

# 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](http://www.prayer-alert.net)

[editor@prayer-alert.net](mailto:editor@prayer-alert.net)

Issue 32-2015

Website

Contact Us

Donations

Thursday 13 August 2015

## ■ Praise Reports

- ✦ [Myanmar: Flooding fails to stop local Christians](#)
- ✦ [Charity building homes for families of martyred Christians](#)

## ■ British Isles & Ireland

- ✦ [Christian MP says, 'I'm sticking with Burnham despite nominating front-runner Corbyn'](#)
- ✦ [Northern Ireland: Action urged to end paramilitary assaults on children](#)
- ✦ [Yarl's Wood removal centre of 'national concern'](#)
- ✦ [Christian teacher forgives boy who stabbed him in class](#)
- ✦ [Fracking: councils told to fast-track decisions](#)
- ✦ [Songs of Praise in Calais migrant camp](#)

## ■ Europe

- ✦ [France: Urgent medical support needed in Calais](#)
- ✦ [Russia: Wildfires rage across remote eastern Siberia](#)

## ■ Worldwide

- ✦ [Syria: IS seize key Christian town](#)
- ✦ [USA: California blaze grows, prompting more evacuations](#)
- ✦ [Global: Pro-gay cartoons for children on the increase](#)
- ✦ [Iraq: School for refugees](#)
- ✦ [Nigeria: Another bomb blast as Boko Haram has a new leader](#)
- ✦ [USA: Toxic waste spill – state of emergency declared](#)

## PRAISE REPORTS

### ■ Myanmar: Flooding fails to stop local Christians

Myanmar flooding has killed over 100 people in the last 14 days. Fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters left behind are trying to survive without access to food or clean water. People are crying out to their Buddhist and animist gods for help. One million people have been affected by Myanmar's severe flooding that has never happened on this level before. Houses are underwater, landslides are destroying any remaining roads and people are staying in schools and monasteries. Six indigenous ministries assisted by Christian Aid Mission are responding – sending teams of church members to remote villages. They're often the first ones to arrive with supplies; making a major difference with food, tarpaulins, clothing and sharing the Truth of the Gospel. Survivors want to know, 'Why are you helping me? You're in the same boat as me.' It's a powerful testimony, and many come to Christ as a result of it.

**Praise:** [God for missionaries everywhere, meeting the physical needs and sharing the love of Christ. \(Eph.5:1,2\)](#)

**More:** <https://www.mnnonline.org/news/myanmar-flooding-fails-to-stop-local-christians/>

### ■ Charity building homes for families of martyred Christians

After 21 Coptic Christians were brutally murdered by IS, Focus on the Family (a leading US charity) has stepped in with housing and care for their families. The 20 Egyptian Christians, along with their Ghanaian co-worker, were from a poor Egyptian village and working in Libya to support their families. Their beheading was videoed and posted on social media. Focus on the Family is helping the families of the martyrs both materially and spiritually. The martyrs literally had nothing, except the very thing they died for because they would not let it go — their faith in Christ. Their families echoed that faith. They did not curse IS. They did not ask for pity. They did not ask for supplies or money. Focus on the Family has built houses for the families which will meet all their basic needs. The houses are a physical demonstration of unity within the worldwide body of Christ.

**Praise:** [God for the love and unity within the global Church, even in the midst of tragedy. \(Eph.4:3\)](#)

**More:** <http://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/u-s-charity-building-homes-for-families-of-martyred-coptic-christians.html>

## BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

### ■ Christian MP says, 'I'm sticking with Burnham despite nominating front-runner Corbyn'

Christian Labour MP Dawn Butler told Premier Radio that she's standing by her decision to nominate leadership contender Jeremy Corbyn, despite backing rival Andy Burnham. The left-winger now has the support of more than half of those with a vote in the Labour leadership contest. 'If Jeremy's got a momentum behind him that's a good thing for our party and it's a good thing for the debate, but I still think overall that Andy is the candidate that will unite the party and bring the party forward,' said Dawn Butler. She said Corbyn's participation in the leadership race had engaged more young people in politics, and praised Corbyn for encouraging what critics argue is an idealistic agenda. 'As a young person you're supposed to be uncompromising and you're supposed to want to see a different world and want to change the world, so it's great to see that,' added Butler.

