

# PRAYER ALERT...

An initiative of the Prayer Forum of the British Isles & Ireland  
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## ■ Praise Reports

- [Over 100 days of the Welsh Outpouring](#)
- [School axes 'explicit' sex education DVD](#)
- [Historic non-stop prayer sweeps Muslim Indonesia](#)

## ■ British Isles & Ireland

- [School children encouraged to 'go for it'](#)
- [Lap-dancing jobs advertised on Govt website – despite ban](#)
- [Civic, faith and political leaders welcome Just Festival](#)
- [Prayer Spaces in Schools](#)
- [Britain third biggest porn host after Netherland and the U.S.](#)
- [Online game firms need to do more to prevent addiction](#)

## ■ Europe

- [Spain and Gibraltar border crossing dispute continues](#)
- [Hungary: Men found guilty in Roma killings](#)

## ■ Worldwide

- [NIGERIA: The judiciary](#)
- [Global: Christians martyred every 5 minutes](#)
- [Yemen: Al-Qaeda threats](#)
- [Zimbabwe: Post election](#)
- [Algeria: Ramadan daylight picnic](#)
- [Iran: Plight of religious minorities](#)
- [Afghanistan: Negotiations with insurgents](#)

## PRAISE REPORTS

### ■ Over 100 days of the Welsh Outpouring

Crowds continue to flock to Cwmbran, hungry to experience the manifest presence of God. What has been witnessed is amazing. Well over 900 people have come to Christ and hundreds have reported healings since April 10th! Last night was absolutely incredible! Many people came to Christ and we also heard from Rhianna, a young girl who had a life-threatening brain tumour. Her doctors are amazed and declared her free of cancer last week! Another woman who came to Cwmbran two weeks ago, was in touch today, to tell us that after receiving prayer for suicidal desires, she has been completely set free. Another woman has reported that her arthritis has been much improved and that she has no pain! We are continuing day by day to listen to God and obey His voice. Every day is different, but one thing never changes - Jesus. He is still the answer. (See Prayer Alerts 19-20-22-25&28)

**Praise:** God for His continued blessing and this outpouring. (Ps.85:6)

**More:** <http://www.victorychurch.co.uk/100-days-of-the-welsh-outpouring>

### ■ School axes 'explicit' sex education DVD

A primary school in Sussex has scrapped a sex education DVD after parents complained about its explicit content. Governors at Turners Hill Primary School ruled that the video was not in keeping with their ethos following concerns about sexually graphic scenes. From September the video, which had been used for a year, will be replaced with a new discussion-based PowerPoint presentation. Parents will be invited to see the new material before the pupils see it and may withdraw their child from the lessons if they wish. Head teacher of the Church of England school, Oliver Burcombe, supports the governors' decision. He said policies had been reviewed, and it was decided all materials 'should be changed and based more around Christian principles'.

**Praise:** God that wise decisions have been made and pray for guidance to those who have the responsibility to teach our children. (Pr.1:5)

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/school-axes-explicit-sex-ed-dvd-after-parents-complaints/>

### ■ Historic non-stop prayer sweeps Muslim Indonesia

A powerful prayer movement is rising in the world's largest Muslim nation. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, Indonesian Christians intercede for their country. It was a scene never witnessed before in Indonesia's history. 'I don't know another nation on earth like Indonesia where the church has become so passionate and united in prayer,' Tom Victor, with the American-based Great Commission Coalition, said. Last year, more than 9,000 Christians from around the world descended on the Indonesian archipelago for a massive prayer gathering led by scores of Indonesian churches united to see the name of Jesus Christ lifted. Dr. Bambang Widjaya was a key architect of the event. 'We can see the zeal, not only among the evangelical or Pentecostals, but also in the mainline churches and Catholic that we need to spread the Good News of Christ all over the country,' Widjaya said. (See Prayer Alert 20-2012 World Prayer Assembly)

