

# Christian Friends of Israel UK

## WATCHMAN'S PRAYER LETTER

### A Guide to Intercessory Prayer

November 2024 ~ Jewish Year 5785



*I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give (Habakkuk 2:1)*

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## Bid Me Come

*“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”*  
(Matthew 14:28)

What’s known as the 7<sup>th</sup> October Black Sabbath Massacre may have happened in Israel, but Israel is not alone in the middle of this storm. During the more sombre celebrations of Sukkot, all Israel read the prophetic portion of Zechariah where it says all the nations will be gathered to Jerusalem to fight against it (see *Zechariah 14:2*) and we see the winds of this prophecy shaping up right before our eyes. We live in a world that is increasingly biblically illiterate, unable and, in some cases, unwilling to discern the sign of the times. Even though the hour is late, faith is growing colder and the times darker, we are likely in the greatest period of grace and mercy the world will see before the return of the Messiah. This is a significant moment of appeal both to God and from him. For those who have already put their trust in Jesus are the ones who are intermediaries to carry the appeal from heaven to earth and from earth to heaven, through our prayers and corresponding acts of faith and obedience.

When Peter was in the storm on the waters of the Galilee, a region now being pummelled almost daily by Hezbollah rockets, according to Scripture it was shortly before dawn (see *Matthew 14:22-34*). In a couple of hours, the light of day may have pacified the perception of this raging storm that had Peter and all the disciples fearing for life; but at that moment, all they could see was dark. Today, we are living at a time just before the dawn of Messiah’s reign on the earth from Jerusalem, and a spiritual storm is raging across the world. Peter’s appeal to Jesus in the storm was, “*Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you.*” Jesus replied, “*Come!*” (Matthew 14:28-29) That was the desire of Jesus then, and it is the desire of Jesus now. Could

it be that God wants us to call out to him in the middle of the storm Israel is facing?

Yahya Sinwar is dead. The leader of Hamas and the man responsible for last year's attack was killed in Rafah by reservists who were on their normal duties. Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, is also dead, from a targeted strike on his underground bunker in Lebanon. By the time this prayer letter goes to publication, Israelis could be on alert for another potential attack from Iran, adding to the 28,000 ballistic missiles, drones, and rockets already launched at Israel from Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Iran, Syria, and Iraq. One missile to any state or country like the US or Europe would be egregious. By God's grace, Israel has survived more than 28,000 in the last year, and not without loss of soldiers, civilians, homes, peace of mind, and the added trauma of living in a state of unnecessary alertness.

Northern Israel was spared in the 7<sup>th</sup> October attack, but on 8<sup>th</sup> October became the prime target of Hezbollah, Iran's terror group operating out of Lebanon. The Lebanese government has been dysfunctional for years and unable to restrain the terror regime. We visited Katya, a believer from kibbutz Nahal Oz. Her family is settling into the fact that they may be away from home for another year. Yet she encouraged us with her testimony of seeing the Lord's faithfulness and protection, and we prayed for her family, that their light would shine in their temporary community. We also visited a young family in Haifa making a "second Aliyah" from war-torn Ukraine. They came from one war zone to another but are finding hope in God to stand firm in his care. Having no family in Israel, it warmed our hearts to hear them say our visit was like having family come over. Thank you for making these visits possible through your generous support.

Jesus' call for Peter to step out in faith and walk on water came in a dark hour. Beyond this region there are rumours of wars in other nations, Taiwan and China, Russia skirting the shores of Alaska in the US while also using North Korea to escalate an already intense war in Ukraine, which is still home to many Jews. Though this is a newsletter, and there is much news, we hope to keep you informed enough to pray effectively, while being careful to not focus more on the storm than the One who is approaching us in the middle of it. May we turn our eyes to the God who controls the

winds, the earth, the heavens and everything in them. He's drawing near to all people on the roaring waters of our days, Jew and Gentile alike, in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to ends of the earth.

## **Coming to Jesus in Prayer:**

- **Thank God** for his faithfulness in protecting Israel, in the middle of war, shielding the land from the enemy's destructive schemes. *"He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up"* (Isaiah 50:8-9).
- **Intercede** for a spiritual awakening in the Middle East and around the world, for faith to rise, and for people to heed God's Spirit, receive his mercy, grace, and forgiveness through his Son. *"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions"* (Joel 2:28).
- **Pray without ceasing** until all the hostages are freed and returned safely back to Israel. *"But this is what the LORD says: "Yes, captives will be taken from warriors, and plunder retrieved from the fierce; I will contend with those who contend with you, and your children I will save"* (Isaiah 49:25).
- **Cry out to God**, that he will soon hear his people say, *"Baruch haba b'shem Adonai"* (Psalm 118:26). *"For I tell you that you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'"* (Matthew 23:39).

We have reached a turning point in history, and our prayers for the redemption of Israel and the nations are crucial. May we receive fresh grace to ask boldly like Peter, revealing God's power to save and deliver from evil.

**Maranatha!**

**Suzie Georges**

Coordinator – Wall of Prayer

**Christian Friends of Israel – Jerusalem** (UK edited version)

## CFI UK News and Prayer items

We thank the Lord for a special, faith-filled, biblically and historically informative CFI UK Annual Conference at the end of September. It was so good for all who were able to gather and learn together, encouraging one another as the day draws near (see *Hebrews 10:22-25*).

Thank the Lord for his blessing on our team at the Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE), Milton Keynes. It was great to meet and encourage existing supporters but also connect with many others, including Church leaders, interested to understand Israel better, biblically, historically and currently; and to receive our quarterly Enhance magazine ongoing. We have one more event to attend with our CFI UK Resources Stall before the end of the year – the Mission Worship Conference in Eastbourne. Please pray for a good response, for energy and inspiration for our team there, including Robin Lane who will share briefly on *The Only Hope for Peace*.

We are already starting to register for Christian festivals in 2025. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity in the approaches we make, for favour from the festival organisers, given the tension surrounding the conflict in the region and varying ways Christians are responding, for discernment as to who we approach and when, and for the Lord to open the right doors for us to enter.

With this prayer letter, you should receive the brochure and registration details for the annual residential CFI UK Prayer Conference at King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Please do consider joining us for this strategic time away and book early to assist our staff administration. Pray for those who will host the conference as they seek the Lord in preparation. We have much to learn from Nehemiah's prayers and action in response to the need he perceived. May we likewise respond to the challenges faced by Israel today.

Pray as we seek with our co-sponsors, the National Jewish Assembly (NJA), to plan a Parliamentary Lobby Day next year. With the many demands they face, similar to our own, ask that we get the time and space needed to agree the right subject, coordinate and plan a lobby together.

Ever grateful for your prayers and God's answers,

***The CFI UK Team***

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CFI Communications, PO Box 2687, EASTBOURNE, East Sussex, BN22 7LZ

Tel: 01323 410810 ~ Email: [info@cfi.org.uk](mailto:info@cfi.org.uk) ~ Website: [www.cfi.org.uk](http://www.cfi.org.uk)

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