann, rather than speaking her keynote address, prayed her message by talking to God about his purposes for Jerusalem. It was a public prayer of about 10 minutes that was both historic and prophetic, I have not quite experienced anything like it before in a gathering of this nature. What struck me was that it was so overtly Messianic and yet all the Jews in the room seemed not only to be totally comfortable with it, but even deeply moved by it. I leant over to Malcolm Hedding who was sitting at the same table and commented “Can you believe what you are seeing and hearing here today”. He just shook his head. We are indeed in a new season and entering new spiritual territory.



Michelle Bachmann praying powerfully and prophetically over Israel

The Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast leadership announced that this will be an annual gathering, and they encouraged believers around the world to participate again next year in June.

In closing, what is so significant about the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast Movement is that this is a Knesset initiative that is calling Christian communities worldwide to stand in the gap to support and pray for Jerusalem. Albert Veksler who is the co-ordinator of the JPB commented that this movement is *"focused on building an atmosphere of unity and mutual understanding. The invitation to the event stated that the Bible's call to pray for the peace of Jerusalem - 'they shall prosper that love thee' (Ps. 122:6) - is the cornerstone of this gathering, which carries the purpose of building bridges of blessing between Christians and Jewish leaders around the world."*

It was a joy to have been part of these moments which I do believe are the beginning of another level of partnership between the worldwide community of Christian believers and the nation of Israel.

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