**Praise:** God for His grace and favour. Long may it continue! (2Cor.4:15)

**More:** [http://www.openheaven.com/forums/forum\\_posts.asp?TID=43816&PN=1](http://www.openheaven.com/forums/forum_posts.asp?TID=43816&PN=1)

## BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

### ■ School children encouraged to 'go for it'

Hundreds of primary school children breaking up for the summer were encouraged to 'go for it' in life and look after others. A special service at Llandaff Cathedral before the start of the school holidays was led by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, and the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne. The service was attended by year 6 pupils from 21 Church in Wales primary schools across the Diocese of Llandaff who will be starting their secondary schools in September. They were joined by their parish priests who are regular visitors at the school, helping out in lessons and with services and assemblies. Bishop Wilbourne said 'So in life, go for it. Be bothered, go for every opportunity you are handed and wherever you arrive, make sure you share and look after others.' After the service, the pupils were each handed a bookmark as a symbol of the diocese's love and care for them.

**Pray:** for all year 6 pupils around the country who have left their primary schools and will be starting their secondary education in a few weeks time. (Heb.12:1)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/school.children.encouraged.to.try.their.best/33284.htm>

### ■ Lap-dancing jobs advertised on Govt website – despite ban

Jobs in an explicit lap-dancing club have been placed on a Government vacancies site, despite the Coalition banning such adverts from appearing three years ago. Vacancies for a Norwich-based club – which offers 'topless to fully nude dances' – featured on the Universal Jobmatch website last week. They included jobs for a table top dancer and an entertainment dancer, and sought candidates who were 'very well-groomed'. The lap-dancing club says as well as offering 'main-stage entertainment', it also provides 'private dances in our basement booths', or on 'dance beds from topless to fully nude'. It adds: 'Some of our booths are also equipped with poles for your very own private pole dancer to perform for you.' Labour MP Stella Creasy criticised the job adverts, telling The Independent newspaper they were 'degrading'.

**Pray:** that the authorities will impose the ban on this type of advertising and deal with those responsible. (Ps.36:1)

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/lap-dancing-jobs-advertised-on-govt-website-%E2%80%93-despite-ban/>

### ■ Civic, faith and political leaders welcome Just Festival

The Scottish Government, the European Parliament, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and civic and faith leaders were among those involved in the official opening of the 2013 Just Festival. Hundreds of people turned out for the occasion at St John's Episcopal Church, in the heart of Edinburgh, on Saturday 3 August. Just Festival is the largest multi-ethnic and multi-faith event of its kind. This year it features 129 events across 450 performances and 28 venues from 2-26 August. As ever, the vibrant multi-cultural mix of the Festival is a key feature of its continuing popularity and it is great to see a continued commitment to building positive relations within the diverse communities of Scotland. Each year, there are some fantastic and engaging talks on important topics such as peace-making, the future of Scotland and working to eliminate sectarianism and discrimination. We wish the Just Festival and all involved in it the very best for their busy programme.'

**Pray:** for all those running and visiting this festival throughout August. Pray that its impact will be positive and long lasting. (Rev.5:9)

**More:** <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/18720>

### ■ Prayer Spaces in Schools

During 2008, a handful of people around the UK seemed to stumble onto the same idea at roughly the same time - to set up creative prayer rooms in primary and secondary schools, to make prayer simple and accessible to children and young people. By the end of the year, at least six Prayer Spaces in Schools had taken place. During 2009, having heard encouraging stories from students and teachers from the first six schools, a further 12 schools decided to host one in their locality. Again, all the feedback seemed very positive. Six months into 2010, more than 50 had taken place around the UK. The response of children and young people, and of the schools, to this simple idea has been extraordinary. With over 500 Prayer Spaces interest coming from many other places, Prayer Spaces in Schools are running two 'How to run Prayer Spaces' day conferences and Development Days – click on the 'More' link.

