

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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Issue 36-2016

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Friday 9 September 2016

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PRAISE REPORTS

■ Two new prayer guides

The Ethne Prayer Workgroup are seeking God for wisdom as they work towards producing two new prayer guides. Christians have been using the booklet 30 days of prayer for the Muslim world during Ramadan for the past 25 years. As increasingly more people pray for Muslims, we are seeing God answer in miraculous ways beyond what we could have asked or imagined. How many more lives could be changed with annual informed intercession for 30 days for the Hindu world and 30 days for the Buddhist world? The Ethne team are at the early stages of consultation and team building, with a vision to see these two intercessory tools produced and distributed globally.

Praise: God for this initiative, and pray that it will go forward in His timing with no enemy obstacles. (Ps.143:10)

More: <http://us12.campaign-archive1.com/?u=f140e27baebdcd4c1a2057fdb&id=beac4d68bb&e=659055747d>

■ Nigeria: only weeks left for Boko Haram?

Nigeria's army expects to seize Boko Haram's last few strongholds in the northeast over the next few weeks, the commander in charge said on Wednesday. The army has retaken most of the territory - at one point the size of Belgium. Major General Lucky Irabor said the jihadists are now holed up in a few pockets of the Sambisa forest - where more than 200 girls kidnapped from the town of Chibok in 2014 are believed to be held - and two areas near Lake Chad, and they would be flushed out 'within weeks'. 'Almost all of the locations held by the Boko Haram terrorists have been reclaimed. We are talking only of a few villages and towns,' Irabor said.

Praise: God for better military cooperation and joint operations between Nigeria and Chad. Pray for the final push into Sambisa and the release of all the hostages. (Jer.33:9)

More: <http://www.gospelherald.com/articles/66260/20160831/nigerian-army-commander-weeks-left-boko-haram.htm>

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ Dementia: Living in the Memories of God

The Michael Ramsey Prize, which is sponsored by the Lambeth Trust and administered by SPCK, was inaugurated in 2005 to encourage the most promising contemporary theological writing and to identify it for a wider Christian readership. This year the prize was awarded to John Swinton's Dementia: Living in the Memories of God at a ceremony at the Greenbelt festival. The Archbishop said, 'It is a cross-disciplinary book that goes straight to the heart of tackling one of the most profound failures of our society - the failure to value people in other than economic terms and to see the dignity of the

human person.' The book is challenging, with a coherent theological approach and a clinical understanding. Dementia is one of the great issues of our society and Justin said, 'He has done the church and our country a huge service.'

Pray: for this book to give many a better understanding of the issues involved. (Ps.109:21-23a)

More: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5761/john-swintons-dementia-living-in-the-memories-of-god-wins-michael-ramsey-prize>

▣ Muslims and the media

A Muslim family were accused of being terrorists on their trip to Skegness. They won't be returning: they said, 'It didn't really bother us until a man shouted "terrorists".' A survey found a 326% rise in anti-Muslim hate crime last year. Is the media responsible for this rise in Islamophobia? The press regulator, IPSO, judged the Daily Star Sunday's headline, 'UK mosques fundraising for terror' to be 'significantly misleading' - the mosques were not involved in any way. A week earlier The Sun was forced to acknowledge that its headline '1 in 5 Brit Muslims sympathy for jihadists' was similarly misleading. The Times claimed Muslims were 'silent on terror'. This allegation was unequivocally rebuffed by Theresa May and senior counter-terror officers. See: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/why-the-british-media-is-responsible-for-the-rise-in-islamophobia-in-britain-a6967546.html>

Pray: for communities to feel comfortable around each other, not polarised. Pray against media sensationalism and scaremongering regarding apparent threats posed by Muslims. (Jer. 22:29)

More: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-family-skegness-trip-accused-of-being-terrorists-islamophobia-a7220001.html>

▣ Parents' concerns about school

TLG, a Christian education charity, reports that almost one in four parents are concerned about their child's progress in school as they return after the summer break. TLG polled 1,000 parents and found that 23% were most concerned about their child making the right progress. The main concerns were about their child being bullied, feeling unhappy at school and being exposed to inappropriate language, conduct or material. The concerns coincide with a decline in the overall proportion of children achieving A* to C in their GCSEs, (from 69% to 67%), and an increase in school exclusions. Pray for churches to do more to support parents who are concerned about their child's progress at school. Pray for the children needing appropriate resources for them at the local school. Home life has 80% of the influence on the child and school only 20%. Pray for parents to be encouraged to support their children more.

