



PRAYING THROUGH THE WINDOW 7

Political & Spiritual Leaders

BAHRAIN


Leaders:


King, Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Bahrain's strategic location in the Persian Gulf has brought rule from the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians and finally the Arabs, under whom the island became Muslim. It has a hereditary kingdom under the rule of the Al-Khalifa family, ruling through consultation with ministers. In 2000, non-Muslims were appointed to their Consultative Council, including four women (one of whom is a Christian) and a Jewish businessman. In September of 2000, Emir Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa proclaimed himself King and the chief executive head of state. His uncle Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Ali Khalifa is the prime minister and is head of government. King Hamad has worked to improve civil rights and increase democratic reforms. He has also stated his intention to have a house of the legislative portion of the government that is composed of delegates elected by both males and females. He has kept his word, as in October of 2002, Bahrain turned itself into a constitutional monarchy and allowed women to stand for office in a package of reforms. And in April of this past year, Nada Haffadh was made health minister, becoming the very first woman in Bahrain to be appointed to head a government ministry.

Prayer points:

 Pray that God will draw the King to Himself.

 Pray the King and Prime Minister be given good counsel by his non-Muslim counselors.

LORD of the Nations, we rejoice as we see Your hand in this kingdom rule. You tell us that You turn the thoughts of kings just as water is turned into irrigation ditches. We praise You that King Hamad and his uncle the prime minister are seeking counsel from a Christian woman! Glory to You, God! Cause her to give good counsel and give her favor with the king and prime minister so that they continue to listen. Thank you that this kingdom respects women and is willing to receive wise counsel from other faiths. We pray that the king and prime minister would hear the words of truth being spoken--and even the Gospel of Christ, so they could both come into the Kingdom of light, we ask and pray mightily in the name of Jesus our LORD.