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MIDDLE EAST

Christians Worldwide Join Jews in Israel to Pray for Peace

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[CBN.com](#) – JERUSALEM - Year after year, Israelis face the pressure of suicide bombings, rocket attacks and international isolation. That is why millions of Christians around the world joined with believers in Jerusalem Sunday to stand with Israel and pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

With the biblical feast of Sukkot in high gear, Christians from dozens of nations have come to Israel's capital.

Jerusalem is on high alert for the holidays, but that has not stopped thousands of Christians who are here to celebrate with Israel, and to pray.

This year marks the first annual Worldwide Day of Prayer for Jerusalem. Organizers pledge not only to pray, but also to show solidarity with Israel, and to encourage Christians to strengthen the roots of their faith.

Robert Stearns, Jerusalem Prayer Organizer, said, "Now is the time to come to Jerusalem, not as a tourist based on what happened in Jerusalem's past, but as one who is building up Zion today, based on what is happening in Jerusalem's present and what is going to happen in Jerusalem's future."

The Christians celebrating the feast say they were led by the scriptures, and by their hearts, to come.

American Christian Hephzibah Bradshaw said, "I love Israel. It's a commandment by the Lord, and to fellowship with my brothers and sisters is a joy."

Sindre Sandnes, a Norwegian Christian, remarked, "I come because I became a Christian one-half year ago and I guess, something in my heart that I want to go to Israel."

For Israelis, battling to hold their ground as a nation, the support of Christians is very welcome.

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin said, "Jerusalem today, with your presence, once again is a beacon for those gentiles, righteous all of you, who recognize the miracles of Israel and our future in

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this city of peace."

In his keynote address, CBN'S Pat Robertson urged Israel to be strong. He said, "And we will pray. God says give Him no rest, and we will give Him no rest until indeed He establishes Jerusalem and makes it His capital and His praise throughout all the nations of the Earth. God bless you, and thank you very much."

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