Pray: for God to prompt parents to express and discuss their worries humbly with teachers. (Ps.119:173)

More: <http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Biggest-concerns-of-parents-of-school-children-revealed-by-Christian-charity>

▣ Pray for teachers as new school year begins

Teachers have the enormous responsibility of imparting knowledge to our children, and their job is often difficult. Pray for their intuition and ability to keep peace in the classroom and peace between students and themselves. Ask God to help them to be gentle to each and every one of their students, balancing mercy and discipline in the right measure for all. Pray that no matter how tired or stressed they feel they will be able to give genuine praise as much as possible and constructive criticism in a manner that is acceptable to the young. Ask for God to bless the teachers in our nation that they remain conscientious enough to keep their lessons always interesting, recognising what motivates and be able to accept different individual's limitations and not hold it against them. May they never judge their students too harshly, but rather be fair to all.

Pray: for teachers to be good role models, demonstrating God's love in thoughts, words and deeds. (Lk.6:40)

More: <http://www.prayers-for-special-help.com/Prayers-for-Teachers.html>

▣ Rio Paralympics: the Great Britain team

Great Britain will have a team of 264 athletes, competing in nineteen sports, at the Rio Paralympics. The British team has never finished outside the top five in the medal table. At London 2012, the members won 120 medals, including 34 golds, to finish third behind China and Russia - and hopes are high they can surpass that in Brazil. To watch an incredible three-minute all-music all-dancing 'Yes I Can' Paralympics video, click the 'More' button.

Pray: for the athletes to see their dreams realised as they travel their individual sporting journeys. (Ps.3:6)

More: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=locLk3aYlk>

▣ Theresa May: UK to lead world in free trade

Theresa May said that the UK could become 'the global leader in free trade' as she faced calls to clarify the government's post-Brexit vision. Making a G20 summit statement, the PM refused to give a running commentary or 'reveal our hand prematurely' after Australia and the UK began preliminary discussions about a new trade deal. The Australian trade minister predicted an agreement between the countries. But, with the UK unable to sign deals while still in the EU, he said an agreement would not happen until the UK left the EU in 2019. Australia is earmarked as the first potential new trade partner for the UK once it leaves the EU. Addressing MPs, Mrs May said that India, Mexico, South Korea and Singapore were also keen to remove trade barriers. She pledged to 'think through the issues in a sober and considered way. So we will not take decisions until we are ready.'

Pray: for Liam Fox as he develops new trade links around the world, and for preliminary discussions around what a post-Brexit Australia-UK trade deal might look like. (Ps.37:5)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-37291832>

▣ Shameful destruction of Belfast Jewish graves

A gang of youths used hammers and blocks in an attack on the walled-off Jewish section of a cemetery in Belfast last Friday. Seventeen Jewish graves were destroyed in the organised attack. The Police Service of Northern Ireland is

investigating the incident as a hate crime. Some of the graves dated back to the 1870s. Bishop Noel Treanor of the Irish diocese of Down and Connor said, 'What a tragedy and blemish on our society that the long-present, beloved and treasured Jewish families of our community should suffer yet again such actions of disrespect and violence to the memory of their beloved dead; and the regrettable outworking of a latent xenophobia that stalks the minds of some.'

Pray: for neighbourhoods and communities to accept foreigners. (Lev.19:33)

More: <http://www.jewishpress.com/news/breaking-news/catholic-bishop-calls-destruction-of-17-belfast-jewish-graves-shameful/2016/08/29/>

EUROPE

■ Praying for Scandinavian countries

King's Ministries is an apostolic-prophetic Ministry preparing the Body of Christ for the work of the Gospel and making the way straight for the Lord to come as a King to the Church, to cities and to nations. Many Scandinavian Christians believe God is strongly calling Nordic nations to gather to pray together for their nations and for the end time. We can join them in praying for God's intercessory army to grow in cities and villages; may they destroy the altars and strongholds of evil. We can join them in continuous strong praise and worship in order to make breakthroughs both 24/7 and 24/365. For inspiring prayers and prophecies for Scandinavian countries, click the 'More' button below.

