

PRAYER ALERT...

'If my people....will humble themselves and pray' 2 Chr 7:14

Informing and equipping Christians - Online and to Inbox

www.prayer-alert.net

editor@prayer-alert.net

Issue 42-2014

Website

Contact Us

Donations

Thursday 30 Oct 2014

■ Praise Reports

- [Middle East: The extraordinary move of God](#)
- [EU gives \\$254 million more to fight Ebola](#)

■ British Isles & Ireland

- [Private prosecution of 'gender-selection' abortion doctors](#)
- [Thousands 'too ashamed' to say they have dementia](#)
- [Downgrade marriage, family judge suggests](#)
- [Archbishop of Canterbury: 'Don't demonise immigrants'](#)
- [Children too often treated as 'small adults' by Police](#)
- [Cinema pastors to lead prayers after Ragamuffin film](#)
- [Halloween is far from harmless](#)

■ Europe

- [EU reaches deal on CO2 emissions cut](#)
- [Shock in Germany after anti-Islam riot in Cologne](#)

■ Worldwide

- [West Africa: Hope and courage in an Ebola ward](#)
- [South Africa: Oscar trial over – a broader look at media/justice system](#)
- [Iraq: IS uses intelligence to purge opponents](#)
- [South Sudan: Child soldiers still being recruited](#)
- [Canada: Terror attack a 'wake-up call'](#)
- [Nigeria: Idolatry in high places](#)

PRAISE REPORTS

■ Middle East: The extraordinary move of God

God is touching hearts in powerful ways, unleashing His Spirit among refugees, their families, and into surrounding communities and nations. 'There is something happening right now that is unprecedented,' says Brother Thomas, from All Nations. 'The spiritual openness is incredible.' As he toured a ramshackle refugee camp composed of cardboard, wood slats and plastic tarps, he found many who had visions and dreams of Jesus. 'Almost every family we visited had some kind of experience, either through dreams or someone had given them a New Testament in the medical clinic or prayed for them. There was fear and uncertainty about the future. Because the war is Muslim against Muslim they have a feeling there has to be something better. They are looking for answers. Over and over we saw people who have questions, who want to know more about Jesus.' Other Christian workers are equally amazed. Some have been there 17-20 years and it is mind boggling for them.

Praise: [God for this move of His Kingdom in the refugee camps, as it spreads to searching for lost people.\(Lk.15:6\)](#)

More: <http://blog.godreports.com/2014/10/the-extraordinary-move-of-god-in-middle-east/>

■ EU gives \$254 million more to fight Ebola

European leaders agreed to \$1.26 billion in funding to fight Ebola in West Africa by the end of the year at an EU summit in Brussels on Friday. Over the weekend the first \$254 million was put at the disposal of international efforts, including almost \$30.5 million toward the development of a vaccine. 'In the case of the Ebola disease, the international community, all of us, underestimated the danger and the extent of the threat,' said commissioner-elect for humanitarian aid and crisis management, Christos Stylianides. Stylianides is the EU's new Ebola response coordinator, a decision that also came out of last Friday's meeting. As for how the money allocated by EU is being spent, 'we have sent medical and humanitarian experts to the affected countries and deployed mobile laboratories,' he said. 'We are getting vital supplies shipped to the region.'

Praise: [God for this agreement to provide funding to counter the Ebola epidemic. Pray for effective and speedy results. \(Phil.1:6\)](#)

More: <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/1046463-eu-gives-254-million-more-to-fight-ebola/>

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ Private prosecution of 'gender-selection' abortion doctors

A member of the public has taken the dramatic step of starting criminal proceedings against two doctors who were identified by a national newspaper as authorising the abortion of two babies because they were not the sex that the mother wanted.

In two instances doctors were recorded offering to arrange abortions after being told that the mother did not want to go ahead with the pregnancy because of the sex of the unborn child. At the Pall Mall Medical Centre in Manchester, Dr Parabha Sivaraman was filmed giving consent for a woman to have an abortion purely on the grounds that the pre-born child was the 'wrong gender'. The second was at the Calthorpe Clinic in Birmingham where Dr Raj Mohan was secretly filmed offering to arrange an abortion for a woman who said she wanted to abort her baby because it was a girl.

Pray: for the success of these proceedings and that it will lead to gender selection being stopped. (Ps.119:39)

More: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/abortion/private-prosecution-of-%E2%80%98gender-selection%E2%80%99-abortion-doctors>

▣ Thousands 'too ashamed' to say they have dementia

Thousands of dementia patients are hiding symptoms from loved ones and doctors because they are ashamed, a report warns. It compares the stigma to that of HIV and Aids in the 1980s and says that as many as a quarter of those suffering are refusing to speak out. Doctors say patients tell them how their friends 'disappeared' after they were diagnosed and in some cases how their own children have stopped visiting. A joint report led by the Medical Research Council warns that this 'unacceptable stigma' is denying patients vital help and resulting in them being 'marginalised' from the rest of society. Around 850,000 patients in Britain are thought to have dementia but only half have been given a proper diagnosis. The Government is urging GPs to improve their detection rates over concerns that victims and their families are struggling in silence.

