

PRAYER ALERT...

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

Informing and equipping Christians - Online and to Inbox

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PRAISE REPORTS

■ Revival in the Palestinian Church?

Intercessors have been praying for strength, wisdom, peace and revelation of Jesus in Palestine. God has answered! Palestinian believers are, for the first time, reading the Gospel! Until last year, only a few Bibles were available in Greek Orthodox churches. None were in homes. Most Palestinian Christians belong to these churches, where tradition is about sacraments and symbols. But now 20,000 Bibles are in the hands of Palestinian believers because of co-operation between the Palestinian Bible Society and the leadership of the Orthodox Church. Within 12 months of last year's special edition printing of the Orthodox New Testament, all 20,000 Scriptures have been given out, mostly in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. 'This is a stream of Living Water flowing through the Orthodox Church. Revival is more likely to happen because the Word of God is available in a whole new way,' said a Bible Society representative.

Praise: God for bringing this unified project to completion and pray for a hunger for God's Word to come to those who have not received it, and to those who are not yet saved. (Ps.119:41,42)

More: <http://www.1040windowreporter.com/#!/declaring-his-greatness---aug/c1sbl>

■ Jesus appears to refugees

When the wind and the waves threatened to swamp a boat filled with refugees fleeing the Middle East, Jesus made a dramatic appearance to them and calmed the waters, saving their lives. A group of refugees fleeing the fighting in the Middle East were jammed into several pontoon boats, trying to cross the Aegean Sea to Greece. The seas were extremely rough and dangerous and some of the boats in this small armada capsized. The report is reminiscent of a storm on the Sea of Galilee (Mt.4:37). The refugees were afraid, just as Jesus' fellow travellers had been. 'The people in one boat cried out to God. Suddenly, a 'shining heavenly figure' appeared in the boat. The entire boat knew it was Jesus. Then something miraculous happened. Jesus calmed the storm! From that point the sea became calm and peaceful, and they finally landed safely on shore.' This amazing account is from Erick Schenkel, executive director of the Jesus Film Project.

Praise: God for this miracle and for more revelations of Jesus through miracles, visions and dreams. (Nu.24:16b)

More: <http://blog.godreports.com/2016/06/jesus-appears-to-refugees-crossing-stormy-aegean-sea-calms-waters/>

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ Christians in Parliament

Throughout history God has had His people in positions of authority; David, Daniel and Esther were just three people whom God was able to direct so that His purposes were fulfilled. This is still true today in the United Kingdom. There are Christians in our parliament. Click the 'more' button for their profiles. Theresa May is the daughter of a vicar and has regularly worshipped at St Andrew's Church in Sonning for many years. She has said that her Christian faith is an important part of her life. We can trust and pray that God is still in control of our nations and as in the times of David, Daniel and Esther He is and will be working His purposes out through His people as we negotiate and move in the direction he would take us with regards to the EU. We may not know who today's Esthers, Davids and Daniels are in Europe but we can be sure that they are there.

Pray: for more prayers and intercessions so that God will be in every detail of what lies ahead. (2Ti.1:3)

More: <http://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/people/>

■ Church security comments from John Sentamu

The Archbishop of York has told Premier that clergy shouldn't be concerned about increasing security of UK churches as the responsibility lies with the police, the army and the Government. He was speaking following the killing of 84-year-old priest Fr Jacques Hamel, which led to the Met Police issuing guidance to churches. See last week's Prayer-Alert - Church to review security arrangements. The Archbishop, who is the second most senior clergyman in the Church of England, says clergy should be focusing on being welcoming instead of worrying about security. He said, 'That is really in the hands of both the police, the army and the Government - they're responsible for security. What we can do is make sure that we are loving of God and loving of neighbour without discrimination,' and, 'we're following a crucified Saviour and our job is to be as loving and sometimes as vulnerable as He was.'