Pray: for Jesus Christ to be the Head of a renewed five-fold ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers in the Nordic nations. (Eph. 4:11,12)

More: <http://kingsministries.fi/scandinavian-countries/?lang=en>

■ France: terror plot near Notre Dame

On Saturday an abandoned car with no registration plates containing six gas cylinders and a book with Arabic writing was found near Notre Dame Cathedral, sparking an investigation into a possible new Paris terror plot. Police have arrested two women who were 'known to security services', but it was unclear whether the couple were on France's 'Fiche S' list of terror suspects.

Pray: for God to strengthen the French security services, police and border agencies as the country remains under a continuing state of emergency. (Dt.23:14)

More: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/terror-plot-fears-after-gas-cylinders-found-in-car-parked-near-notre-dame-cathedral-in-paris-a7229706.html>

WORLDWIDE

■ Israel: 'risk of civil war'

'Israeli society is heading for civil war and the country must take steps to counter it', former Mossad chief Tamir Pardo stated last week, in his first public remarks since stepping down as the spy agency director in January. 'The internal threat must worry us more than the external threat,' he told a press conference. 'If a divided society goes beyond a certain point, you have, in extreme circumstances, a phenomenon like civil war. To my regret, the distance to that point is shrinking. I fear that we are going in that direction.' Pardo said. He added that there was more to unite than divide but some in Israel sought the intensity that came with division, and 'there are some for whom it's comfortable to emphasise that which divides and not that which unites. I can't put my finger on a group or a leader. It exists within all the country's groups.'

Pray: for peace amongst divided communities and for an end to people imposing their own ways upon others. Pray for healing and reconciliation amongst communities who have experienced conflict. (Mt.5:24)

More: <http://www.timesofisrael.com/>

■ Asia: pastoral training

Many would be surprised if they discovered their pastor had very little knowledge or understanding of the Bible and didn't even own a concordance or Bible dictionary - yet that is the situation in many parts of Asia. 'They don't have the tools we take for granted,' says Jim Davis, founder and international director of Pastoral Training of Asia (PTA). Davis was a Calvary Chapel pastor in California for 13 years before he went overseas in 1987. Recognising a tremendous pastoral training need, he started PTA, which has a special burden for the Karen people along the Myanmar-Thailand border. 'Many of them are Anglican priests without much theology other than the catechism and their prayer book,' he says. 'They don't have Bible dictionaries, commentaries or computers with Bible software. They're already pastors, so they can't drop everything and attend Bible school. The answer is to take training materials to them. Asia has the largest population in the world and the smallest percentage of pastors, missionaries and Christian workers'.

Pray: for all who are producing culturally compatible Bible teaching materials. Also, pray for Asian pastors under tremendous stress from their congregations and their communities. (Is.35:3)

More: <http://www.godreports.com/ministry-aboutview/162>

■ Hajj starts today

Today begins the life-long aspiration and spiritual climax for one-fifth of the world - the Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam. Every Muslim who can afford it is required to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca, the birthplace of Islam, at least once. Pilgrims will perform sacred rituals, following the steps of Muhammad, seeking forgiveness of sins and a chance of eternal life. Jesus loves Muslims and died for them and the Hajj is an incredible opportunity for Jesus to reveal Himself to seeking pilgrims. Our prayers during this crucial time could change someone's eternity. Millions are seeking forgiveness and eternal life from a god who cannot hear and will not answer. While increasing millions are turning to Muhammad instead of Christ, Jesus continues to reveal himself lovingly to seeking hearts. Pray for Muslims to encounter him through visions, dreams and faithful witnesses. Pray for all efforts to silence the Gospel to propel it across the Muslim world instead.