Pray: for greater awareness and better understanding of dementia so that it will cease carry an unacceptable stigma. (2Tim.1:7)

More: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2808888/Thousands-ashamed-tell-family-doctors-dementia-Report-compares-stigma-HIV-1980s.html>

▣ Downgrade marriage, family judge suggests

A family judge says marriage and cohabitation should be put on the same legal footing when relationships break down – but a newspaper columnist says he is 'utterly and sadly mistaken'. Sir Nicholas Mostyn's comments were reportedly aimed at Sir Paul Coleridge – a former High Court judge who has spoken out in favour of traditional marriage. He also claimed that there was no evidence to prove marriage is more stable than a co-habiting relationship. However, columnist Sarah Vine said there was a 'mountain of academic research proving beyond doubt that married couples are healthier, wealthier, happier and less likely to break-up than co-habiting ones. All these benefits also apply to the children of married parents'. Last year research from the Marriage Foundation said only one in eight children born to cohabiting couples will reach the age of 16 with their parents still together and unmarried.

Pray: against the slow yet unrelenting nibbling away of the status of marriage in our society - rather that marriage would be positively encouraged. (Heb.13:4)

More: <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/downgrade-marriage-family-judge-suggests/>

▣ Archbishop of Canterbury: 'Don't demonise immigrants'

The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned politicians not to demonise immigrants, a day after a Cabinet minister suggested that some parts of the country felt 'swamped' by foreign arrivals. Justin Welby said on Monday that he was worried about the language used in the debate. 'We have 9,000 clergy working and living in 16,000 parishes. We have better reports from the grassroots than almost anyone. What we are seeing is an upsurge of minor racist, anti-semitic, anti-Islamic, anti-foreigner xenophobia – not major things – just comments being made, things being said which are for the people who grew up in those backgrounds seriously uncomfortable, really quite frightening.'

Pray: for the debate on immigration to retain respect for those seeking to enter the UK (Lev.19:33)

More: <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/oct/27/archbishop-canterbury-justin-welby-warns-not-demonise-immigrants-michael-fallon-swampedb>

▣ Children too often treated as 'small adults' by Police

Children and young people have a 'profound lack of trust' in the Police, bordering on fear in some cases, a report by MPs and peers has suggested. Children are often treated as 'small adults', with their specific needs disregarded, according to the all-party parliamentary group for children. Negative experiences, such as arrest and stop and search procedures, breeds 'frustration and anger', it warned. It urged changes to training, custody facilities and safeguarding approaches. Publishing the findings of an 18-month inquiry, the committee said children and young people's first contact with the police was vital in shaping their attitudes towards them. 'For a significant number of children and young people, this experience is a negative one as a victim or suspected offender,' the report said.

Pray: that ways will be found by the police to build positive relationships with children and young people. (Phil.2:5)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-29795053>

▣ Cinema pastors to lead prayers after Ragamuffin film

A Christian film distributor wants to recruit more than 100 pastors to hold prayers at multi-screen cinemas in the UK. Kingdom Cinema is run by the Rev George Hargreaves, a former music producer and leader of the Christian Party. He began distributing Christian films last year, with one, God's Not Dead, reaching the top 20 in April. Now he wants pastors to speak and pray after screenings in December of Ragamuffin, a film about a Christian musician. He has negotiated with chains like Cineworld and Odeon for the pastors to address audiences after the movie which tells the story of Rich Mullins, who struggled with addiction and depression. Rev Hargreaves said: 'It is not bashing people over the head with a Bible or making people embarrassed. It will be a few minutes at the end of the screening just to wrap up the themes and let the audience know more about our faith.'

Pray: that the recruiting of pastors to support Christian films will bring many to an understanding of who Jesus is. (Ps.20:2)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-29691329>

■ Halloween is far from harmless

Christian speaker Rev J John questions what Halloween stands for and believes it is getting 'darker and nastier' each year. Halloween has become one of the biggest events in the British calendar. There have always been traditions associated with 31 October, but the present extravaganza, with its epidemic of 'trick-or-treating', is a recent phenomenon. Financially, Halloween is now, after Christmas and Easter, our third highest grossing celebration. When people talk about what happens on 31 October a little phrase commonly heard is that Halloween is 'harmless nonsense'. But is it indeed harmless? Is it merely nonsense? It's time to do some hard thinking. JJohn gives you six reasons why Halloween is not harmless: 1. Halloween celebrates evil. 2. Halloween is unhelpful: 3. Halloween trivialises bad things: 4. Halloween is offensive: 5. Halloween is getting worse: 6. Halloween allows evil a victory.' Click on the 'More' link for details.