**Pray:** for Christians in parliament to be led by God in all that they think, do and say. (Ps.2:10,11)

**More:** [http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/I-m-sticking-with-Burnham-despite-nominating-front-runner-Corbyn-says-Christian-Labour-MP?utm\\_source=Premier+Christian+Media&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=6038932\\_Copy+of+daily+news+11+August&utm\\_content=corbyn&dm\\_i=16DQ,3LFO4,KQ4M1J,CWVLU,1](http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/I-m-sticking-with-Burnham-despite-nominating-front-runner-Corbyn-says-Christian-Labour-MP?utm_source=Premier+Christian+Media&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6038932_Copy+of+daily+news+11+August&utm_content=corbyn&dm_i=16DQ,3LFO4,KQ4M1J,CWVLU,1)

### ■ Northern Ireland: Action urged to end paramilitary assaults on children

Twelve children were shot by the paramilitary between 2009 and last year in Northern Ireland and the Human Rights Commission have called on the UK Government to take immediate action to stop violent attacks on children. As well as twelve youngsters being shot, twenty seven were assaulted, the organisation said in a report to an influential UN committee investigating children's rights. The report asked the state party to address the issue of paramilitary-style attacks on children in Northern Ireland through measures relating to both transitional justice and child protection. Figures for the number of attacks may be under-reported since fear of paramilitary violence and self-reported experiences of attacks on children are much higher, the Commission said. It has contacted the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Research published late last year from Queen's University Belfast said more than 500 children were shot or beaten by loyalist and republican paramilitaries over the past two decades.

**Pray:** for raising the age of criminal responsibility, ending corporal punishment and reducing the use of remand for children in the criminal justice system. (Ps.127:3)

**More:** <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/action-urged-to-end-ni-paramilitary-assaults-on-children-1.2314574>.

### ■ Yarl's Wood removal centre of 'national concern'

The Prisons' Watchdog says, 'Conditions have deteriorated at Yarl's Wood, an immigration removal centre, to such an extent that it is a place of national concern. Yarl's Wood, in Bedfordshire, was failing vulnerable and pregnant women. It holds 350+ women waiting for their immigration status to be resolved. The report suggests that conditions have worsened since being inspected two years ago. More than half of the detainees said they felt unsafe. Of the 99 pregnant women who were held there last year only nine were removed. Fifteen detainees had been held for between six months and a year. Four were detained for more than a year. The report called for a 'strict time limit' on how long anyone can be detained. Jerome Phelps, of Detention Action, said 'It is time for the Government to step away from the routine detention of migrants, and instead to work with them to resolve their immigration cases in the community wherever possible.'

**Pray:** for women only to be detained as a last resort and for standards in healthcare to improve. (Ps.82:3)

**More:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33871283>

### ■ Christian teacher forgives boy who stabbed him in class

Schoolteacher Vincent Uzomah was attacked by a 14-year-old boy at Dixons Kings Academy in Bradford last June. After the assault the boy bragged about the stabbing on Facebook. A judge ordered him to be imprisoned for up to six years. Mr Uzomah said, 'As a Christian, I have forgiven this boy who has inflicted trauma and pain on my family and myself. It was, however, important for the law to run its course and for a strong message to be sent out, especially to kids of similar tendencies, that violence is never acceptable. Our prayer for him is that he will make use of the opportunities and support provided for him to become a changed person, making positive contributions to society.' The court was told the boy was described by others as 'disruptive and a bully' and had always disliked the teacher.

**Pray:** for God to heal Vincent completely of all trauma and physical wounds, and for his Christian witness across the media to be discussed, tweeted and repeated, giving God the glory. (Ps.31:14,15a)

**More:** <http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Christian-teacher-forgives-boy-who-stabbed-him-in-class>

### ■ Fracking: councils told to fast-track decisions

Fracking has transformed the energy market in the US but has caused untold damage through fracking-related earthquakes. In the UK the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is to issue a first wave of licences for fracking. They will grant exclusive rights to explore for gas in a number of less controversial areas across the UK. A second wave relating to regions close to national parks or areas of outstanding natural beauty will come later this year. Once licences have been granted, planning permission is still required from local authorities for specific sites, and this week councils were told they must meet targets to fast-track 'fracking' applications through the planning system or face decisions being taken out of their hands. The Government is now poised to issue a swathe of licences in hope of a shale energy boom across the United Kingdom.