Pray: for Muslims to have courage to follow Jesus even though it means loss of family, future, or even life. (Jn. 14:14)
More: <http://www.prayercast.com/islam.html>

▣ North Korea: nuclear weapons and lies

The official North Korean news agency, KCNA, said that the leader wants the nation to 'continue making miraculous achievements in bolstering the nuclear force'. The statement came after test-firing three missiles into the sea on Monday as world leaders met for the G20 summit in China. The missiles had a range of 620 miles and were fired without navigational warning to Japan. More worryingly, today it was announced that a fifth nuclear test had been successful. Meanwhile North Korean defectors are sending pamphlets and DVDs in balloons over the barbed-wire border from South Korea to North Korea. These defectors are hoping to inspire others to make the same dangerous journey to the South. One said, 'How could our country, North Korea, lie to us so completely?' See: <https://www.theguardian.com/global/2016/aug/27/north-korea-defectors-ian-birrell>

Pray: for God to break the stronghold of control and deception over North Korea. (Gal.6:7)

More: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/06/kim-jong-un-declares-north-korea-must-keep-up-drive-for-nuclear-weapons>

▣ Turkey: increased assault on media

The attempted military coup has opened a new chapter in Turkey's history, with collective demonisation and punishment of the Gulen community and the media. Reporters Without Borders say Turkey is now 'world leader in imprisoned journalists'. Although the Gulen community has a darker side, many are innocent people being persecuted. Journalists are harassed, accused of 'insulting the president' and the Internet is systematically censored. The war in Syria and Turkey's offensive against the PKK is exacerbating media, which are also accused of terrorism. The media and civil society are nonetheless resisting President Erdogan's growing authoritarianism. On 30 August, historically celebrated as 'Holiday of Victory', there were no celebrations or parades, reflecting the grim and tense mood of a society dominated by accusation and purge. Instead, the holiday ushered in another round of crackdowns on prominent journalists for alleged ties to the Gulenist movement.

Pray: for God to bring an end to the intimidation and suppression of independent journalism. (Jer.20:11a)

More: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/09/turkey-media-gulen-coup-iran-russia-syria-erdogan-kurds.html>

▣ USA: early voting, Russia, and Trump

Early postal voting has started in key US states where minority voters and young adults casting ballots in advance could give a contender an advantage. Mail-in ballots could be 75% of votes in key states. Donald Trump's chances may hinge on Hispanics, blacks and first-time voters who usually cast ballots early. Elsewhere, in Russia, Philipp Kirkorov, called Russia's Michael Jackson by Trump, is publicly expounding his virtues. The two men have known each other for more than 20 years. Kirkorov has performed at Trump's casino in Atlantic City. Trump is very often a guest of Russia, and is said to love Russia and Russians. Kirkorov said, 'If Trump is President, the relationship between our countries will be much closer. We are two big nations. We must be friends.' In July Trump said it would be good if America got along with Russia, hinted he would consider recognising Crimea as part of Russia, and suggested lifting sanctions. See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-37286988>

Pray: for God to have his way with American elections and international relationships. (Ps.2:10,11)

More: <http://www.timesofisrael.com/early-voting-already-trump-chances-may-hinge-on-non-whites/>

▣ 2,000 pounds of cocaine seized

A seizure of nearly 2,000 pounds of cocaine was the result of a joint international investigation that started in April. Spanish authorities became aware of a global group using maritime delivery containers to import cocaine from South America, using a professional fruit firm within the southern metropolis of Sevilla as cover. The use of these containers illustrates the recent changes in the ways traffickers have undertaken to move drugs across continents. Since 2006, maritime seizures that contain drugs have risen six-fold, with a very steep increase since 2010. Concealing contraband inside shipments of perishable items is a typical tactic as there are procedures to permit these to go through ports extra rapidly. This tactic is common among traffickers in North America because pungent odours from perishable items will mask drug odours and deter inquisitive customs officials.

Pray: for the continued perseverance of customs officers and police. (Jos.1:9)

More: <http://talkstoday.com/2000-pounds-of-cocaine-was-busted-on-the-gateway-to-europes-drug-market/>

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD PRAYER CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, UK

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