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Wednesday, October 6, 2004

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CHRISTIANITY'S JEWISH ROOTS

## Day to Pray: The Jerusalem Peace Initiative

By **Nena Benigno**  
*CBN Correspondent*



[CBN.com](#) -- "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces.' For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, 'peace be within you.' Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good" (Psalm 122:6-9).

Thousands of Christians from all over the world visiting Israel for the Feast of Tabernacles gathered recently to launch the International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem.

Israeli government leaders, including Knesset [parliamentary] members Dr. Yuri Shtern and Gilad Erdan; Chief Rabbi of Efrat, Israel, Dr. Shlomo Riskin; and Christian ministry heads, including CBN founder and chairman [Dr. M.G. Pat Robertson](#); gathered at the Wohl Rose Garden bordering the Israel Knesset for the historic global prayer initiative.

Christian congregations in more than 70 nations, including 2,000 evangelical Christians gathered in a rented stadium in Paris, France, prayed simultaneously with the assembly in Jerusalem.

This prayer initiative, organized by Eagles' Wings ministry, with the help of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), serves to set apart the first Sunday of October, the season of the Feast and Yom Kippur, as a global prayer day for peace in Jerusalem.

Although one of the most embattled cities of the world, Jerusalem is nonetheless beloved by God and will one day be the site of Christ's return as Yeshua HaMashiach ("Jesus the Messiah" in Hebrew). As the prophet Zechariah puts it, "He who touches you [Jerusalem] touches the apple of His [God's] eye" (Zechariah 2:8).

[Pat Comments at The Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem](#)

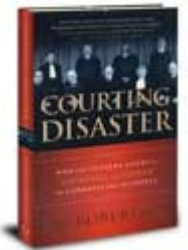
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Special guests at the prayer launch took turns expounding on the vital need for prayer warriors and allies for Jerusalem, and expressed their commitment to stand as "watchmen," or intercessors, for the land.



Knesset member Dr. Yuri Shtern, co-chairman of the Christian Allies Caucus, thanked Christians for the sincerity of their long-term support for Israel.

"Who can we rely upon? Only those people who believe in God, you the Christian people of the world who believe in the Bible," he said. "Your support for Israel is not conditioned by the [pressures from the] oil market, by money, but by your faith."



Rabbi Dr. Schlomo Riskin thanked the Christians for their show of support. He said that the prospect of a world where "nation shall not lift up sword against nation seems like a far-fetched dream." But he added, "The presence of thousands of Christians in Israel makes this dream a reality, you and the 70 to 80 million evangelical Christians who have held out your hand and embraced us with your love and your faith. Together, we must make certain that Jerusalem, the City of Peace, is not only our destination, but our united destiny .... the universal beginning of world peace, through your love and with God's direction."



The prayer convocation ended with the entire crowd praying simultaneously, each in his or her own language, for the peace of Jerusalem.

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Nena Benigno is the head writer of the Christian Broadcasting Network Asia and scriptwriter of The 700 Club Asia.

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