Pray: for many opportunities for Christians to expose the truth about this so called 'harmless nonsense'. (Ps.97:10)

More: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/opinion/news-opinion/reverend-j-john-six-reasons-2486777>

EUROPE

■ EU reaches deal on CO2 emissions cut

European Union leaders have reached what they described as the world's most ambitious climate change targets for 2030, paving the way for a new UN-backed global treaty next year. The 28 leaders on Friday finally overcame divisions at an EU summit in Brussels to reach a deal including a commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% compared to 1990 levels. They also agreed on 27% targets for renewable energy supply and efficiency gains, in spite of reservations from some member states about the cost of the measures. The EU wanted to agree on the targets ahead of a summit in Paris in November and December 2015, where it is hoped the world will agree to a new phase of the Kyoto climate accords which run until 2020. The agreement puts the EU 'in the driving seat' ahead of the Paris conference, European Commission head Jose Manuel Barroso said.

Pray: that the promises made in this meeting will make a difference for the future. (1Cor.11:19)

More: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/10/eu-reaches-deal-co2-emissions-cut-20141023232630965538.html>

■ Shock in Germany after anti-Islam riot in Cologne

A trade union representing police officers in Germany voiced shock on Monday after thousands of anti-Islam football hooligans had fought running battles with police in the western city of Cologne the previous day. The self-styled 'Hooligans Against Salafists' rally marked the worst rioting yet by a new alliance where Germany's far-right groups have recruited violence-prone football fans to their anti-foreigner cause. Police, who detained 17 of the 4,000-strong crowd for acts of violence, had to employ water cannon, baton charges and tear gas on Sunday afternoon to regain control of the crowd, which at one point overturned a police van outside Cologne's main railway station. 'If this grouping consolidates and grows further, then I would say we face a new type of violence,' warned Arnold Plickert, head of the North Rhine Westphalia state chapter of the GdP police union.

Pray: against this increase in radical movements. Pray for peace and reconciliation. (Phil.4:7)

More: http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/shock-in-germany-after-anti-islam-hooligans-riot-in-cologne_361464.html

WORLDWIDE

■ West Africa: Hope and courage in an Ebola ward

A report of an eye witness: My journey to Kenema Hospital in Sierra Leone started more than a month before I got there. It is a mental journey and a physical one. On the journey to the hospital we saw many children on the streets. School is cancelled, there are no weddings or baptisms. People had stopped gathering because of Ebola. My experience during my stay there revealed that people can survive this disease when presented to us in time and stay hydrated before and during treatment. Then the mortality was under 40%. The most powerful thing I have ever witnessed was hearing young and old singing songs from the recovery ward. We can improve the mortality rate by improving the number of hands helping and by giving patients the best basic supportive care. Now that I'm back, having seen what I have seen, I could never forgive myself if I did not make another trip. Inside a ward is a microcosm of humanity and almost all of it is kindness and selflessness.

Pray: for more human resources and medical and lab supplies to enable early and continued provision of healthcare and healing. (Dt.25:4)

More: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/goatsandsoda/2014/10/26/355119076/a-doctors-diary-encountering-chaos-and-kindness-in-an-ebola-ward>

■ South Africa: Oscar trial over – a broader look at media/justice system

Reeva's death was tragic and sad - yet it should not be isolated from the deaths of other South Africans. 47 South Africans are killed every day and this means that the day that Reeva was killed, 46 others also had their lives taken away from them. The social status of these other South Africans who were also killed on 14 February 2013 remains anonymous. Anene Booysen was raped, killed and mutilated on the same day but she was hardly an issue for many people because she was an every-day South African teenager from a poverty-stricken background. The media spotlight on Oscar's trial is understandable but in God's eyes Reeva's death is not more important than Anene Booysen, or the deaths of babies during abortion. Is the media pulling the strings on our hearts?

Pray: for the media and its influence over culture to have 'God's Kingdom' perspective. Pray also for the justice system in the Eastern Cape Province, now the most murderous province in South Africa. (Job 34:12)

More: <http://gatewaynews.co.za/with-oscar-trial-over-its-time-for-broader-look-at-justice/>

■ **Iraq: IS uses intelligence to purge opponents**

IS runs a powerful intelligence apparatus that has plenty of security experience acquired by intelligence officers from the previous regime. The apparatus is similar to other intelligence agencies around the world, monitoring and identifying opponents then eliminating them to avoid opposition on its territory. The list of people to eliminate includes tribal sheikhs who have government connections, members of the Awakening movement who have fought against jihadist groups in the past, clerics who oppose IS's extremism and anyone suspected of delivering security information to governmental or other cooperating parties. The number of victims is high and punishments are extremely cruel. Activists who criticized IS's measures were slaughtered in Mosul. Group executions occur. Everyone who opposes IS's religious measures, (eg. imposing the niqab on women) is punished. IS raises its flag on top of the victims' homes to make examples of them, so that others know that someone has been punished.

