



## The use of Flags and Banners during a Prayer Watch

The ICDF Prayer Watch teams visited Israel in 2012 and 2015 and will go again next year. For the first time there was also a Prayer Watch combined with a conference that took place in Ghana in 2016. Each time we have found flags/banners an important part of our effectiveness. As we carry them around on our prayer trips people will often stop us and ask what country they come from or what they represent. It gives a great opportunity to share about the Faith and what we are doing. Sometimes people wanted their photos taken with them after they had talked or prayed with us.

They are also effective for those who are wielding them extending their movement and prayer, helping any self-consciousness as attention is drawn to the banner rather than the person using it. There is something very powerful in praying with a banner, emphasising the prayer, feeling its power and movement and so helping to increase faith, authority and ministry.

When we were using a script the banners worked well in combination with movement to suggest the elements and parts of a story. As they were abstract they succeeded in representing concepts, God and non-human elements. They also helped to draw people's attention to what we were doing because they could be seen at a distance and attract interest with their movement and colour.

On the Prayer Watch in 2015 we used a script for the first time together with acting, dance and banners. The four parts of the script covered the salvation story from Genesis to Revelation and included scripture, declaration and prayers. As we went from place to place we chose the section/s of the script that seemed most appropriate for what we wanted to pray for in that area.

We had four flags/banners from David Stanfield's collection to represent the four elements and four important theological truths. The blood flag was used to represent both blood of sacrifice and the earth; a white and blue banner I had specially ordered represented air and the Holy Spirit; the fire banner was also used for glory; and the blue water flag for water and the Holy Spirit.

- We started with Creation and the Air flag represented God breathing into Man the breath of life.
- In Sacrifice for Sin the red and blue flags represented the water and blood used in OT sacrifice as the two flag bearers worshipped around the altar as Abraham sacrificed. With the Cross long red and blue cloths were placed coming out from the cross on the ground and people were invited to come to the cross while the blue and red cloths were waved over them prayerfully.
- For Reddigging the wells and releasing the power of the Holy Spirit we used the blue flag for the water, waving it over the well, and the fire and wind flags were effective for the coming of the Holy Spirit in the upper room.
- In Preparing the way for the Messiah all the flags were used in celebration.

When we return next year we will also be taking national flags with us as we remember and pray for the nations who took part in the liberation of the Holy Land in 1917 from the Ottoman Empire, so enabling the establishment of Israel and the return of Jews from all over the world.

*Mary Jones*