*“Therefore, first of all I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made* ***on behalf of all people—for kings and all who are in authority****—so we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and respectfulness.” I Timothy 2:1-2 TLV*

**LIFTING UP THE LEADERS**

Until the time comes that the Prince of Peace reigns over the world from Jerusalem, there will be an ongoing necessity to pray for leaders. Throughout the history of the world, people who follow God have found themselves living under the authority of governments and rulers who oppose the honorable standards by which the godly live. Virtuous leaders who do administer by righteous principles are a continual target of the enemy’s attacks by lies and seditious schemes. For that reason, Paul urges us to pray in various ways for those in authority; this includes heads of governments, businesses, educational institutions, media organizations, as well as religious and family leaders. **Let’s lift up the leaders in prayer!**

Israel’s government officials, as well as other world leaders, are in dire need of our prayers right now. In the last nine months, Israel has held the same election three times for leadership of the nation: April 2019, September 2019, and March 2020. In each case, no one was able to form a governing coalition. An agreement was finally reached on 20 April 2020 between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Benny Gantz, [Member of Knesset](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knesset#Members), on the formation of a *national unity government.* However, on December 2, 2020, a preliminary measure was enacted to also dissolve that government because there was still no coalition formed. It seems that a fourth election may be looming in the future. *The need for unity among leaders is crucial!* Unity requires humility, cooperation, common principles, and a mutual goal. ***“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!”*** (Psalms 133:1 TLV)

True and lasting unity comes as people submit themselves to the laws of God—the Master of the Universe, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. Who would know better than The Holy One, who designed the world, how to successfully operate it? When leaders humble themselves under His authority, they will find lasting peace, joy and fulfillment. King David described the results of unity, ***“...it is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard—Aaron’s beard—coming down on the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, coming down upon the mountains of Zion. For there Adonai commanded the blessing—life forevermore!”*** *(Psalms 133:2-3 TLV)*  Can you imagine how different it would be when leaders are unified? It would be like the pleasant fragrance of the priests’ anointing oil permeating the atmosphere in government meeting rooms. Instead of harsh words, hard hearts, and selfish ambitions, the dew from heaven would soften their hearts allowing them to be more flexible and able to see things from God’s perspective—according to His Word. **Then the Lord could send His blessing of life to the nations!** This is the will of God.

**LIFT UP ISRAEL’S LEADERS IN PRAYER**

* **Give thanks to the Lord** for the wonderful opportunity to commune with Him in worship and prayer.***“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”*** *(Psalms 100:4 KJV)*
* **Ask God** to raise up voices in Israel's government that will speak His principles and fulfill HIs will. ***“So now, O kings, be wise, take warning, O judges of the earth! Serve Adonai with fear, and rejoice with trembling..***.” *(Psalm 2:10-11 AMP)*
* **Implore the Lord** to open the eyes of more of Israel’s officials to see their work as a service unto God, for His glory and satisfaction.  ***“Whatever you do, work at it from the soul, as for the Lord and not for people. For you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as a reward…”*** *(Colossians 3:23-24 TLV)*
* **Intercede** on behalf of Israel’s leaders. Pray that God would raise up more who are truly concerned for the well-being of Israel, those shepherds that He said He would give Israel at this time. ***“I will give you shepherds after My own heart who will feed you knowledge and understanding.”*** *(Jeremiah 3:15 TLV)* ***“I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them... I will raise up shepherds over them who will feed them. They will no longer be afraid or dismayed, nor will any be missing. It is a declaration of Adonai.”*** *(Jeremiah 23:3-4)*
* **Praise God**for the faithful people who are currently serving in the government. Pray that the blessings and favor of the Lord will rest upon them. ***“Then Ahimelech answered the king saying, Who among all your servants is as trusted as David, the king’s son-in-law, a captain of the royal guard, and honored in your house?”*** (1 Sam. 22:14)

Our Dear Intercessors:

We praise God for 2021, a year of *Greater Expectations*. As we move closer to the return of our Messiah, we can expect more of scripture to be fulfilled–a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and more Jewish people making Aliyah to Israel. At the same time, we can expect stronger spiritual battles these days. It’s time to dig our spiritual roots deeper into God’s Word and learn more of His ways. Let’s strap on our warfare gear and prepare for the days ahead!  **“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” (Ephesians 6:10 TLV)**

In HIs Service,

Linda D. McMurray

Wall of Prayer, Supervisor