

# Canopy of Prayer

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Author

**Bert Jan Ruissen MEP**

(for SGP, Staatskundig Gereformeerde Partij) from the Netherlands, Vice Chair of the European Parliament delegation for relations with Israel.



*Luke 2: 29 – 32 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word: for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”*

*Those words were spoken after the birth of Jesus Christ by Simeon. This was about the long expected Messiah. He also said that Jesus would be a ‘sign that will be opposed’. Over the ages many believers have found the Light, but also experienced the persecution. The Jews, and for the last 70 years the state of Israel, are seen by many as a sign they oppose. Therefore we pray in this issue of Canopy for Israel, that they can and will fulfil their calling, for the glory of God, which will be a blessing for all who live in Israel and beyond.*

**Corrie Oosterhuis**



## Dear Prayer Partners in Europe

What a joy and a blessing it is to see Israel doing relatively well. The State of the Holy Land hosts God’s own people, as the Bible tells us. It is the only functioning democracy in the Middle East. And in this region, Israel manages to establish new friendly ties. Now the European Union has to start supporting Israel more: this is our hope, work and prayer, as Vice Chair of the European Parliament delegation for relations with Israel.

It is with such great joy that I receive reports about Israel these days: (1) The country has established diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, maybe more Arab countries will follow. For the first time in history a plane of El Al flew directly from Israel to the United Arab Emirates, with flags of both countries proudly waving next to each other.

(2) After the unfortunate big explosion in Beirut, the Israeli authorities were among the first to offer help – despite all their conflicts in the past.

Those moments remind us what a difference peace and progress can bring people. Many of us wish Israel the best on its road to peace. The Jewish people deserve their own place in the world: where better than on the promised land, with all the historic sites mentioned in the Scriptures?

Of course a solution needs to be found for the neighbouring Palestinian people! It is wonderful that the US president Trump presented his peace plan for the region in January. But what a disappointment that the (never re-elected) Palestinian leaders did not even want to start discussing the peace plan. They continued on the path of hate, this dry summer again sending explosive balloons towards Israeli land to cause fires. Let our hearts also be with those who don’t support the actions of their government and who are longing for peace.

If you have visited Jerusalem and other cities, like I have, you might also have felt this sensation. That it is wonderful and a sign of God’s strength that these holy places are safe and kept for history, as a reminder of God’s presence among us. We all have a responsibility to keep it this way.

The European Union promotes values like peace, solidarity and freedom of religion. Therefore it should step up its efforts in this region, to support peace and prosperity. This can only be reached by establishing good relations with all parties involved. This is not yet the case. As a Member in the European Parliament, I see that our leaders tend to side with the Palestinians more than with Israel. Countless times I had to stand up for Israel trying to make the EU-policy more balanced.

My main concern is that EU’s tax payers’ money via the Palestinian Authority ends up in the hands of terrorist groups, paying for attacks and even suicide bombers. This has to stop urgently, as we concluded in webinars I hosted in my role as Vice Chair of the European Parliament delegation for relations with Israel.

Israel deserves our support. And more support is needed, to help Israel forward on the road to peace for God’s people.

## What do we need your prayer for?

- We pray that leaders, especially from Arabic countries, find the strength, courage and determination to find peaceful solutions, refraining from hate and terrorism;
- We pray that the European Union will stand shoulder to shoulder with both the people of Israel and its neighbours;
- We pray that the Holy Spirit keeps guiding us in our lives and work.



## Moria Camp, Lesbos

A temporary camp has been set up to relocate the refugees who have been sleeping rough for a week after fire devastated the Moria refugee camp. Some are reluctant to go, fearing that they will be stuck there with no hope of an opportunity to move on. But the Greek government have stated that they will move all refugees and migrants to the mainland of Greece by next Easter. Germany has agreed to receive 1,500 but few other EU countries will offer help.

## Additional Prayer Points:-

1. As pupils and students go back to schools and universities, pray that the recent rise in Covid cases will not get out of hand.
2. Pray for the UK and EU Brexit negotiators to find solutions to the sticking points so that a trade deal can be agreed on between them.

**CONTACT** Canopy of Prayer, Ortwin Schweitzer, Ian Jeal, Corrie Oosterhuis  
info@canopyofprayer.eu  
www.canopyofprayer.eu

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