

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 32-2016

Website

Contact Us

Donations

Friday 12 August 2016

■ Praise Reports

- ✦ [From addiction to faith in Christ](#)
- ✦ [Priest invites Mexican youth to 'Gang of Christ'](#)

■ British Isles & Ireland

- ✦ [New appointment to reconciliation ministry](#)
- ✦ [Home ownership falling](#)
- ✦ [Student grants replaced by loans](#)
- ✦ [Fund private schools to admit poor students?](#)
- ✦ [Pokemon Go makers face lawsuit](#)
- ✦ [Historic papers lost from National Archives](#)
- ✦ [UK unlikely to meet its refugee resettlement target](#)

■ Europe

- ✦ [Germany donating millions to anti-Israel groups](#)
- ✦ [Europe: food for thanksgiving and prayer](#)

■ Worldwide

- ✦ [South Sudan](#)
- ✦ [Continue to pray for Pakistan](#)
- ✦ [Globally: movement of people and the Good News](#)
- ✦ [Iran: Three Azeri Christians arrested](#)
- ✦ [USA: meeting Jesus inspired ex-congressman](#)
- ✦ [Middle East: Jabhat al-Nusra severs ties with al-Qaeda](#)
- ✦ [USA: Pentagon probes civilian deaths](#)

PRAISE REPORTS

■ From addiction to faith in Christ

A heroin-addicted nephew of Christian singer Natalie Grant has come to faith in Christ. In a Facebook post to her fans she shares the 'heart-breaking journey' her family has been on to help her nephew Christian, currently serving time in prison. He has been drug-free for twenty months now. She writes, 'I got to hear about the hope and comfort he's found in Jesus. I also know how hard it is, how lonely he feels and the regret he carries. It was joy and sorrow, happiness and pain, smiles and tears.' Although Christian has two more years in prison, Natalie is encouraged to see that he is taking responsibility for his actions and is seeking to grow in his faith. She told her followers that Jesus' love and grace can change anyone's life for the better. 'So many of you are defining yourselves by past mistakes and shame. But let God's grace define you.'

Praise: [God for his redemption and restoration of broken lives. \(Luke 11:9\)](#)

More: <http://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/christian-singer-natalie-grant-nephew-has-given-up-drug-addiction-put-faith-in-christ.html>

■ Priest invites Mexican youth to 'Gang of Christ'

On the troubled fringes of the northern Mexican city of Monterrey, an aspiring Catholic priest is using his faith to reach out to young gang members and at-risk youths and bringing them into his 'Gang of Christ.' Violence is never far away in an area where bricklayers and factory workers walk on poorly-lit streets to reach simple cinder-block homes. Jose Luis Guerra, 34, searches for young gang members in this area who might listen to his message. 'My alba is my shield,' Guerra says, referring to his white religious robes. He seems to feel at home among the young men and women he meets on the streets. He is a large man, working with a team of fifteen fellow-missionaries, most of whom are ex-gang members. When a gang member decides to give their life to Christ, they must renounce the life of theft, assault, insult, and in some cases even murder.

Praise: [God for all who follow Christ's example and seek the lost. \(Luke 19:1\)](#)

More: <http://christianexaminer.com/article/budding-priest-calls-troubled-mexican-youth-to-gang-of-christ/50919.htm>

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ New appointment to reconciliation ministry

The Dean of Coventry Cathedral has expressed his delight following the appointment of Sarah Snyder to the reconciliation team by the Archbishop of Canterbury. She will succeed Canon David Porter when he moves to a new role as chief of staff and strategy at Lambeth Palace next month. The Archbishop of Canterbury has chosen to base the reconciliation ministry in Coventry Cathedral after previously spending time at the Cathedral between 2002 and 2007 as a Canon for Reconciliation.

The Dean said, 'We are delighted to be welcoming Sarah Snyder to the Cathedral. Her passion for reconciliation has been the focus of her life and work for many years.'

Pray: for God to be amongst all in the ministry of reconciliation across cultures and countries. (Col. 1:20a)

More: <http://coventryobserver.co.uk/news/archbishop-canterbury-chooses-coventry-base-reconciliation-ministry/>

■ Home ownership falling

Major English cities - particularly Manchester - have seen the sharpest falls in home ownership since a peak in the early 2000s, analysis suggests, and homes are increasingly unaffordable for struggling potential buyers, with home ownership down from 72% in 2003 to 58% this year. Incomes simply haven't kept pace with house price increases. We had access to relatively easy credit, which has now been turned off. House prices have become detached from people's earnings; we no longer have the route through 100% mortgages and the like for getting on to the housing ladder. The fall in ownership corresponded with a rise in renting from private landlords. The shift to renting privately can reduce current living standards and future wealth, with implications for individuals and the state. In her first speech as Prime Minister, Theresa May referred to the 'injustice' in the fact that 'if you're young, you'll find it harder than ever before to own your own home'.

Pray: for this Government to do more to tackle the drastic shortage of genuinely affordable homes. (1Sa. 2:8a)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-36943134>

■ Student grants replaced by loans

On 18 August (9th in Scotland) A level results will be known by students, who will then be moving on to universities and colleges. Under changes that have now come into effect for students from low-income homes, student grants are replaced by loans. Previously, students from families with annual incomes of £25,000 or less received a full grant of £3,387 a year. Consequently poorer students will now potentially be saddled with a lifetime of debt. National Union of Students vice-president Sorana Vieru said recently, 'It's a disgraceful change that basically punishes poorer students simply for being poor, so they have to take a bigger loan than those students from privileged backgrounds. It could put off students from underprivileged backgrounds from applying, who might not understand how the loan system works, or are very debt-averse. Mature students are more debt-averse than younger students and black and minority ethnic students perceive student debt on a par with commercial debt.'

Pray: for challenges to the belief that 'a degree leads to higher earnings', and for this new system to be altered to prevent students dropping out of university for financial reasons. (Dt.15:11)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36940172>

■ Fund private schools to admit poor students?

Shaun Fenton, headmaster of Reigate Grammar School, recently wrote, 'In the UK, we excel at self-deprecation. We wish things were better, fairer and more efficient. However, post-Brexit, our world standing and prosperity also relies upon us recognising and expanding our strengths. Just as we promote our history, our cultural heritage, our countryside, the City of London, Cambridge's Silicon Valley - to name a few - we should also promote our independent schools. We must get behind all that's great in Britain, including these schools, and ensure that they're accessible to even more young people.' He suggests we should increase social mobility by using state funding to open access to independent schools, thus enabling independent schools to educate more disadvantaged young people. He added, 'My proposition is that the partial state-funding should be for those who qualify for the Pupil Premium (additional funding for publicly-funded schools in England, to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers).'

Pray: for less advantaged children of this generation to receive appropriate referrals and education (Pr.13:8)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/08/03/theresa-may-should-fund-private-schools-to-take-on-poor-students/>

■ Pokemon Go makers face lawsuit

Following Prayer-Alert's recent article (<http://www.prayer-alert.net/british-isles-ireland-pa-site/item/8465-pokemon-go-is-dangerous>) about Pokemon Go causing danger on roads and in hospitals, a lawsuit has now been filed against the makers of Pokemon Go over players trespassing on private property. The reality game is played on smartphones and has millions of people worldwide 'obsessively' capturing small virtual creatures in public spaces and raising sensitivity and safety concerns. A man has had strangers lingering outside his home with people knocking on his door. People are having unannounced Pokemon stops and 'gyms' placed on their property. The lawsuit accuses the defendants of having 'a flagrant disregard for the foreseeable consequences of populating the real world with virtual Pokemon without seeking the permission of property owners.' In Sydney a Pokestop was shut down at a Hiroshima atom bomb memorial. The former concentration camp of Auschwitz has also banned the game.

Pray: against it becoming an obsession that overrules privacy, dignity, safety and common sense. (Ec.3:12)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-36961201>

■ Historic papers lost from National Archives

Hundreds of documents chronicling pivotal moments in British history have gone missing from the National Archives since 2005. Historians have accused the National Archives, which are overseen by the Ministry of Justice, of 'administrative laxity'. Dr Tristram Hunt, the historian and MP who sits on the all-party Parliamentary group on archives and history, said, 'To have areas of the national memory erased like this is worrying.' He plans to table questions to the Justice Minister, who is responsible for The National Archives, about the documents. 'History is an asset in this country. It's a natural resource, like oil. We have a lot of it and we need to take care of it.' Among the missing documents is a 1979 file entitled 'Military and nuclear collaboration with Israel: Israeli nuclear armament', linked to a UN resolution. The oldest missing papers are exchequer rolls from the 1220s and a Papal Bull from Pope Clement V in 1309, encouraging the foundation of Cistercian abbeys.

Pray: for this revelation to bring about changes so that there will be no more loss of factual history and understanding, may we never lose our sense of connection to the fabric of the past. (Is.30:8)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/8688070/Hundreds-of-historic-papers-lost-from-National-Archives.html>

▣ UK unlikely to meet its refugee resettlement target

The Home Affairs Committee said there was 'scant evidence' that the government is on track to meet its commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees by 2020, as it discovered the low number of Syrian refugees resettled in each local authority area. The committee of MPs criticised government ministers and said they should 'show leadership' by encouraging their own local authorities to take more refugees. The number of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict or persecution is now higher than it's been since the Second World War. The Archbishop of Canterbury described the migration crisis as 'colossal' when he told a committee, 'This is one of the greatest movements of people in history.' He said that, despite the 'unprecedented' scale of the crisis, the UK was not full and we can take more people in to meet the 20,000 commitment.

Pray: for the authorities to focus on this issue and use candid measures to assess available space. (Lev.19:36a)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/uk.unlikely.to.meet.target.of.resettling.20000.refugees.by.2020.mps.say/92195.htm>

EUROPE

▣ Germany donating millions to anti-Israel groups

A new report from the NGO Monitor watchdog claims that despite statements to the contrary, the German government has been donating millions of euros to groups promoting the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Between 2012 and 2015, Germany funnelled \$4.4 million to 15 anti-Israeli organisations, 42% of the donations went to groups supporting an international boycott against Israel and policies negating Israel's existence as a Jewish state. Even though the German embassy in Israel said that Germany 'remains committed to the two-state solution and devising sustainable peace in the Middle East', the report found that its Economic Cooperation and Development Ministry has been supporting the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee, which promotes violent riots in Israel.

Pray: for Germany to be wise as it invests in projects and initiatives abroad. (Dt.16:19a)

More: <https://unitedwithisrael.org/report-german-government-donating-millions-to-bds-groups/>

▣ Europe: food for thanksgiving and prayer

The largest religion in Europe is Christianity, with 71.34% professing a Christian faith. Evangelicals are growing in strength, confidence and a sense of identity in most countries. This is demonstrated by the increased evangelical presence in mainline churches (which are otherwise declining), the stability of conservative denominations, and the arrival of dynamic new evangelical and charismatic fellowships and networks onto the Church scene. However this is modest compared to great gains in Asia and Africa. Pray for more of what God is doing in Europe, and for more charismatic movements within the mainline body. Pray for the Alpha Courses and Fresh Expressions of church to grow, touching many lives across Europe and beyond. There have been explosions of prayer movements: 24/7 Prayer, the Global Day of Prayer, March for Jesus, boiler rooms, prayer for the Muslim world during Ramadan, and many national and local initiatives.

Pray: for God to bring about revival following an unprecedented level of corporate prayer. (2Sa. 24:25)

More: <http://www.operationworld.org/region/europe/owtext.html>

WORLDWIDE

▣ South Sudan

Five years after becoming the world's newest nation, South Sudan is broken. The joy of independence quickly faded back into conflict. Years of fighting and civil war have crippled nearly every sphere of society. Pray for the government, where the president and vice-president are political and military rivals. Pray for security: due to looting, rape, and mass killings, people are confined to houses, reduced to unimaginable fear. Pray for the economy, as South Sudan has the highest inflation in the world - 300%. Pray for the health of this nation that is suffering acute malnutrition. Many South Sudanese have only known war, conflict, and strife. A culture of revenge is prominent among the more than 60 major ethnic groups. The people of South Sudan are desperate for forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation. These are precisely what God offers by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Pray: for South Sudan to turn from her brokenness and find redemption at the cross of Christ. (Eph.1:7)

More: <http://www.prayercast.com/south-sudan.html>

▣ Continue to pray for Pakistan

A missionary writes, 'The military is working to bring down terrorists along the Afghan border. Pray this might be coordinated with Afghanistan so that terrorists cannot cross borders to escape. The Joshua project states Pakistan is one of the most unreached countries in the world. God says that before Jesus returns 'there will be one from every tribe and tongue' who accept Him as Lord and Saviour. A stronghold the devil has over Pakistan is caste; we can only work in one group at a time. There is a problem identifying these people groups. For the south of Pakistan, a survey identified 496 unevangelised people groups - very few have been reached. The survey's lists and results were sent to appropriate organisations and it has just been found that these lists have been mislaid. Pray that all these files and lists will be found and that the Jesus film will be completed for those who have never heard the gospel.'

Pray: for the next steps to be directed by the Lord in carrying out this Jesus Film project. (Dt.2:7a)

▣ Globally: movement of people and the Good News

According to the UN, last year the number of people living in a country other than the one of their birth reached 244 million. God is doing something through diaspora - the individuals and peoples who have been scattered through migration. What Scripture shows from Genesis to Revelation is that God moves people from one place to another so that He might be

known. The Bible is full of diaspora people, whom God sent to a different place for the glory of His name among the nations: Abraham, Moses, Daniel, Esther, Paul and Jesus. The pattern of God moving people around for the increase of His kingdom has not changed. According to Acts 17:26-27, the Lord 'determined allotted periods and the boundaries of every nation's dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.'

Pray: that through our prayers the diaspora movement will be shaped into Kingdom growth. (Ro.10:14)

More: <http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b371ecb81ea5dd83cb1ed45cd&id=701b892fd0&e=762c362de1>

■ Iran: Three Azeri Christians arrested

Three Christian tourists from Azerbaijan visiting their Christian friends in Tehran were arrested by Iranian intelligence police at a residential house, believed to be a house church. They were immediately transferred to an unknown location. They were identified as Bahram Nasibov, 37 years old and married; Yusif Farhadov, 52 and married; and Eldar Gurbanov, 48 and married. 45-year-old Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh, an Iranian Christian convert with an Islamic background, was also arrested. He is being held separately from the rest and there is no word on his whereabouts. The three Azeris' wives have not been able to contact them since their arrest. One of the men was allowed to make two very short phone calls, during which he said, 'All three of us are in good health and are held together in one place.'

Pray: for the Azerbaijan embassy to gain their release, and for God to bless the Iranians with justice. (Job 9:19)

More: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3023>

■ USA: meeting Jesus inspired ex-congressman

Former congressman Tom DeLay encountered Jesus over 30 years ago and the transformation he underwent inspired him to write a book, jointly with Baptist pastor Wallace Henley, calling America back to its godly heritage. He spoke in depth about the process of repentance and revival that can lead to transformation in a nation. 'How does a nation repent? Well, 100% of the nation isn't going to repent, but when the remnant community, which is the core of the spiritual heart of the nation, awakens to repentance it radiates to others and others pick up the theme across the culture. When that occurs, that's when revival really strikes,' Henley said. 'God is at the core of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and the Constitution is at the core of our government. We need a God-centred revolution for the Constitution, resulting in a rebirth of our culture.'

Pray: for God's purpose for the nation, for a revived and renewed USA. (2Ch.7:14)

More: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/former-house-majority-leader-tom-delay-on-how-meeting-jesus-inspired-new-book-interview-part-2-166985/>

■ Middle East: Jabhat al-Nusra severs ties with al-Qaeda

The announcement by Jabhat al-Nusra that it was severing ties with al-Qaeda signals the terrorist organisation's desperation. Russian and Iranian-backed Syrian forces are working together; Jabhat al-Nusra and its allies have instituted brutal Sharia rule, as documented by Amnesty International. It is hoped that US-Russian negotiations will produce an agreement on military coordination that will bring further bad news for what is now called the 'Front for the Conquest of Syria'. The roll-out by Jabhat al-Nusra of its new brand would have been comical if there was a place for humour when dealing with the al-Qaeda affiliate and its bloody record worldwide. Ahmed Hassan Abu al-Khayr, the deputy to al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri, announced that he had ordered the split 'for the good of Islam and the Muslims.' Amnesty International said the Aleppo Conquest coalition organisations working with Jabhat al-Nusra are practitioners of an ideology and governance barely distinguishable from IS.

Pray: for collaborators and rebels to be silenced and removed. (Ps.143:12a)

More: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/07/jabhat-nusra-syria-qaeda-gulen-turkey-erdogan-israel.html#ixzz4G5WpQVGK>

■ USA: Pentagon probes civilian deaths

The Pentagon said it is investigating what could be its deadliest strike on civilians in Syria since its anti-IS campaign began two years ago. Syrian opposition groups and monitors said a strike on 19 July is likely to have killed over 100 civilians, including whole families in Syria's Aleppo province. Speaking from Baghdad, Colonel Christopher Garver said that the anti-IS coalition reviewed reports of US warplanes killing civilians and has completed a preliminary probe. The result was that the information available was credible enough to warrant a formal investigation, which has now been initiated. Meanwhile the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights continues to monitor and report on civilian casualties as airstrikes continue. Researchers and reporters based in the Middle East have catalogued 74 civilians killed last week, but how many more may have died in US and allied airstrikes remains unclear.

Pray: for the friends and families of the dead, the internally displaced and those still under siege. (Job 24:12a)

More: <https://fsrn.org/2016/07/pentagon-opens-probe-of-us-led-airstrikes-in-syria-that-killed-at-least-74-civilians/>

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