

# EDITORIAL

The PFI Autumn prayer tour of Israel, just concluded, could not have been made at a more strategic time. Firstly, because of world events that focussed on the UN and secondly because of the spiritual climate that surrounded the Autumn Feasts that led to Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year. These tours take many months to plan and there are many variables which only come together at the last minute - Where to go, who to see, how long will we spend at any one place needs careful and prayerful thought.



Our prayer focus through the week had been three-fold:

1. **Praying for the Jewish and Arab fellowships** for unity and integrity in faith and practise. John 17, Eph 2
2. **Praying for Israel to turn to God** in repentance and that He would deliver them from all their enemies. Ps 51, Ps 81:13-14
3. **Praying for our own nation** to turn back to God in full understanding of our history and spiritual heritage. Isa 60:12

Who could have known how important this visit would turn out to be. Taking place as it did just after the Palestinian Authority application for membership of the UN and the UN Durban 3 conference, meant there was an extra dimension of tension and uncertainty.

No-one could predict what might be the response to the bid amongst Palestinians in the PA controlled areas on the 'west bank' and Gaza as well as in Israel. Most commentators were pessimistic, predicting at least some show of violent protest.

Clearly, back corridors had been pounded by politicians and strategists desperate to head off an open conflict. In the end, it all seemed to amount to nothing – at least it seems for the time being. The Security Council numbers just weren't adding up for the PA, despite the prospect of a majority in the General Assembly. Mercifully, Great Britain declared its intention not to vote in favour of a State. Abbas had received his standing ovations; Netanyahu had delivered a masterful speech. The talking was over and then the long pause. What would happen next?

Israel proceeded to enjoy the New Year celebrations and then to settle into the days of repentance leading to Yom Kippur. There was calm across the Land. Our prayer to God was for a revelation from heaven.

For those on the tour, being in Israel over this period, it was a privilege to experience life on the inside. Listening to leaders of

some 23 congregations and ministries it gave us a huge insight to the daily pressures and opportunities for believers as they live out a testimony to Messiah Yeshua.



The Arab spring may yet turn into an Islamic Winter. Uncertainty and instability lie on every border to Israel. Regimes in

Egypt, Syria and Jordan can no longer be considered to be stable. Iran and now Turkey are taking every opportunity to flex their muscles. God is shaking all things.

*“Why do the heathen rage and the people plot a vain thing.” Psalm 2:1*

The nations are gathering together and taking up their positions. And as they do, the Lord is preparing His people to be Lights set on a hill as well as those who stand before Him as intercessors in these last days. May the Lord be your strength and shield as you anticipate His return.

**Derek Rous**