Pray: for us to remember and meditate on the fact that our complete protection comes from God. (Ps.91:1)

More: <http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Exclusive-Church-security-is-not-the-responsibility-of-clergy-says-John-Sentamu>

■ Human trafficking

PSNI (Police Service Northern Ireland) have charged a 28-year-old man with rape and false imprisonment as part of an investigation into human trafficking in County Londonderry. He was also accused of human trafficking into the UK for sexual exploitation, causing and inciting prostitution, and assault and actual bodily harm on an Eastern European woman being treated for her injuries and being assessed as a victim of human trafficking. Detective Inspector Mark Bell, from PSNI Human Trafficking Unit, said, 'These enquiries, including a search of a property in the city, are continuing as we work with partner agencies to ensure the woman receives all appropriate support and assistance.' Meanwhile, Theresa May, who is a Christian, has pledged £33m to tackle modern-day slavery. The money will target the routes of the people-trafficking trade from countries like Nigeria. Also BBC reported Wednesday, 'UK Border Control had only three boats available to keep UK borders secure.' See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-36960905>

Pray: for Border Control, police, governments and agencies combating human trafficking. (Ps.12:7)

More: <http://www.4ni.co.uk/northern-ireland-news/216956/man-charged-in-connection-with-human-trafficking>

■ Goddard inquiry truth project

The Goddard inquiry was set up in 2015 in the wake of the Jimmy Savile scandal to gather evidence on historical institutional child abuse in Britain. The inquiry is asking victims who were abused and reported the abuse to authorities but were either ignored or the report not acted on properly, to come forward. 600+ people have taken part and the inquiry panel is encouraging more victims and survivors to come forward as the first ones begin giving testimonies to a public inquiry into child sexual abuse. This is an unprecedented national 'truth-telling' project designed to catalogue decades of suffering. Pray for the 2,000+ people who have contacted the Goddard inquiry so far to finally receive appropriate care and healing. Pray for others not yet brave enough to speak out, may they bravely step out and be freed from flashbacks, fear and emotional pain.

Pray: for the truth project to reach and release many from historical degradation. (Ps.31:20)

More: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jul/25/goddard-inquiry-truth-project-to-hear-first-testimony-on-child-sexual-abuse>

■ Police and Parliament attitudes towards black people

Police launched an internal inquiry after footage emerged of a young black man being pinned to the ground by a group of British Transport Police officers and having a spit hood placed over his head at London Bridge Station. The officers claim Aihie became 'aggressive' after they intervened in an argument between him and his girlfriend. The footage shows Aihie yelling 'it hurts, it hurts,' as he is pinned to the ground and forced to have a hood completely cover his head. Meanwhile a Christian campaigner called on Theresa May to ensure ethnic minorities are properly represented in senior government roles. Simon Wooley, from Operation Black Vote, said his message for the Prime Minister was, 'there are a record number of black MP's right now in Parliament, and not all of them are being given prominent roles. We need to see a plan to tackle persistent racial inequality and greater representation.' See also: <https://www.rt.com/uk/353932-police-black-arrest-video/>

Pray: for race relations in the UK to improve as the Church brings them under prayerful scrutiny. (1Ti.2:8)

More: <http://www.premierchristianradio.com/Shows/Weekday/Inspirational-Breakfast/Interviews/Racism-can-spread-like-cancer-Christian-response-to-Black-lives-matter>

■ London City Mission – doorway into God's kingdom

Adam, a London City Mission (LCM) worker, writes, 'Two of our workers run craft and Alpha groups for marginalised women in Tower Hamlets, while others run energetic youth and kids' clubs in our Forest Gate and Dagenham centres. We partner with groups like Ambassadors Football to engage with fathers, we run community lunches and drop-ins to engage with the unemployed and those struggling with mental health and addiction issues. We run Christian-Muslim discussion groups to engage with Muslims, and offer training to churches wanting to reach out to their Muslim neighbours.' Click the 'more' link to hear about and pray for Ali Gaspar, rap artist and LCM worker, on a tough estate, and learn how Jesus changed his

worldview. Learn top tips on how to share the gospel across cultural barriers. Look at an infographic map of LCM ministries in needy boroughs.

