

Maoz Israel UK Weekly Intercessors letter - 1-7 May 2020

May 2020 finds us all in very different circumstances worldwide as every country has in some way been affected. We would ask you to pray for our health services, carers and key workers, scientists and academics who search for solutions, and politicians as they make daily decisions that could determine their people's health, and wellbeing. But most of all let us ask our Lord to destroy this virus and cleanse the earth from it. As people of faith we need to ultimately look to the Creator rather than the created.

In Israel we have been blessed to provide over 200 people with finance to buy basic food and other needs. We are aiming to help 300 families, many of whom are believers, through our extensive network we have identified those in most need. The project has and will do two things:

1. We gave Passover vouchers to families: £200 for those with children and £120 for couples. This was enough to cover the cost of Passover.

2. To give a weekly allowance of £220 for those families most in need following on from Passover and beyond until the crises begins to ease, or the government provide some type of relief.

Pray for us that we would receive sufficient funds to support at least 300 families.

Pray that we would be able to reach those families most in need. So far we have seen the miraculous in connecting with families.

Pray for believing families to see miraculous provision

Pray for the non-believers who have been also able to benefit from our help. We have already seen some come to know the Lord through it.

Please pray for our work in Israel and the UK

Pray for Ari and Shira Sorko-Ram and Kobi and Shani Ferguson, our senior leadership team in Israel.

Pray for our team in Israel. They are working remotely and have done a great job in still running our projects. **Please pray** for them as they learn new ways of working.

Although all of Maoz UK's visits and speaking opportunities have been cancelled, there have been other opportunities to spread the good news about Israel. Brian, our Director, has been able to join churches through various platforms such as zoom, Skype, Whatsapp etc to speak to churches and small groups.

Pray for more opportunities and if we can provide a similar thing for you why not contact the office

Focus: Beit Hallel Congregation, Ashdod.

This congregation, led by our good friend and Maoz partner Israel Pochtar is a growing, healthy congregation that is seeing people come to the Lord. They have always been faced with opposition from the Ultra Orthodox but recently groups have been coming every Shabbat service (Friday evening) to picket the front door of the Congregation. They pray and speak curses over those attending and are generally very unpleasant. Although this has stopped because of the current situation, now they have been visited by the police who have told them that they cannot use their new building for their humanitarian aid project and that they cannot broadcast services from their existing premises, despite it being only the two pastor's families who do this.

Pray for wisdom for Pastor Israel and his leadership team

Pray that these restrictions on the use of the buildings will be stopped.

Pray for the local authorities, that they will recognise the great work that this congregation do and the thousands of people they help with food and clothing.

Pray that Beit Hallel will be given permission by the local authority to use their new building for worship services.

Pray for the police officers and officials that they will become believers in Yeshua

Thank you for your prayers for Maoz – may the Lord bless you from Zion!

The Maoz UK Team: Brian, Elizabeth, Petra, Colin, Dan and Helen. Maoz UK, PO Box 617, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 9TU. 01732 886441 www.maozisrael.uk uk@maozisrael.org

Maoz Israel UK Weekly Intercessors letter – 8-14 May 2020

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of *ADONAI* has risen on you. ² For behold, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness the peoples. But *ADONAI* will arise upon you, and His glory will appear over you. Isaiah 60:1-2

Please pray for the government of Israel as they attempt to work with this new unity government between Netanyahu and Gantz. Israel needs a strong and stable government, so that the various areas of priority such as defence and security are properly managed.

Please pray stability and clear leadership.

Pray that the Lord will use these times of uncertainty to cause Jewish people to turn to the Lord.

Pray for the different government departments. Recently the health and home affairs department have been controlled by the religious parties. Please pray that they will not have any influence over government policy, with particular reference to believers. For too long the religious people have blocked Jewish believers in Jesus from making Aliyah to Israel.

The UK church and Jewish believers

As a ministry we come into contact with Jewish believers in Jesus in the UK. One of the challenges they face is acceptance in the UK church. Being a Jewish believer in Jesus is a unique experience and some find it difficult to find a church that understands and accepts who they are.

Pray for the churches in the UK to be open to Jewish believers and their unique identity.

Pray for Messianic Fellowships in the UK to be strong and to have wise and godly leaders.

Pray for unity amongst Jewish believers in Jesus.

UK Focus

Please pray for the UK Government and the devolved governments. They need wisdom as they lead us out of this virus situation. Also of concern is governments incredible double U-turn at the end of March/beginning of April, announcing the most significant change to abortion law since 1967. At first they categorically stated in parliament that there would be no change to abortion law as part of its response to Covid-19. Then without any public consultation, parliamentary scrutiny or debate, the government included provision for DIY abortions, despite itself having warned that the move would put thousands of vulnerable women at risk at an already highly vulnerable time.

Pray that this decision will be reversed

Pray for pro-life lobby groups and legal representation to block this move.

Continue to pray for the health of your local village, town and community. Pray for local services, for key workers in your area. Pray for your local hospitals and health systems.

Prayer focus

Pastors Sergei and Elke Babaskin

“ Spring of joy ” congregation. It started as an outreach Centre in in 2017 and started functioning as a church in 2019, and now has about 40 people in the congregation. Their goals are to reach unbelievers, with different projects, concerts, outreach bus tours, and ministry to holocaust survivors.

Please pray for this small congregation that God would provide finances and resources for growth

Pray for Sergei and Elke to have good strong leaders around them.

