

Uniting in prayer for the United Nations.

Between 9th and 13th September an amazing meeting was taking place in New York. Up to 600 prayer leaders and leaders of intercessory initiatives from over 85 countries met to pray for the United Nations. They came from Pakistan to Canada, Guatemala to Rwanda, Egypt to the Solomon Islands to Mexico to seek God together and pray at strategic sites in New York. Our ages ranged from 10 years old to those of pensionable age!! We had been drawn together by the International Prayer Council who are the group behind the vision for the Global Day of Prayer each year.

The first meeting was wonderfully colourful as people arrived in their national costume and introduced themselves to the group. We were welcomed into America by a 'first nations' American Indian Christian. There were people from every denomination and none from an Anglican Bishop from Africa to a prayer leader from the Wycliffe Bible translators.

The first day was spent meeting and praying in ten different focus groups- a time of networking and learning from one another. The subjects ranged widely and included such things as global strategy to pray for children at risk, women in prayer and mission, use of new technology in encouraging prayer, praying about those caught up in militant religious groups, praying for those in politics and government.

On the second day we had the privilege of going into the United Nations complex for an all day time of worship and prayer. It was a very moving moment to parade round the national flags of those who were there as representing the body of Christ from all these nations and a beautiful banner was brought to the front declaring Jesus Christ as the King of Kings. A number of ambassadors from different nations then joined with us and shared their need of prayer. They were honest and open in doing this and a very moving time of prayer for and with them followed. We spent much of the rest of the time there praying for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals ably led by a group of children who were with us from a variety of nations. Tours of the complex followed for some which enabled us to quietly pray in the rooms where decisions are made that effect us all.

The following day was September 11th and we went down to Ground Zero to pray followed by a prayer walk along Wall Street and outside the Stock Exchange which was very timely as it was nearly the anniversary of the start of the financial crisis we are still dealing with. This was followed by a boat trip around Manhattan Island where we were joined by intercessors from New York to worship together and pray for that city and also other global cities. London of course was included in that. It was very moving to hear the heartfelt prayer of those from other nations for the city of London.

Saturday 12th was a day prayer conference for children held in a Salvation Army facility in downtown New York. Here the group of children from 20 or so nations waited on God and interceded for the city. A child of 10 came to the podium as we were sharing what we felt God had said to us and said 'I just have one word, STOP!!'

That was very appropriate for the city that 'never sleeps'. We felt God was telling the city to 'Be Still and know Him' and especially talking to the body of Christ in that city to have their priority to seek God first in everything.

Many relationships were forged across the nations during this time and networking which can only be beneficial for the various areas of prayer represented.

Please pray for the new president of the General Assembly as of 15th September who is an ambassador from Libya.

By Linda Holt.
Romford Circuit
Interprayer International Partnership.