Pray: for the work of LCM and others bringing people to Christ in difficult situations. (Ac.15:26)

More: <https://www.lcm.org.uk/blog/2016/07/14/changing-london-for-10-years>

■ Theresa May and David Cameron's honours list

The ex-PM David Cameron's resignation honours list was leaked by a newspaper and has drawn much comment. The reality with honours lists is that there are names that will warm our hearts and names that will anger us. Controversy has surrounded the honours system since its infancy. Theresa May has said she will not intervene over her predecessor's list because it would 'set a very bad precedent', but Labour deputy leader Tom Watson said that if the list was accurate, it showed that 'cronyism runs rife' in Mr Cameron's former administration, and most reasonable people would say it is unacceptable to give an honour to his wife's stylist, or knighthoods to MPs like confetti.' The oil firm boss and Conservative party donor Ian Taylor (reportedly in line for a knighthood) has written to Mr Cameron and Theresa May asking for his name to be withdrawn from the list. See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-36960686>

Pray: for honour to surround the honours list and for wisdom for everyone making decisions about the list. (Pr.3:35)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-36938368>

EUROPE

■ Germany: Weapons stolen from US military base

Special agents from the US Army Criminal Investigation Command are investigating the theft of guns and other military equipment from an arms room in a Stuttgart base. The Army declined to say what kind of or how many weapons were stolen or to identify the unit targeted, citing the active investigation. A possible breach of the base fence is also part of the ongoing probe 'and something we are looking at very closely,' said Ray Johnson, a spokesman for the Army's Installation Management Command-Europe. A military official who was not authorised to speak to the media said that the site was Panzer Kaserne and that the theft included an unspecified number of guns. Panzer Kaserne is home to elite units such as Army Green Berets and Navy SEALs, as well as the garrison's headquarters and support units. The break-in comes at a time of heightened security concerns in Germany in the wake of a wave of high-profile terrorist attacks.

Pray: for God to help the military to protect all potential security breaches successfully. (2Sa. 22:33)

More: <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/07/29/arms-stolen-from-weapons-room-on-us-military-base-in-stuttgart.html>

■ Europe refugee centres and child brides

This week in Afghanistan a cleric in his 60s was arrested after marrying a six-year-old girl. Mohammad Karim claimed he married the child as a 'religious offering,' and her parents agreed. Elsewhere, in European asylum camps child brides are being allowed to stay with their older husbands. Scandinavian asylum centres are defending the practice by saying husbands may be the only person brides know and trust even though child abuse is suspected. In Norway during 2015, ten migrants under the age of 16 were married (four had children). Oslo does not ratify conventions by the Council of Europe aimed at avoiding child abuse and exploitation. In February, dozens of young female asylum seekers were discovered living with older men in Danish refugee centres. A month earlier, 70 married under-age girls were in Swedish asylum centres in Stockholm and Malmo. See: <https://www.rt.com/news/353996-afghan-cleric-married-girl/>

Pray: for protection for children vulnerable to human trafficking and forced marriage. (Ps.9: 4)

More: <https://www.rt.com/news/340664-child-brides-asylum-scandinavia/>

WORLDWIDE

■ South Korea: After the Uprising

Pray for the flames that were ignited among the youth during the United Prayer Rising event last week to be fanned into great fires of healing and restoration across the nations. Pray for God to direct and lead the next generation into a deeper walk with the Lord and effective evangelism. Pray for the protection of all those who led the worship, teaching and intercession. As they gave out, so may God pour out His refreshing. Pray that God's prophetic words would be fulfilled, for hopes and dreams of this generation of youth; may God's power be demonstrated in their hearts and lives and service. Pray for God's victorious life to continue filling them and overflow through them to others across the nations, generating faith amongst His people. Pray that they would powerfully step out into the giftings He has given them as they are led by His word and prompted by His Holy Spirit to grow in His kingdom.

Pray: for God's fires of revival to move powerfully through all who have heard His call and obey. (Ex.15:13)

More: <http://original.livestream.com/uprising2016>

■ Zimbabwe

After years of crippling hyperinflation and unemployment Zimbabwe is on the verge of complete collapse and open revolution. A local pastor posted videos on social media under the hashtag #thisflag. and was swiftly arrested after a successful stay-away (workers stayed at home in peaceful protest). On the day of his trial, thousands of church leaders, lawyers and champions of freedom descended on the magistrate's court where he stood accused of encouraging violence. However, his videos called for peaceful non-violent protest and prayer for the nation, begging leaders to stamp out corruption, injustice and police brutality. The prosecutor then submitted a changed charge of treason (punishable by death). In the face of shield-bearing, baton-wielding riot police, the protesters outside the court knelt down, lifted flags and Bibles

and prayed for justice and freedom. Miraculously, justice prevailed and the magistrate threw the case out because of a technicality. He was released. The battle for a free and prosperous Zimbabwe has begun.

