

# 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

### ■ YWAM's largest-ever event

Last week Youth with a Mission hosted its largest event ever in its fifty-year history, in Kansas City. YWAM joined with International Houses of Prayer (IHOP), and they shared and encouraged each other, exploring what God is doing in nine spheres of society (family, economics, government, religion, education, media, and arts, entertainment, and sports). They also discussed subjects crucial to missions and prayer. IHOP's 24/7 prayer room is divided into twelve worship-based prayer meetings a day, each lasting two hours.

**Praise:** God for YWAM, and pray for the vision that Jesus unlocked in them to grow as they step out with renewed faith. (Gal.5:1a)

**More:** <http://ywamkc2016.org/ytschedule>

### ■ Ground Zero message of forgiveness

As the US marked the 15th anniversary of 9/11 last Sunday, a YouTube video was released of a Bible recovered at Ground Zero after the terrorist attacks. The Bible had a particular message to convey. Joel Meyerowitz spent nine months at Ground Zero taking photos in the aftermath of 9/11. A firefighter working there gave him pages from a Bible welded to a piece of steel. Meyerowitz marvelled that the Bible was preserved intact, and even more that it was turned to a passage from Matthew 5:38-39 (KJV) which says, 'Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.' Meyerowitz said, 'Of all the pages in the Bible that it could be opened at, that was remarkable.'

**Praise:** God for this message; may it be accepted by all who have suffered at the hands of terrorists. (Mt.6:12)

**More:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VV6BtdNal8E>

## BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

### ■ Trumpet Call

Ian Cole writes, 'You will agree that we are living in a time when extraordinary things are happening at local, national and international levels on a daily basis. The same can be said for the Global Church worldwide. Day by day we are receiving reports of extraordinary moves of God, often in the most desperately needy places on earth. On 15 October, at Trumpet Call - National Day of Prayer - we are joining with church, prayer and mission partners to pray and declare that 2016/17 is going to see the beginnings of extraordinary moves of God across our nations. We shall worship, pray and declare that in villages, towns and cities, as we live in unity and speak out the Good News of Jesus, He will come in His wonderful grace and mercy and transform lives, heal broken hearts and bodies, restore families and bring freedom for the oppressed. In other words an extraordinary break-out of God's Kingdom where we live! We look forward to seeing you on the day.'

**Pray:** for God's people to humble ourselves and pray, for the nations to know Christ in a new and living way, for a biblically-proportioned momentum of revival and change to be birthed. (Jas.4:10)

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

#### ▣ Reuniting refugee children with families

Following Lord Roberts' recent question to the Government about 'what plans they have to speed up the reuniting of refugee children in the camps of Calais and Dunkirk with their families in the United Kingdom', the Archbishop of Canterbury commented: 'The question has been extremely specifically put, about children who have families in this country; this is not about all unaccompanied children.' He also said, 'We are still having continual reports of delays for really quite young children who are not being brought across. Does the Minister not agree that where children - particularly young ones - have families in this country, there is no reason why they should not be brought across within the day?'

**Pray:** for governments to implement systems quickly to free unaccompanied children from France. (Dt.24:17a)

**More:** <https://churchinparliament.org/2016/09/06/archbishop-asks-government-to-speed-up-process-of-bringing-lone-children-with-families-in-uk-across-from-calais-jungle-camp/>

#### ▣ Controlling behaviour in relationships

The recent Archers storyline on Radio 4 has drawn people's attention to the rise in controlling behaviour in relationships. One of the hardest parts of being a parent is seeing your child hurt in a relationship. It's vital to be aware of the difference between behaviour that is thought of as 'rites of passage' and behaviour which has more serious implications. Pray for organisations such as Women's Aid, Refuge and others who give support and advice to those in or concerned about a situation of controlling behaviour. Pray for the counsellors listening to and advising people around the issues of healthy relationships. Pray for those who recognise a friend or relative being controlled by their partner to take appropriate action. Pray for more specialist training on domestic abuse for all who work in the criminal courts and the family courts. To read the Women's Aid statement after the Radio 4 verdict click the 'More' button.