**Pray:** that God will continue to bless this work and that the young people will grow in understanding. (2Chr.6:35)

**More:** <http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/home>

### ■ Britain third biggest porn host after Netherland and the U.S.

Britain hosts the third biggest volume of internet pornography in the world and is home to more than half a million sites, according to a shocking survey. There are more than 52million pages of pornographic content in the country, including rape websites registered under the national domain name which ends co.uk. The revelation that Britain is one of the most popular worldwide locations to host adult websites will intensify pressure on the Government to provide an opt-out system for online porn. There are no restrictions on pornographers registering their sites under Britain's domain name, for which a private company called Nominet UK is responsible. John Carr, a government adviser on child internet safety, called on Nominet to ban websites containing certain words like rape and said the 'free for all' should end. He said that all porn sites should be under the domain name .xxx and declared: 'The UK should not provide succour and comfort to porn merchants.' (See also Prayer Alert 30-2013)

**Pray:** that the Government will move forward their plans to control internet pornography, crime and other misuse. (Col.3:23)

**More:** <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2384629/Britain-home-half-million-porn-websites-UK-hosts-biggest-volume-adult-content.html#ixzz2bBTcJj6E>

### ■ Online game firms need to do more to prevent addiction

Online game companies need to do more to prevent players becoming too addicted in order to avoid Government intervention, a study has warned. Researchers at Cardiff, Derby and Nottingham Trent universities said some gamers play up to 90 hours a session, developing a 'pathological' addiction. They say while conventional video games have an ending, role-playing games involving numerous players may not. But the gaming body Ukie said it took the health of users seriously. It said it had a number of measures in place to ensure that games could be enjoyed safely and sensibly. The universities' research warned that if game companies did not create restraints for players and their games grew in popularity, Western governments might have no choice but to follow Asia and limit usage. The study, published in the Addiction Research and

Theory Journal, has said Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs) are an inexhaustible system of goals and success.

**Pray:** that Online Gaming companies will bring the necessary controls into place that would help those addicted to gambling. (1Jn.5:19)

**More:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-23576035>

## EUROPE

### Spain and Gibraltar border crossing dispute continues

Tensions have escalated between Spain and Gibraltar over long delays at the border crossing because of increased vehicle searches. The British territory has claimed the recent tough measures on the border by its northern neighbour was because of the creation of an unpopular artificial reef. Some say Spain is blowing this ongoing situation out of proportion to take the voting Spaniard minds of serious problems closer to home. Prime Minister David Cameron and the Foreign Office have said they are concerned about comments made by Spain's Foreign Minister, Jose Manuel Garcia who has suggested a 50 euro fee for crossing the Spain-Gibraltar border could be imposed. There have also been complaints about excessive border checks causing delays in and out of Spain. The latest tension has flared up around an artificial reef, which Madrid claims is harming their fishermen. The Catholic Bishop of Gibraltar the Rt Rev Ralph Heskett urges people to pray for harmony.

**Pray:** for wisdom and harmony for the governments as they seek a solution to this situation. (Ex.18:19b)

**More:** <http://www.euronews.com/2013/08/06/spain-and-gibraltar-border-crossing-dispute-continues/>

### Hungary: Men found guilty in Roma killings

Survivors of one of Eastern Europe's deadliest wave of attacks against Roma since World War II received some justice Tuesday, August 6, as four Hungarian men were found guilty of killing six Roma people including a five-year-old child. Brothers Arpad and Istvan Kiss and Zsolt Peto received life imprisonment for attacking Roma villages with guns, grenades and firebombs. The men, who were between ages 28 and 42 during the violence, have denied wrongdoing. The fourth suspect István Csontos, who served as a driver to his accomplices, was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment. He admitted to cooperation but denied active involvement in the murders. At the time, BosNewsLife visited the village of Tatárszentgyörgy, where one of the most serious atrocities happened, and published this report.

