

Dear Maoz Partner,

This week the rain has been washing Israel, especially the northern regions, and each day on the news we see pictures of rivers that are overflowing with an abundance of water.

The Sea of Galilee provides much of our drinking water. There is a black line marking the level on the Sea that if reached, could permanently damage the aquifers and destroy it. Due to the drought in the last five years, it has been rising again, coming dangerously close to this black line, about 12 inches in the last day alone.

And, of course, our beautiful Mount Hermon and some areas in the Golan Heights have been clothed in white snow, which has been piling up over the last few days - a sight that every Israeli loves to see.

Having something in the news that has nothing to do with politics, corruption, and the upcoming elections is refreshing, but Israelis are going to be electing their leaders exactly three months from today. There are 34 different political parties running for the 21st Knesset.

Now that there is no more ability to register new parties, the next big step in the election is on February 20-21, when the parties will have to submit the finalized lists of members up for election. How does this work? Some parties will be holding primary elections, which will determine the order of the elects for Knesset. Here, people who get more votes will be higher up on the list, and their Knesset seat will be determined by the number of "mandates" they receive from the people. In other parties this order is determined by either religious leaders or by internal agreements between party members without elections.

There are 120 seats in the Knesset, so the number of Israeli voters is divided between them to determine how many are needed to get one seat. That way, if a party receives 10 seats, only the first 10 people on its list will become members of the Knesset. But this, only if the political party receives a minimum 3.25% of all votes required - a threshold set by law.

The main problem created by having so many different political parties is that they can virtually wipe out big parties (like our Labor party, which used to be one of the two giants, but after many splits is now practically gone). Why is this a problem? Because it's the leader of the party that received the majority of votes who will receive the task of forming the next government from Israel's President, and if there are only small parties with 4-8 seats each, this task will probably be impossible.

According to recent polls, the only large party that is capable of receiving more than 20 seats is Netanyahu's Likkud. However, with a possible indictment of Netanyahu, it is not clear what will happen.

As we only desire God's way and His plan, we ask that you join us in prayer this week:

For the upcoming elections. Pray for God's will to be done. May He be merciful and grant us leaders who fear Him and want to do good for Israel according to His leading. Pray for a respectful campaign and against division in our nation. Pray against incitement and violence that is often associated with elections.

For more rain. Yes, believe it or not, we need more rain - especially in the north! Pray for an abundance of precipitation, but also against flooding in our cities and on our roads. Pray for the Sea of Galilee to rise and be filled once again.

For safety and security on Israel's borders. In the last week there have been some security incidents, including a rocket fired from Gaza on one of our towns. This prevented from yet another \$15 million from Qatar to be delivered to Hamas in Gaza, and so violence may spark back up in a major way over the weekend. Pray for protection for our soldiers and civilians. Pray that the Lord will continue giving special guidance to our leaders and commanders as to how to keep us safe.

For Ari, Shira, and our directors around the world. Yesterday many of our international leaders met on a monthly video call. Some shared what God has done last year, and together we prayed for the Lord to continue using Maoz as a light to Israel. Pray for each one of our worldwide directors - that God will give them wisdom, new ideas, perseverance, and strength to continue on His path. Pray for right decisions to be made in everything we do.

Pray for our new Maoz Germany director Jessica and her husband Oliver - who are an answer to about 18 months of prayer! Pray for a smooth transition, and that God will expand our German reach.

For our worldwide staff.

For healing for Yacov Damkani and Eddie Santoro. We continue standing in faith for Yacov to return to full consciousness and for Eddie's brain tumor to completely disappear. Please continue believing with us.

For the "Narrated Bible in Chronological Order" project. We at Maoz believe this will be the book that will bring more Israelis to faith than any other project we have done. Please pray for its completion on time and with excellence.

For Maoz Media.

For the Hebrew Books department.

For Music Making for Kids program recitals coming up at the end of the month.

For the body of believers in Israel.

For Israeli Messianic believers persecuted for their faith.

For our Arab brothers and sisters in Messiah.

For the salvation of Israel.

From Maoz UK: Happy New Year to all of our UK prayer partners. We very much appreciate you standing with us in 2018, and are looking forward to Kingdom opportunities in 2019.

This year is Brexit year, as in less than 3 months we reach the deadline for Article 50. Please pray for our Prime Minister and your local MP, that the Lord will bring about His will regarding the outcome.

Please continue to pray for the UK media. They are increasingly partisan when it comes to Brexit, Israel and the Christian faith.

Later this month Brian will be attending the AOG Mission conference, and also speaking at the *Focus on Israel* meeting at New Life Church, Croydon (28 Jan). Please pray for these opportunities.

Please also pray for Helen and Dan. They are going to be visiting more partners in 2019. Please pray for health and strength as they do this.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for praying for us. We bless you in the precious name of Messiah Yeshua.

Shalom and Blessings from the Maoz team