Pray: for the Church to lead the way to peace and prosperity, for an end to decades of poverty, injustice and corruption and for continued unity among churches as the government tries to intimidate (2Ti.1:7)

More: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/blog/2612>

■ Kenya: Arson attacks on schools

Kenya is dealing with a wave of arson attacks with more than 100 schools torched this year. The reason behind the attacks is not clear, but it comes amid a government crackdown on exam cheating and other reforms to the education sector. Some schools had to shut down completely with 6,000+ students being sent home. Several more schools were set alight in the last week. The August school holidays have been cut short by two weeks under new reforms. In some investigations it was discovered that fires were started by students. Some do it because they want to be famous. Others do it out of ignorance and some do it because of drugs. Some are saying this is a protest against a high work load and a lack of holidays. In the end parents will bear the brunt of rebuilding torched dormitories. Pray for the root of this rebellion to be removed.

Pray: for students sitting exams, under stress, with a heavy workload and coping with burnt school buildings. (Ps.3:6)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-36929336>

■ Syria: Aleppo residents to flee or starve

Last Saturday, with 300,000 people trapped in rebel-held eastern Aleppo and food supplies expected to run out in August, Syrian state media reported that 'buses with dozens of families had left eastern areas along a humanitarian corridor'. On Sunday night a campaign was launched on the eve of the 71st anniversary of the founding of the Syrian army. By Monday, Aleppo's rebel fighters had launched their military operation aimed at breaking the weeks-long regime siege of the opposition-controlled eastern part of the city. The civilians' plight, caught in the middle of all this, has led to growing international alarm. Civilians are surrounded by brutal aerial bombing campaigns from Bashar al-Assad and his Russian allies. Even chemical bombs have allegedly been used. The last hospitals in the area have been destroyed. They need prayer now more than ever. This battle is an urgent humanitarian catastrophe which could end all hope of a negotiated peace

Pray: for the families of the quarter of a million killed since the beginning of this war and the 5 million refugees, for Aleppo's 300,000 people under siege, cut off from outside aid, and pray for peace talks. (Ps.119:146)

More: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/01/syrian-rebels-launch-operation-to-break-aleppo-siege>

■ Iran: Pastor charged with action against national security

Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani, sentenced to death for apostasy and later acquitted in 2012, has now been charged with 'acting against national security'. On 24 July Yousef Nadarkhani was summoned to the Revolutionary Court in Rasht and formally charged with 'acting against national security' - a common charge brought against church leaders in Iran - and accused of Zionist activities and evangelism. Yousef was given until 31 July to raise the equivalent of \$33,000 bail or face arrest. Those close to Pastor Yousef request prayer that: -the oppressive actions against him will stop and the new charges of 'acting against national security' will be dropped; -that God will give His peace to Yousef and his family, and that they will not be anxious; -that some of the officials involved will love mercy, act justly, learn about Jesus and choose to follow Him.

Pray: for peace of mind and God's protection for all Christians living under threats in Iran. (Pr.21:15)

More: <http://meconcern.org/en/prayer-requests/1144-iran-pastor-charged-with-action-against-national-security>

■ Pray for Pakistan

A missionary writes, 'We must look at Pakistan in a new way. One out of 13 unreached people groups are in Pakistan. On the persecution scale the situation in Pakistan is increasing. In 2003 Pakistan was rated #59, this year it is at #6. This part of the world needs much prayer. The devil and his legions are working at an increased and higher level. In the last three months missionaries across the country are having visas refused and rejected on a scale we have never seen before, even affecting those working in hospitals and schools. Nationals say that when missionaries are thrown out, the persecution level for local Christians will greatly increase. PRAY very directly for a reversal of these visa refusals. Visas are just one example, but many other things are rapidly happening. Prayer is the only hope for serious reversal of evil in this country and people coming to Christ.' There is no 'more' link as this article was prepared from an email. Further prayer points will follow from this same source, in next week's Prayer-Alert.

Pray: for a mighty outpouring of faith for missionaries and for a reversal of the current situation in Pakistan. (2 Cor.10:4)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD PRAYER CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, UK

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