**Pray:** for those influencing Government by campaigning for social change, and for those in abusive relationships to become empowered survivors. (Esther 1:13)

**More:** <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/verdict-helens-trial-statement-2/>

#### ▣ Faith schools rules to be relaxed?

The government is set to relax rules on how faith schools select pupils, to allow new Catholic schools to open in England, according to a Number Ten source. It comes as the education secretary said ministers will take a pragmatic look at new grammar schools. Justine Greening said she wanted to offer parents choice but children would not be split into 'winners and losers'. The source said, 'We're going to change the rule, to allow new Catholic schools to open, while making faith schools of all kinds do more to ensure their pupils integrate with children of other backgrounds.' Pray that the furore over reintroduction of grammar schools will not affect the move to remove the cap on faith-based admissions, so that the Catholic Church will be able to meet the current parental demand for thousands of new Catholic school places across the country.

**Pray:** for Government liaison with the Catholic Education Service and other education organisations (Pr.29:11)

**More:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-37314149>

#### ▣ Call to bless the UK

Dr Clifford Hill writes, 'It is vital that those in Britain who know the Lord declare the Gospel with their words and lives.' In the aftermath of the vote to leave the EU all the forecasts of doom from those who wished Britain to remain within the EU have not been fulfilled. The economy has not suffered dire consequences, the housing market has not collapsed, unemployment is down and retail sales are up, giving a general feeling of buoyancy and hope for the future. If God's blessings upon the nation are to continue, there is a huge responsibility upon those who know Him and know the Bible. Only 44% of the nation claim to be Christians and 48% have no religion.' There is a huge responsibility for spirit-led evangelism. May the body of Christ grow in faith and action.

**Pray:** for Christians to communicate the gospel and God's precepts in their spheres of influence in economics, government, education, media, arts, entertainment, and sports. (Mt.5:16)

**More:** [http://www.prophecytoday.uk/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=491:will-god-s-blessing-continue&Itemid=151&Itemid=101](http://www.prophecytoday.uk/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=491:will-god-s-blessing-continue&Itemid=151&Itemid=101)

#### ▣ Many in General Synod support LGBT

A letter to the College of Bishops, signed by three deans, eight archdeacons, and 72 members of the House of Laity, states, 'We are keen that the College of Bishops is unequivocal in its acknowledgement that all, including those who identify as LGBT, are essential to the health and future of our church and mission to the wider world.' Synod member and LGBT activist Jayne Ozanne said that the church needs to be seen as a church for all, and bishops can't fudge this any longer. The House of Bishops will meet in November, and is likely to discuss feedback from the recent College of Bishops' meeting. After July's Synod, Andrea Williams of Christian Concern and Wilberforce director Dr Joe Boot issued a statement saying that the paucity of the biblical argument to support anything other than that of the Orthodox and presently-held position had been ignored, and replaced by an appeal to secular norms.

**Pray:** for the word of God to be the defining word as battle lines are drawn over sexuality in the C of E. (Ro. 1:28)

**More:** <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/same-sex-marriage/one-third-of-synod-urges-formal-acceptance-of-lgbt-church-members>

### ■ Getting scriptures to the lost

In thirty years over 100 million Bibles have been printed to keep up with global demand. Yet in the UK 90% of people don't read it. One third of 15-year-olds don't know that the nativity story is from the Bible, and the same percentage of adults believe the plot of The Hunger Games is from the Bible. Many people don't think the Bible is relevant to them. The Bible Society is determined to change that, and is working to help people recognise the value of the Bible by developing resources that help local churches to engage more deeply with Scripture. It is sending thousands of volunteers into primary schools to share Bible stories with a generation almost entirely unfamiliar with them. In politics, media and the arts they are bringing the Bible to life in fresh, exciting and relevant ways with a range of activities and resources in both English and Welsh.