**Pray:** for our leaders to make wise choices regarding our natural resources. (1Ti.2:1,2)

**More:** <http://www.theweek.co.uk/fracking/56818/fracking-councils-told-to-fast-track-decisions>

### ▣ Songs of Praise in Calais migrant camp

The crew of the BBC's flagship religious show Songs of Praise has arrived in the Calais migrant camp to shoot one of its most controversial episodes yet. They're to film at a makeshift Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the centre of the Calais migrant camp. The decision to film there has provoked a mixed reaction from the public and the migrants. The Eritrean priest who runs the chapel feared that filming would endanger his family's life if the images were seen in his home country, adding that the producers did not have permission to film in the camp. The BBC was accused of wading into a politically-sensitive issue. Meanwhile a blog by the so-called "Archbishop Cranmer" said that this is Christ's church for the poor, weak, lonely, dispossessed, hurting, grieving and broken. It's for the desperate and oppressed; destitute and dying. Hold your nose and avert your eyes: it's the swarm of humanity in the cesspit of life. Songs of praise are to be sung by the Lord in the cardboard church of Calais. The Lord is there. His Spirit is with them. Glory to God in the lowest places. See: <http://archbishopcranmer.com/songs-of-praise-and-the-cardboard-church-of-calais/>

**Pray:** for this episode to reveal God's unique Holy Spirit moving in an unconventional way. (Lk.15:4)

**More:** <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3192351/Songs-Praise-Jungle-Crew-BBC-s-flagship-religious-arrives-Calais-migrant-camp-shoot-controversial-episode.html>

## EUROPE

### ▣ France: Urgent medical support needed in Calais

We've all seen the news of desperate migrants trying to cross the channel. But few people know about the conditions people are living in. This is a humanitarian crisis on our doorstep and western governments are turning their backs on it. I know because I'm a nurse in Calais, giving medical support to migrants who have fled their countries because of war and persecution and are now living in horrendous conditions. Whole families are crammed into small tents with poor access to food and water, leading to all sorts of terrible health problems. These include serious skin problems, gangrene, breathing difficulties, diarrhoea and scabies. Many have shattered bones after falling from trucks, have been slashed by razor wire climbing fences or have been beaten up. Some are extremely vulnerable, including children and pregnant women. With needs ever increasing, it is charities and not governments that are picking up the pieces, providing essential medical consultations and psychological support for the many migrants traumatised by their experiences.

**Pray:** for the French and British governments to prioritise vulnerable people over fences and sniffer dogs. (Ps.103:6)

**More:** <https://www.change.org/p/rt-hon-david-cameron-mp-provide-urgent-medical-support-to-vulnerable-people-in-calais>

### ▣ Russia: Wildfires rage across remote eastern Siberia

Russia's federal forestry agency said, 'More than 5,000 Russian emergency workers are battling to put out wildfires raging across forests in Siberia. Over 1,250 square kilometres of woodland are ablaze in at least six eastern regions. Wildfires are a common occurrence in Russia each summer due to the burning of dry grass and can claim lives and damage property. Historically every year many die in southern Siberia as a results of wildfires while hundreds of others are left homeless. The current wildfires have not yet affected inhabited areas. See also World article, 'USA: California blaze grows, prompting more evacuations'.

**Pray:** for the containment of these fires and that there are no lives lost. (Ps.24:1)

**More:** <http://phys.org/news/2015-08-wildfires-rage-russia-remote-eastern.html>

## WORLDWIDE

### ▣ Syria: IS seize key Christian town

Suicide bombers stormed Qaryatain, paving the way for overnight clashes resulting in IS jihadists finally overwhelming al-Assad regime soldiers on Wednesday morning. Capture of the town allows IS to unify several key areas under its control. Qaryatain is home to 40,000 people - many of them members of Syria's ancient Christian community. It is the site of towering Roman ruins, and is located some 50 miles from the al-Assad regime-held city of Homs. When the terrorists took full control they released a series of gloating images of militants posing with captured tanks on affiliated Facebook pages. As well as Sunni Muslims and Christians the town has thousands of internally displaced people who had fled from Homs. This Syrian news comes as a Kurdish official reported that IS executed 19 women for refusing to have sex with its fighters in Iraq. He claimed the women were being held hostage in Mosul.

**Pray:** for God to lead and strengthen all who are fighting IS and for IS to be swept away. (Job 5:13)

**More:** <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3186895/ISIS-seize-key-town-central-Syria-home-tens-thousands-Christians-terror-group-s-significant-advance-capturing-ancient-city-Palmyra.html>

### ▣ USA: California blaze grows, prompting more evacuations

Wildfires are charging through the parched West and forcing people to flee. Some residents had to evacuate their homes twice in recent weeks after blazes exploded in size and changed direction. In Northern California a blaze is only 5% contained by 1,100 firefighters, and firefighters have nearly surrounded a larger nearby blaze that started two weeks ago across 109 square miles. In Southern California four separate blazes are being contained. In Montana 18 square miles of heavy timber in Glacier National Park are ablaze, prompting trail and campsite closures. Firefighting efforts could escalate with temperatures between 95 and 100 degrees expected until Thursday and strong winds on Friday. In Arizona fires are 40% contained. Elsewhere in the west a wildfire along the shore of Lake Chelan in Washington State covers 54 square miles, firefighters are keeping it away from communities. Alaska's fire season has officially become the second biggest on record. 7,940 square miles have burned this year.