**Pray:** for the Roma people that further persecution would cease. (Ps.5:11b)

**More:** <http://www.bosnewslife.com/>

## WORLDWIDE

### NIGERIA: The judiciary

Nigeria's criminal justice system is utterly failing Nigerian people and a majority of prisoners are not convicted of any crime. Amnesty International reported 'The problems in Nigeria's criminal justice system - especially its prisons - are so blatant and egregious that the Nigerian government has had no choice but to recognize them and has pledged many times to reform the system.' We are asked to pray that beyond their technical ability, the Holy Spirit will help judicial officers discern the guilty from the innocent and liars from those who tell the truth. Ask God to raise God-fearing people through whom there will be a cleansing and purging of the judiciary and an honouring of the work of righteous the work of lawyers, judges and magistrates. Pray for God to expose wicked and corrupt judges so as to discourage them from evil. Ask God to put godly people in the National Judiciary Council, the body in charge of appointments. Ask Him to use the Nigerian Judiciary as a tool to make the nation law-abiding. For more insights into prayer for Nigeria; <http://www.pray4nigeria.org/>

**Pray:** for God to build up the remnants of the Judiciary that are still just and honourable. (Ps 89:14 & Is.28:6)

**More:** [http://www.pray4nigeria.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=332:day-8-judiciary&catid=47&Itemid=285](http://www.pray4nigeria.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=332:day-8-judiciary&catid=47&Itemid=285)

### Global: Christians martyred every 5 minutes

Few realize we are living through the largest persecution of Christians in history; worse than the Roman emperors Diocletian and Nero. Estimates of the numbers of Christians under assault range from 100 million to 200 million. According to one estimate a Christian is martyred every five minutes. Most persecution is taking place at the hands of Muslims. Of the top 50 countries persecuting Christians 42 have either a Muslim majority or sizeable Muslim populations. The extent of this tragedy is being met with a shrug by most of the Western media. Reports and witnesses that appear in Arabic newspapers, news shows and websites rarely get translated into English or picked up by the Western press. The extent of the persecution forestalls any claims that it is a marginal problem. Victims are forgotten and their suffering is lost because of indifference or inattention of the media and government officials.

**Pray:** for God in His mercy to work through the media to highlight this human rights disaster. (Ps.38:20-22 & Pr.8:5-7)

**More:** <http://blog.godreports.com/2013/08/crucified-again-christians-being-martyred-every-five-minutes-around-the-world/#more-3931>

### Yemen: Al-Qaeda threats

'Al-Qaeda successfully restructured its global network and has the capability to carry out a wide range of terror attacks against Western targets' reports a detailed US intelligence assessment. See <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/embassy-threat-came-bugged-al-qaeda-call-202202492.html#9cEfwGB> This week the US State Department stepped up security measures against al-Qaeda threats in the Arabian Peninsula and most US embassy personnel were ordered out of Yemen. Intelligence from telephone conversations between the head of al-Qaeda and the head of its affiliate in Yemen revealed plans to carry out a plot thought to be one of the most serious against Western interests since September 11, 2001. All U.S.

citizens are urged to evacuate the country. Baptist Global Response says that while Westerners can pull out, the citizens and refugees in Yemen are vulnerable due to 'the wars, conflicts and terrorism'. Also there's collateral damage - people with families and children who don't have any stake in the fight one way or the other but are the victims on the outside of the threat who need to flee their homes, flee their country.

**Pray:** for the people of Yemen and especially those needing aid. Pray for safety, peace and for the name of Christ to be proclaimed in the midst of turmoil. (Ps.10:17-18)

**More:** <http://mnnonline.org/article/18840>

#### ■ Zimbabwe: Post election

Robert Mugabe's re-election raised fears by police that MDC-T (the opposition party) plans Egypt-style mass demonstrations. Mr Tsvangirai does not recognise the results citing irregularities in the polling process and said MDC-T would have nothing to do with the Government. He directed MDC-T members who won seats in the election to boycott Parliament. However, some of his party's winning candidates see no reason why they should not go to Parliament and represent people who voted for them, saying Mr Tsvangirai should be concentrating on a court battle where the party lost. Others suggest Mr Tsvangirai is trying to block MPs from going to Parliament because he feared the results had set the ground for MDC-T Secretary-General Tendai Biti to take over the party's presidency. Meanwhile fresh turbulence rocked the MDC-T in Matabeleland South as the party's rebels claim they are still office holders within the party while officials have pronounced their expulsion.