**Pray:** for God's living, active words to become more understood and sought after in the UK. (John 1:4)

**More:** <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/what-we-do/england-and-wales/>

## EUROPE

### ■ European Council meeting today

A European intercessor writes, 'Today the heads of state who make up the European Council will meet in Bratislava (Slovakia holds the EU presidency). This meeting is important because the Council must find a way forward for the EU after Brexit. There are two opposite conceptions for a future structure of the EU. One is 'more Europe', which means to continue on the way of integration and becoming a closer Union. This is the position of both the President of the European Parliament (Schulz) and the President of the Commission (Juncker). The second is 'less Europe' which means strengthening the independence of the national states. This is the position of Poland, Hungary and many other states. This decision includes the question: who is leading the European Union in the future, the Commission or the Council? Angela Merkel clearly speaks for the Council.'

**Pray:** for the EU post-Brexit to be anointed by God as it considers its future. (Is.2:2)

**More:** <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2016/09/16-informal-meeting/>

### ■ IS recruiting desperate jihadists

Many IS terrorists originate from Europe and North America, with recruiters taking advantage of the economically marginalised. In Tunisia, 90% of recruits are from marginalised neighbourhoods. Over half of the Tunisian population is aged under 30, and 40% of them are unemployed. In Jordan, 70% of the population is under 30 and 1/3rd of them are unemployed. It's no coincidence that IS is building networks in marginalised neighbourhoods, towns and refugee camps across Europe - something that Al Qaeda had never even considered. 'The government is not hiring, and no companies are investing', explained a young man. 'We can spend the rest of our lives in limbo or earn a living wage as part of their caliphate.'

**Pray:** for economically challenged youths to resist the temptation of terrorism. (Mt.6:13)

**More:** <http://uk.businessinsider.com/isis-is-tempting-recruits-in-a-way-al-qaeda-never-even-considered-2016-9?r=US&IR=T>

## WORLDWIDE

### ■ Syria: tenuous cease-fire starts

The US/Russia-brokered cease-fire for Syria came into effect on Monday and will end at midnight on Sunday. Nations hope the truce can lead to the revival of peace talks between Assad's government and the rebels battling to overthrow him and contribute to efforts to defeat IS and other extremists in Syria. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said peace talks between opposition groups and the government could resume as early as next month. However, that scenario is complicated by the fact that Jabhat Fateh al-Sham remains intertwined with several other groups who are fighting on the ground and harshly criticised the US/Russian agreement to reduce violence. However, it did not reject the ceasefire, and along with the 21 insurgent groups welcomed plans to deliver aid to besieged areas of the northern city of Aleppo, saying it will help facilitate them. Pray for peaceful strategic military objectives to be achieved, with ongoing UN-established aid corridors into areas.

**Pray:** for this to be the beginning of the end of civilian massacres. (Nu.6:26)

**More:** <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-russia-cease-fire-syria-starts-fighting-goes-on/>

### ■ Global famine report - 30 August 2016

The nutrition situation in Borno and Yobe states in NIGERIA is extreme. The Boko Haram conflict has contributed to large-scale population displacement, limiting market activity, and restricting normal livelihoods. Other areas of highest concern are ETHIOPIA: following a severe drought, more people will need food assistance over the coming year than at any time in the past ten years. SUDAN: below-average national food production and very large pasture deficits. SOUTH SUDAN: conflicts continue to disrupt trade, humanitarian access, and livelihoods. Food security has deteriorated to 'Emergency' in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. YEMEN: extensive conflict has reduced incomes and elevated food prices. Food is inadequate for poor households. Many are suffering from the 2015/16 El Niño which led to drought. SOUTHERN AFRICA: 2016 is a second poor food production year. The number of people in crisis is expected to continue to increase through the year. HAITI: there are below-average agricultural seasons, reduced labour demand, and continuing high staple food prices.