**Pray:** for the thousands forced to evacuate homes, fearing for their lives and livelihoods. (Ps.70:5)

**More:** <http://news.yahoo.com/residents-evacuate-wildfire-erupts-near-blaze-073441049.html>

#### ▣ **Global: Pro-gay cartoons for children on the increase**

When the animated series *The Legend of Korra* ended its three-season run with the two heroines holding hands and dissolving into a mist – thus making explicit a lesbian love interest that hitherto had only been hinted at – children's TV may have been changed forever. So claimed *Vanity Fair* arts writer Joanna Robinson, who enthusiastically lauded the finale of the show as the 'most subversive television event of the year.' But for Christian media watchers that lesbian fairytale ending was just the inevitable next step in a clearly discernible trend in America where there are more gay and transgender characters and stories in children's television. Other examples include the Australian 'gender-bending' cartoon series *SheZow* featuring a 12-year-old boy who finds a 'power ring' that turns him into a girl, and an episode in *Good Luck Charlie* in which a lesbian couple bring their child over for a play date. Christian media watchers predict it will get worse because children's TV is a reflection of what's already in our culture.

**Pray:** for God to raise up more Christian animators and production crews and video entertainment. (Ps.16:11)

**More:** <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/warning-to-parents-pro-gay-cartoons-are-on-the-rise>

#### ▣ **Iraq: School for refugees**

Christian children forced to flee after the IS invasion began school recently for the first time in a year. After fleeing their homes, families left everything behind, including access to schooling. In Iraq a local church leader and a mission agency partner noticed this need in their community, and because they believe education is important to the child, they began to dream of opening a school. Their goal was to begin with approximately 25 students. Church leaders prayed for a suitable location near a refugee camp and God showed them a nearby house with a big back-yard. Though it would need many renovations before it was safe, church leaders discovered that it would accommodate four classrooms with enough space for at least 20 students in each classroom, and a school was born. Across the Middle East most countries do not have the capacity to provide schooling for a sudden influx of thousands of children. Pray for more schools for refugees.

**Pray:** for this school to thrive as it provides a safe place to learn and experience the love of Christ. (Ps.145:4)

**More:** [http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story\\_ID==373731](http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID==373731)

#### ▣ **Nigeria: Another bomb blast as Boko Haram has a new leader**

On Tuesday 47 traders were killed and at least 50 others injured when terrorists invaded the Sabon Gari community market of Damboa, 85 miles south of Maiduguri, during peak trading. The injuries from the blast are mostly 'severe' and the death toll is expected to rise. Borno State Police Command has said that Boko Haram is not winning the war and insurgents are fleeing to neighbouring Niger, Cameroon and Chad in order to attack soft targets in the sub-region. Meanwhile on Wednesday, Chad's President Idriss Deby said that Boko Haram has a new leader. He said Abubakar Shekau had been replaced by Mahamat Daoud - who has not been heard of before. Mr Shekau has not featured in the group's recent videos, leading to speculation that he has been killed. Mr Deby, whose troops have been involved in battling Boko Haram, said Mr Daoud was open to dialogue. See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-33889378>

**Pray:** for God to intervene and lead negotiations between leaders for a peaceful solution to this war. (Is.2:2)

**More:** <http://theadvocatengr.com/over-47-killed-in-borno-market-bomb-blast/>

#### ▣ **USA: Toxic waste spill – state of emergency declared**

The city of Durango and La Plata County, Colorado, have declared a state of emergency after a federal cleanup crew accidentally released 1 million gallons of mine waste out of an abandoned mine area, turning the Animas River orange with pollutants of arsenic, lead, copper, aluminium and cadmium. The Environmental Protection Agency told locals to avoid the area amid grave concerns as to the ability of local elected officials to ensure that all appropriate levels of state and federal resources are brought to bear to assist the community not only in actively managing this tragic incident but also to recover from it. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials have been watching for effects on wildlife since the incident began.

**Pray:** for governments to provide ways to avoid caustic waste accidents, and care for the land. (Gen.1:31a)

**More:** <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/09/us/colorado-epa-mine-river-spill/>

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](http://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**