

## HOUSE OF COMMONS London SW1A 0AA

1<sup>st</sup> May 2013

Dear church leader,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Christians in Parliament All Party Parliamentary Group in the Houses of Parliament. Christians in Parliament exists to support Parliamentarians in putting their faith into practice in politics and to demonstrate the importance of Christianity in our public life. In order to achieve this, the group facilitates weekly bible studies, prayer and fellowship groups, and during the year hosts a variety of larger events in Parliament that seek to demonstrate to all Parliamentarians the relevance of the Christian faith in our private and public life.

This year we are writing to church leaders and church network leaders throughout the country to encourage them to develop closer relationships with their local MP. The purpose of this is twofold: to support the witness of the church in word and deed in our local communities and at a national level to strengthen the work of communicating the Christian faith to our Parliamentarians. We would invite you to do three things in particular:

- 1. As a local church or ideally as a group of local churches, make an appointment to go and meet your local MP - ask them how you can support them in serving local communities, tell them what you are already doing to serve people locally and think of ways in which you can partner with your local MP on campaigns or projects
- 2. Tell your MP that you would like to pray for them regularly and ask them what you could pray for them. Perhaps form a prayer group in your church or amongst a group of local churches that will pray regularly for your MP and for Christian witness in our national life (Christians in Parliament produces a quarterly prayer letter that can be subscribed to through its website)
- 3. Invite them to the annual National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast in Parliament (25 June 2013) and sit with them at a table. The Breakfast is non-denominational and is a key opportunity in the year to communicate the relevance of the Christian faith to all Parliamentarians. This year, our main speaker will be Professor John Lennox, a

renowned Christian apologist, who will speak on "Belief in God in 21st Century Britain". MPs are far more likely to attend if they receive a personal invitation from the churches in their constituencies. MPs are able to attend the Breakfast free of charge - for more details of how to book and invite your MP, please see <u>nationalprayerbreakfast.org.uk</u>

We very much hope and pray that you will be able to join with us in bringing hope to our nation at both a national and a local level. For more information on the work of Christians in Parliament, please visit <u>christiansinparliament.org.uk</u>. We would love to hear from you about any contact that you have made with your MP and if you will be coming to the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast with them. Please contact us at <u>christiansinparliament@gmail.com</u>.

With many thanks and best wishes,

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GARY STREETER MP