**Pray:** for those experiencing food price increases, and the millions of hungry displaced populations. (Is.51:4b)

**More:** <http://www.fews.net/>

#### ■ Iraq: tragedy for Christians

IS has spread from Syria to Iraq; giving Christians the ultimatum - convert, submit, or die. In Basra and Baghdad Christian women are threatened in the workplace and forced to wear headscarves. Many have been driven out. There is low-level persecution of Christians by the government and its Shia-dominated army. Kidnapping is commonplace. 'The future looks bleak for Christians in Iraq,' says Paul Robinson of Release, 'Christians are caught in the crossfire.' The'ar and his family fled from Baghdad to the Christian village of Qaraqosh, but had to flee again when it was captured by IS. The'ar said, 'We have no future. Our prayer is to leave this country, just to be human and to raise our kids with dignity.' However, there are rays of light. Thousands of refugees have trekked through the desert to Kurdistan, which has declared itself a safe haven for Christian refugees. It is one of the few areas of the Middle East where churches for Muslim-background believers are flourishing.

**Pray:** for more safe havens for Muslim-background Christians, for the Christian faith to survive and thrive, and for Christian refugees to be given the same aid and treatment as others. (Job 11:18)

**More:** <http://www.cryoutnow.org/>

#### ■ Thailand: Pakistani Christians are unwanted

New rules regarding the UNHCR process have been decried by Christian advocates in Thailand, who claim that the change in rules disproportionately target Pakistani Christian refugees. Fleeing persecution in th homeland, eir Pakistani Christians comprise the largest portion of the refugee community in Thailand. Thai authorities often view these refugees as illegal immigrants, round them up, and detain them in deplorable conditions. On their arrival in Thailand they soon discover they are unwanted when their travel visa expires and they apply for asylum at the UNHCR. Here they are advised that despite having an official UN asylum registration, Thailand's refusal to sign UN conventions on asylum means that their status is illegal. Will pressure from the international community help change the UNHCR process for the better, or will the situation for Pakistani Christian refugees continue to get worse?

**Pray:** for the thousand or more Pakistani Christians in Thailand arrested and detained in brutal detention centres in Bangkok where cell cramming, starvation and infection are debilitating them. (Ps.20:2)

**More:** <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6077>

#### ■ Israel: 'Study the Bible', says Netanyahu

At a cabinet meeting ahead of the new school year, Benjamin Netanyahu urged students to study the Bible and their Jewish heritage. 'Our objective is to carry out an education revolution,' he said. 'This will be based on two things: excellence and Zionism. Excellence, to enable every child to realise their potential, and Zionism, based on the study of the Bible and Jewish heritage, to understand why the Jews are in Israel. First of all, the study of the Bible. We must make a major effort - this is the basis for why we are here, why we have returned here, why we stay here.' Education Minister Naftali said, 'We need to highlight our national values, Zionism, love of country and service to the state, and the strengthening of our shared Jewish roots. Knowledge is a critical word.'

**Pray:** for every child - Jewish, non-Jewish, and secular - to read the New Testament and be blessed. (Eph.3:18)

**More:** <http://www.cufi.org.uk/news/study-the-bible-says-netanyahu-to-students-at-start-of-school-year/>

#### ■ Iraq: new UN goodwill ambassador

A young Yazidi woman who survived trafficking and gang-rape by IS is to be appointed a UN ambassador. Nadia Murad, who is also a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, will become the UNODC goodwill ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking. Her appointment marks the first time a survivor of atrocities has been given this distinction. Ms Murad was captured in Iraq in 2014. Six of her brothers were murdered. The 23-year-old told the BBC she had also been subjected to sexual and physical abuse, including being gang-raped, but managed to escape. Since then she has been advocating for the end of human trafficking. Her ambassadorship 'will focus on advocacy initiatives and raise awareness around the plight of the countless victims of trafficking in persons, especially refugees, women and girls', the UN said.

**Pray:** for all the women who have been similarly abused, and for those seeking to help and counsel them. (Jer.22:3)

**More:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-37384324>

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD PRAYER CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, UK

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