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Maoz Israel UK Weekly Intercessors letter – 15-21 May 2020

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither. ⁶ May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I cease to remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my chief joy. Psalm 137:5-6

Please pray for Maoz work in Israel

Pray for our Maoz report as it goes out in 8 different languages and for decades has been one of the most respected and informative regular sources of prophetic information from the land. Please pray for Shira and the team as they pray and write the report.

Pray for Shira who oversees the writing of the report as well as others who make contributions.

Pray that the articles will be a blessing to the readers.

Pray for the particular projects that we feature, that we will be able to raise the funds needed to complete them.

Please pray for our translation work – good books are vital to the growth of the body of believers in Israel and evangelism.

Our translation project for the narrated Bible is in its final stages. This year we believe that this project is going to make significant impact on Jewish people as they will have access to a Bible which is focussed on helping them to understand and engage in the scriptures in a way that is accessible to them.

Please pray for the final stages of the project.

Pray for the printing and distribution of the Bible.

Pray that every copy gets to the right person and that we will see Jewish people come to faith in Yeshua.

We provide support for the **Feed Tel Aviv project**– the feeding programme for the homeless in Tel Aviv that is supported by local congregations. It is a small shop unit in-between two very busy brothels and feeds hundreds of people every week. Because of the restrictions they cannot receive the hundreds of guests who normally go there. However, they have been making sandwiches and taking them on the streets.

Please pray that they will be able to find those in need.

Pray for the volunteers, that they will stay healthy.

Pray for sufficient food. The homeless really appreciate the home-made food.

Focus: Vladimir Siromyatnikov from Ashkelon. Church of the House of Peace.

This is a small fellowship that Maoz were able to give a grant to in July 2019. Ashkelon is the site of one of the oldest surviving arched gates in the world. A 4,000 year old Caananite structure, it was one of the five cities of the Philistines. Because of its proximity to Gaza (13km) it is only 20-30 seconds running time to a shelter when the sirens go off. Originally settled by Mizrahi (Middle Eastern) Jews, it also received an influx of South African, British, Ethiopian and Russian Jews over time. It has a population nearing 150,000.

Please pray for Vladimir as he seeks to establish a congregation in Ashkelon.

Please pray that the population will be receptive to the Gospel.

Please pray that they will not receive opposition from the Ultra Orthodox.

Friday 22 May is Jerusalem Day. This date is the most recent addition to the Hebrew calendar, commemoration of the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. It is turning into something of a “pilgrimage” day. Thousands of Israelis have decided to travel (some hiking) to Jerusalem to demonstrate solidarity with the city. This is of special importance to the state of Israel, since the international community has never approved the “reunification” of the city under Israeli sovereignty.

Please pray for Jerusalem and its inhabitants – it truly is the centre of the world.

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Maoz Israel UK Weekly Intercessors letter – 22-31 May 2020

This week we celebrate Shavout – Pentecost, the culmination of 7 weeks of weeks of counting has brought us to the giving of the law. In the Talmud, Shavout is referred to as the marriage day between God and the Jewish people because it coincides with the giving of the law at Sinai. The book of Ruth is read in the synagogue during this time, its strong harvest theme reminds us that it is God who brings the harvest, one of the strongest elements of Shavout. As we see in Acts 2, Jews from all over the world came to the temple at this time and it was then that the Lord poured out his Holy Spirit on the early Jewish church separating them out for the great commission. We are now in that time of harvest. The cycle of feasts tells us that one day this harvest will be over and then the Lord will return. According to scripture, the amount of harvest that is brought in is determined by the availability of workers. Luke 10:2

Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Israel. If we were to ask what an effective model of Jewish evangelism might be, we would look no further than Acts 2. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit on that day saw thousands of Jewish people come to faith.

Let's pray together for that to happen in Israel.

"Then I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication, when they will look toward Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son and grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:10

The Fellowship of Artists, based in our studio in Jerusalem, is a focus for many projects that are encouraging young musicians, singers and other creative people. We believe that this generation will rise up to be the psalmists of today, who will reach their generation for Yeshua.

Please pray for Kobi and Shani who oversee the studio

Pray for the many musicians who benefit from the studio.

Pray for the unbelieving Jewish people who visit the studio to use the facilities.

Pray for our Music Making for Kids programme.

The Israeli tourist industry has taken a massive hit with the lockdowns caused by the virus. Many believers make their living as tour guides, and in the industry associated with tours. Also, many Christians with a heart and understanding of the purposes of God in Israel will not be visiting the Land to pray and bear witness to the love of Yeshua.

Obviously God is not restricted by this situation, but businesses are struggling and need support.

Please pray for businesses of believers that are struggling at this time.

Pray for Maoz UK partner Andrei Senderov (Isra Home Tours) as his business has completely stopped at this time.

Please pray for the Maoz UK office team Brian and Elizabeth, Colin, and Petra. May the Lord keep them healthy and focussed on His priorities. Also, pray for Dan and Helen who visit and keep contact with many of our partners.

Lev Havkin - Akko

Pastor Lev leads a small work in Akko (Acre) in Northern Israel. His congregation is Russian speaking and they are looking to reach the many Russian speaking Jewish people in that area. There is a mixed population of Jews, Arabs, nominal Christians, Druze and Baha'is that total about 50,000 in Acre. It is the holiest city of the Bahá'í Faith and receives many pilgrims of that faith every year. Thirty-two per cent of the city's population is Arab.

Please pray for opportunities for the congregation to share their faith

Pray for a strong witness in such a diverse population

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