**Pray:** that the people of Zimbabwe would remain positive and hopeful during this time of uncertainty pray for peace and stability. (Ps.36:1-4 & 10-11)

**More:** <http://zimbabweelection.com/2013/08/06/is-mdc-t-heading-for-another-split/>

#### ■ Algeria: Ramadan daylight picnic

In 2010 two Algerian Christians were taken to court for publicly breaking the Ramadan fast although they were later acquitted. This week 200 people ate together at a public lunch in the town of Tizi Ouzou - protesting against the 'persecution of non-fasters and creeping Islamisation' in northern Algeria. One protester named Malik said that recently some Christians were sitting quietly in a cafeteria (which opens during the day throughout Ramadan) when police came and took down the names of all who were there. The police asked the café's owner to report to the police station and confiscated some of his legal documents. Another picnic was held simultaneously in the town of Aokas in the neighbouring Béjaïa Province, which attracted over 100 people. The picnic caused a number of local Islamic associations to express indignation and call on the state to punish those involved. In Algeria, where Islam is the state religion, breaking the Ramadan fast by Muslims in public is punishable by fine and imprisonment, but those being harassed are Christian.

**Pray:** for the values of tolerance and respect to be in Christian/Muslim relationships, particularly during the month of Ramadan. (1Mat.7:12)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/algerians.stage.picnics.in.protest.against.forced.fasting/33516.htm>

#### ■ Iran: Plight of religious minorities

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) has voiced concern about the future for religious minorities in Iran after a fatwa, or religious edict was issued against the Baha'i community. The fatwa, or religious edict, was issued by the Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on 31 July. It labels Baha'i as a 'deviant and misleading sect' and calls on Iranians to avoid them. Baha'i has over 300,000 followers. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom puts the number of Baha'is currently being held in prison for their beliefs at 110. They suffer further discrimination in employment and learning, being excluded from further education and public sector jobs. CSW said that as ultimate power lies with the Supreme Leader it was questionable whether newly installed President Hassan Rouhani could meet his promise to rule with moderation and ensure the rights of religious minorities. The fatwa calls into question the possibility of any early improvements in the plight of all Iran's religious minorities including Christians.

**Pray:** for God to inspire the leadership of Iran to protect and treat minority groups fairly. (Dan.11:1)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/fatwa.against.bahai.community.prompts.concerns.for.irans.religious.minority/33484.htm>

#### ■ Afghanistan: Negotiations with insurgents

Hamid Karzai said he would guarantee the security of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar if he decided to enter into talks. Omar (of the Hotak tribe) ruled the country until 2001. The US has offered a multimillion dollar reward for his capture. The tribe of President Karzai is the Popalzai and while he is the most famous Popalzai in Afghanistan Abdul Ghani Baradar is considered key to Afghanistan's future. Baradar was Minister of Defence in the Taliban government prior to 2001. The relationship between the two Popalzai men goes back a long way. Popalzais are more loyal to their own tribe than to the regime in Kabul or the Taliban - tribal contacts are more important than ideology. Prior to his detention in Pakistan Mullah Baradar attempted to establish peace negotiations between Kabul's administration and Taliban's inner circle of leaders. Mullah Baradar is currently on a list of Taliban prisoners that the Pakistani government is talking about releasing for some influence in return.

**Pray:** that God's will would be done in the midst of all that is happening and that it will result in peace for the region. (Mat.6:10)

**More:** <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/nov/17/afghanistan-taliban>

## PRAYER FORUM OF THE BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

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