Pray: for the international intelligence agencies to disable the IS underground intelligence network. Pray for the towns and communities living in terror of IS. (Ps.3:7)

More: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/10/islamic-state-iraq-intelligence-services.html>

■ **South Sudan: Child soldiers still being recruited**

Children in the world's youngest country of South Sudan are being forced to fight on both sides of an ongoing civil war. The United Nations estimates that there are 11,000 child soldiers in South Sudan's rebel and government armies. It is a conflict which has made few headlines, but cost many lives, including those of the youngest and most vulnerable. UNICEF reported 70% of the 11,000 children are serving with rebel groups, including the notorious White Army, known for sending thousands of children into battle. Stephen managed to escape the army and describes being frozen with fear as the rebel fighters took him and more than 100 of his classmates from a schoolroom. They were given no choice. He said that in the army, 'when we were moving and boys got sick and died they would just be left where they fell.' They were forced to train and if they didn't they were beaten heavily.

Pray: for the protection of vulnerable children in the UN camps, particularly when they are out collecting water and firewood and in the most danger of abduction. (Ps.46:1) Pray for the end of the war. (Ps.46:9)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-29762263>

■ **Canada: Terror attack a 'wake-up call'**

Thousands of Canadians gathered on Tuesday to honour Cpl Nathan Cirillo, the 24-year-old honour guard shot dead during last week's terror attack in Ottawa. The incident followed another terror attack in which an IS-inspired terrorist ran over two soldiers in a parking lot in Quebec, killing one and injuring the other. Now, in an open letter to Canadians, award-winning Muslim journalist Raheel Raza suggests the attacks should serve as a wake-up call to Canada and the West, stating that Canada is under attack and some Muslims have been insisting since 9/11 that Canada is not safe from terrorist attack and it's just a matter of time. She suggests scrutiny of imams and their sermons', Muslim organizations to declare where their donations are coming from putting a moratorium on immigration from some countries, accountability of Islamic schools syllabus and not giving in to Islamic religious demands. See also <http://raheelraza.wordpress.com/2014/10/22/an-open-letter-to-all-canadians-canada-is-under-attack/>

Pray: for Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his government as they address the rise in terrorism. May Canada's stance be according to her national anthem, 'Standing on guard, glorious and free' (Ps.5:8)

More: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2014/October/Muslim-Leader-Speaks-Out-against-Canada-Attacks/>

■ **Nigeria: Idolatry in high places**

The following is from the 31-day prayer guide for Nigeria. Day 30 tells us of the increased dependence of Nigeria's politicians and even some 'church leaders' on occult powers. The experience of two state governors; Anambra and Ogun states were publicized but many other governors and their cabinet members are involved in taking oaths at shrines to confirm allegiance. This idolatry brings about God's wrath, (judgment, curses, captivity, and defilement, famine, drought, cloud of darkness, reprobate minds, evil kings and demonic presence in lands). Pray for God to bring repentance for the sin of idolatry and occultist practices by political leaders. Pray and ask God to convict those involved in sinful acts of their wickedness and that they will repent and turn to the true God, (Prov. 28:13, 1 Jn.1:8,9) see:

<http://www.pray4nigeria.org/images/PFN%20PRAYER%20GUIDE.pdf>

Pray: for all leaders involved in occult practices be exposed and judged if they do not repent. Ask God to bless those who trust in Him with protection, provision, strength, and ability, (Prov. 3:3-6)

More: <http://www.pray4nigeria.org/>

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD PRAYER CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, UK

**Prayer Alert is distributed free of charge – Donations towards running costs are gratefully received.
To donate, please visit www.prayer-alert.net**

Please feel free to distribute Prayer Alert to anyone you feel will benefit from its ministry. All we ask is that you do not edit or change it in any way or charge for its use without contacting us for written permission.

The views expressed in Prayer Alert and on our website are those of the authors, organisations and websites named, and are not necessarily those of the Prayer Alert Editorial Team, the Prayer Alert Steering Group or the World Prayer Centre or any of its employees or trustees. While we try to ensure that the information we provide is correct, mistakes do occur and we cannot guarantee the accuracy of our material. If you do notice any mistakes then please let us know.

Prayer Alert is produced in association with The World Prayer Centre: Cornerstone House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG