

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

■ Inspiring testimonies from Olympians

David Boudia and Steele Johnson won silver in the men's synchronised diving and told NBC they both know their identity is in Christ and not competition results. Swimmer Madeline Dirado won gold in the women's freestyle relay, silver in the women's 400m individual medley and bronze in the women's 200m individual medley. She said, 'Knowing that I'm a child of God and that His love for me is determined by nothing I can achieve or do on my own has given me a quiet confidence.' New Zealander Nick Willis told the Bible Society that becoming a Christian had changed his whole motivation for sport. Christine Ohuruogu won three global titles and said, 'It's obvious I want to win, but I never pray to win. I just pray, "Help me do my best".' Gabby Douglas, one of the US gold-winning gymnastics team, said, 'I love sharing my story and my faith. God has given me this amazing talent, so I'm going out to glorify His name.'

Praise: [God for the athletes who can do all things through Christ, who strengthens them. \(Is.35:3\)](#)

More: <http://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/5-inspiring-quotes-from-Christian-Olympians-in-Rio>

■ Soul Survivor: 1,500+ new Christians

Over the past four weeks, 1,527 young people have made commitments to follow Jesus at the Soul Survivor summer festivals. Organisers say 26,000 attended the five different events, which took place in Scotland, Staffordshire and Somerset. Those gathered at the conferences heard speakers such as Tim Ross from Texas, Mike Hands from Australia, Miriam Swaffield, and Archbishop Justin Welby. Each week thousands took part in a giant pulled-pork picnic, silent discos, UV parties, a huge ceilidh (sing-along dance), and Colour Chaos dry paint parties. But most importantly young people stepped out and prayed for one another, heard from God and received the Holy Spirit passion to see God moving in power in churches throughout the UK and beyond. They gave their lives to serve God, fulfilling His purposes for them to grow and serve in everyday life.

Praise: [God for the creative way His Holy Spirit uses His Church to ignite young people. \(1Tim.4:12\)](#)

More: <http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Over-1-500-new-Christians-at-Soul-Survivor>

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ Trumpet Call

Excitement and expectation are growing. We hear of deeper praise, more healings, authoritative prayer, words of prophecy and the gospel taking to the streets. Many believe it is time to invite awakening into our land, into where we live, our church, our workplace. It is time to seek God, spend more time with Him, desiring to come into a deeper relationship with Him. Many are excited about Trumpet Call but we do not want to get transfixed on an event. It is what the trumpet is calling into being that should excite us. We believe God is going to reveal greater depths, colour and vibrancy to the Gospel. This Trumpet

Call announces good news to our nation and the nations. Prayer Alert readers are invited to join in a day of prayer and worship that will release God's purposes on Saturday 15 October at the International Convention Centre in central Birmingham.

Pray: for many to attend Trumpet Call, and become an active part of His Body moving forward. (2Ch.7:14)

More: <http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/what-we-do/prayer-events/trumpet-call-2016>

■ Media anti-Christian bias

David Robertson said he is reading or hearing about victorious Christian athletes every day - except on the BBC. Usain Bolt is a professing Christian. He prays and gives thanks to God, before and after each event. BBC News headlined with Bolt winning gold and went on with an in- depth interview about his background, with no mention at all of his faith. If Bolt was gay or transgender would the BBC ignore that? How would media cover Eric Liddell's refusal to run on a Sunday? Have the BBC and other media outlets moved away from their Christian heritage and neutral and fair reporting, or are they airbrushing Christianity from mainstream culture? Is there an establishment bias against real Christianity and an encouragement of their own version of Christianity of nice religious organisations who know their place, providing appropriate non-challenging ceremonies and helping to provide social welfare in times of austerity?

Pray: for real Christianity to be displayed in pillars of society, for an end to subconscious or conscious attempts by media, education and political elites to remove Christianity from narratives. (Jn.8:32)

More: <http://www.premier.org.uk/Olympics/The-BBC-s-decision-to-ignore-Usain-Bolt-s-faith-is-another-sign-of-anti-Christian-bias>

■ Only partial apologies by bishops

Church of England bishops have been instructed to give partial apologies to victims of child sex abuse by clergy, to help minimise the cost of being sued. Confidential legal advice to bishops seen by The Telegraph said that the furthest the bishops should go was to 'express regret'. It warns bishops to be careful before meeting victims, and not to do so without first talking to a lawyer. It warns of the 'unintended effect of accepting legal liability' for sex abuse and 'inadvertently' conceding guilt. The advice was issued in 2007 and replaced last year. The latest revelation comes after a review earlier this year found that at least three clergy, subsequently made bishops in the Church of England, failed to act over credible claims of sadistic sexual abuse disclosed repeatedly by a survivor over forty years.

Pray: for Archbishop Justin Welby as he works towards overturning a culture of silencing. (Ps.15:2)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/bishops.were.urged.not.to.apologise.fully.for.child.sex.abuse.to.minimise.liability.risk/93673.htm>

■ Atheist handbooks given to Scottish parents

The Enlighten Up campaign is an initiative of Humanist Society Scotland (HSS), to promote 'a fair and inclusive education system where pupils and teachers are not discriminated against because of their religion or belief.' However, HSS's head of communications said their ultimate objective is to see religious observance scrapped and replaced with a more inclusive activity, such as philosophy. The campaign is providing parents 'concerned about religious influence in schools' with an atheist handbook. Scottish law requires public schools to host at least six religious observance sessions a year. HSS has produced two handbooks to help challenge teachers entitled A Guide for Non-Religious Parents and A Guide for Non-Religious Young People. The books include advice on how to opt out of religious observance and how to make a complaint when someone feels their rights have not been respected. HSS also provides templates for opt-out letters.

Pray: for Scottish laws to continue to enable schools to hold religious observances. (Ps.25:5)

More: <http://www.gospelherald.com/articles/66009/20160817/atheist-handbooks-given-to-scottish-parents-pupils-to-challenge-religion-in-schools.htm>

■ GCSE A*-C grades fall drastically

National GCSE results have fallen dramatically across the board, with the proportion who gained a C grade or above dropping by an unprecedented 2.1% compared with last year – including a sharp decline in the numbers gaining a C or above in English. The falls are due in large part to new Government policies that force 17-year-olds who got a D or lower in English or maths last year to resit those exams, meaning more students overall were sitting the tests. But some of the fall is unexplained. Of pupils taking their exams in year 11, the normal GCSE year, the proportion gaining A*-C grades was down by 1.3%. The female dominance in the exams continued with the gender gap increasing slightly (by 0.5%) this summer, with 71.3% of girls awarded at least a C grade, compared with 62.4% of boys.

Pray: for those counselling GCSE students to be anointed with wisdom and insight as they help students plan and set future goals. (Eph.6:4)

More: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/aug/25/gcse-results-dramatic-decline-grades>

■ Mentor a child in care

When a child goes into care they may have experienced loss, neglect, abuse or trauma. To befriend such a child, support and encourage them as a reliable positive presence in their life is a significant commitment, but tremendously rewarding. This is the role of an independent visitor or mentor. The 1989 Children's Act created the role of volunteers to be appointed by the local authority to 'visit, befriend and advise' a child and to be a consistent presence in their travels through the care system. Social workers may change, but ideally a mentor remains a constant friend, visiting the child on a regular basis. Sadly, this role hasn't been given the publicity or esteem it deserves, and consequently many children who would like a mentor simply don't get one. Barnardo's is calling upon local authorities to ensure that every child in care knows they have a right to an independent visitor or mentor, and to sign up to a new set of quality standards.

Pray: for Javed Khan, chief executive of Barnardo's, as he works towards establishing more volunteers to take on this hugely rewarding role. (Mt.18:5)

More: <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/23324>

■ Suspect arrested in terrorism investigation

Police have arrested a serving member of the British Armed Forces on suspicion of Northern Ireland-related terrorist activities. The 30-year-old man was arrested on Wednesday during a joint operation involving the Metropolitan Police counter-terrorism squad, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, and Devon and Cornwall police. In a statement, the London Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) said the arrest was 'pre-planned and intelligence-led' as part of an investigation into Northern Ireland-related terrorism. The suspect, who has not been identified, has been taken to an unnamed police station in the west of England. The MPS said further searches are being carried out at an address in south Devon and a nearby wooded area by the force's Counter-Terrorism Command, also known as SO15. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is also conducting searches in relation to the investigation. In June it was reported that Republican dissidents are developing anti-tank weapons. See <https://www.rt.com/uk/265777-ira-anti-tank-weapon/>

Pray: for British and Northern Ireland police as they root out terrorism through aggressive surveillance. (Prov.15.3)

More: <https://www.rt.com/uk/356999-solider-arrest-ireland-terrorism/>

EUROPE

■ Italy: earthquake leaves towns in ruins

Residents in mountain communities 85 miles east of Rome woke up on Wednesday to scenes of devastation after a strong shallow earthquake rocked them at 3:30am. At the time of writing, the death toll has reached 267 and could rise further as rescue teams search for survivors under the rubble of flattened towns. Hundreds of homes have been destroyed. Trucks full of debris leave the areas every few minutes. People are frightened, sleeping in cars or tents with the earth continuing to tremble under them from aftershocks, hundreds of which have struck since the quake. Two of them registered 5.1 and 5.4, just before dawn. 'I haven't slept much because I was really afraid,' said 70-year-old Arturo Onesi from the town of Arquata del Tronto, who spent the night in a tent camp for survivors and rescue workers. Also on Wednesday, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit Myanmar. See <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/24/myanmar-struck-by-6-8-magnitude-earthquake>

Pray: for the hospitalised, homeless and those mourning friends and families. (Matt.5.4)

More: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-quake-idUSKCN10Z04H>

■ Germany: IS's terrorist strategy

A German intercessor reports that Islamic State strategy documents have been discovered and statements from key witnesses in Germany have revealed that IS wants to provoke a religious war. The motives of refugees must be regarded with suspicion, fear of them must be stirred up, and attacks on them by Neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists provoked. The state is expected to react with drastic measures. This is intended to make the Muslim minority community in Western Europe feel discriminated against, alienated and isolated, and consequently be more prepared to fall into line with and support IS's global campaign. Three people have now returned from Syria to Germany, and they have broken their silence. From their statements it has become clear that IS leaders know that especially in Germany and Great Britain they have few sympathisers who are ready to sacrifice their lives. Thanks be to God!

Pray: against a demonically-inspired strategy taking hold in Germany, and for deliverance and protection from the schemes of the evil one. (Mt.6:13; Ps.140:1)

WORLDWIDE

■ Olympics evangelism update

Last week we prayed for the distribution of an evangelistic book 'Power to Win'. Thank you for all your prayers. God is moving. In the final week of the Olympics Alex Ribeiro wrote to say, 'Our book is in the hands of people from Kenya, Cameroon, Tunisia, China, Greece, New Zealand, Russia, Ireland, England, Germany, USA, Zambia, Honduras, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Mexico, Canada, Cuba, Myanmar, Togo, South Korea and Brazil at the Olympic Village.'

Pray: for God to water all the seeds sown so that more doors can be opened into the nations. (Ps.45:4)

■ USA: attack on prosperity preachers

Russell Moore, President of the Southern Baptist Church, has launched a devastating attack on prosperity preachers, criticising those who sit on a 'golden throne'. Moore said it was dangerous to 'normalise' Christianity and it was good news that the Christian faith 'isn't normal anymore'. He said he got the same shock of adrenaline from watching prosperity preachers as others got from watching horror movies. In his podcast, Moore described a prosperity preacher who said that even if the gospel was untrue, she would still be a Christian because it is 'the best way to live'. Moore insisted that Christianity comes 'with a scandal and with a cross', reminding people that in first century Ephesus, when identifying yourself with a crucified and resurrected Messiah you might also lose your standing in the marketplace.

Pray: for the Church to preach all the Bible even if it gives offence to some; may we never cut and paste difficult passages and teachings. (Ps.119:43)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/russell.moore.launches.attack.on.prosperity.preachers/93791.htm>

■ Turkey: the Bible 'gives hope' after wedding bomb

A pastor in Turkey has asked for prayer after a bomb blast at a wedding party in the south-east of the country killed 54 people and injured 100 more last Saturday. Josh Wentz, pastor at Batikent Protestant Church in Ankara, was speaking after the attack in Gaziantep, near Syria's border. He said there is hope in this dark time. 'What gives us hope is knowing that in the Bible God is no respecter of persons, and He doesn't prefer any one group of people over another - He has love for all

people. It's our prayer that everyone in Turkey will come to know that love.' Officials said the incident appeared to be a suicide bombing committed by a 12-year-old boy. President Erdogan said that IS was 'the most likely perpetrator' of the attack. Also see Prayer Alert article 6, below.

Pray: for Josh Wentz and all who are putting their trust in God and His healing in troubled times. (2Sa.22:30)

More: <http://nvs24.com/news/uk/The-Bible-gives-us-hope-says-pastor-after-Turkey-wedding-bomb-blast-7921517.html>

■ USA: churches help flood victims

The floodwaters in Louisiana are beginning to recede, revealing thousands of homes and businesses destroyed by over 2 feet of rain in 2 days. More than 20,000 were rescued. Churches not swallowed up by water opened their doors as Red Cross shelters and national relief organisations rolled up their sleeves to help with the clean-up. First Baptist Church in Zachary, the only church in the area sufficiently dry and equipped to become an overnight shelter, is welcoming flood victims to its Family Life Centre. Leaders took donations, organised rooms of clothing and bedding, and set up a games room for children and a medical station for volunteer doctors and nurses who offered to help. The Red Cross helped set up showers, cots, and kitchen systems. Many other churches in the area are surveying and fixing damaged homes. Repair teams have been ripping out soaked drywall and accessing homes where 'water went all the way up to the ceiling'.

Pray: for the volunteers taking the opportunity to serve and love their neighbours. (Luke 10:36-37)

More: <http://www.christianheadlines.com/news/churches-offer-comfort-aid-to-flood-ravaged-louisiana.html>

■ Syria: Christian agency's aid to Aleppo

World Help has announced that it is delivering emergency supplies of basic food and bedding for Syrians trapped in war-ravaged Aleppo. The aid convoy will be a 'first-step' response to the crisis in the city. They said, 'For more than five years, Syria has seen its children suffer in refugee camps, drown in the Mediterranean, or suffocate under the wreckage of what used to be a home. Today, more than ever, Syria needs our help.' News of the emergency delivery comes after images of five-year-old Omran Daqneesh and the death of his brother in hospital illustrated again the severity of the catastrophe. Children make up more than a third of the casualties in Aleppo.

Pray: for more compassionate action by NGOs for the 300,000 people trapped in Aleppo. (Ps.68:5)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian.aid.agency.to.deliver.emergency.supplies.to.war.ravaged.aleppo/93795.htm>

■ Middle East: child suicide bombers

As reported in article 3 above, an IS child suicide bomber killed at least 54 at a Kurdish wedding party in Turkey. He was aged between 12 and 14. Turkish authorities said that a destroyed suicide vest was found at the scene of the bombing. They are investigating the possibility that militants could have placed the explosives on the child without his knowledge and detonated them remotely, or that a mentally disabled child was duped into carrying the device, a tactic seen elsewhere in the region. Also this week Iraqi police removed a bomb belt from a suicide bomber aged 14. Officials suggested he may have been drugged before being sent on his mission. See: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/22/watch-moment-isis-suicide-bomber-in-football-shirt-aged-12-or-13/>

Pray: for an end to the total disregard for the lives of minors. (Is.5:20)

More: <http://www.gospelherald.com/articles/66108/20160822/isis-child-suicide-bomber-kills-54-22-children-wedding-party.htm>

■ Israel: new West Bank plan

Last week Israeli defence minister Liberman unveiled a plan to contend with Palestinian terrorism. The main points were to find alternative civilian leadership to replace Palestinian president Abbas, and to map towns and villages throughout the West Bank as 'red' and 'green.' Regions from which no terrorist activities are launched will be 'green' and earn various benefits and easing of restrictions. Regions from which terrorists originate will be 'red', and security measures will be levelled against them. While it is unclear whether residents of red areas will be denied permits to work in Israel, it's already known that green areas will be rewarded with the expansion of their development plans. The proposal ignores tight security cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian security forces that has been effective in maintaining calm and preventing the outbreak of another widespread intifada on the West Bank.

Pray: for Palestinians to reach a diplomatic accord with Israel, for an end to desperation and despair among the Palestinians and Israelis and an end to radical Islamic approaches and ideologies. (Lev. 26:6)

More: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/08/avigdor-liberman-plan-west-bank-palestinians-hamas-fatah.html>

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD PRAYER CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, UK

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