

# 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

### ■ North Korea: Canadian missionary released

Kevin Garrett and his wife Julia lived for thirty years in China, where they did missionary work and ran a Christian coffee shop. In 2014, they were arrested in Dandong, a city on the North Korean border, and accused of 'carrying out tasks from Canadian espionage agencies to gather intelligence in China.' Julia was released on bail in February 2015, but Kevin was kept in custody. Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau helped to secure his release, and Garrett arrived at Vancouver Airport on Thursday. Bruce Clemenger, president of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, thanked Trudeau and his government, saying, 'We are grateful for your persistence in securing Mr Garrett's freedom, and your defence of the core Canadian principle of freedom of religion.' The Garrett family also issued a statement thanking those who worked to secure Kevin's release, as well as those who had joined together in prayer.

**Praise:** God for Kevin's release, and pray for other Christians all over the world who have been imprisoned for their faith. (Ac.14:22)

**More:** <http://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/canadian-missionary-is-released-from-detainment-in-china.html>

### ■ A generation seeking God

On Wednesday, all around the globe and in every time zone, students gathered at their flagpoles, praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities. 'See You At The Pole' (SYATP) is an annual day committed to global unity in Christ and prayer for this generation of youth. As in all great movements of prayer, SYATP did not begin in the hearts of people. It began in the heart of God. God used the obedience of a small group of teenagers 25 years ago to ignite what has become an international movement of prayer among young people. Today SYATP is still about students uniting prayer before God, interceding for their generation. SYATP falls in the Global Week of Student Prayer, 25 September to 1 October, when students find new and unique ways, places, and times to pray throughout the week.

**Praise:** God for all that He is doing in and through this generation of students. (Pr. 2:20)

**More:** [http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display\\_art.html?ID=19290](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=19290)

## BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

### ■ GOD IS MOVING!

There's only a month to go until Christians from across the nations gather for **Trumpet Call** at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham, at 2pm on 15 October. It's a time to worship and pray for God's will to be done and His Kingdom to come in and throughout the UK, our continent, and our world! Prayer Alert readers are encouraged to come and engage powerfully with God. Over a hundred leaders of different churches, networks and ministries will meet on the morning of that day to stand in unity to worship and prepare the way for the King of Kings. 'His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms according to his eternal

purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him, and through faith in him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence.' (Eph. 3:10-12)

**Pray:** for more answers to prayer as God's people pray together and work together in unity. (Col. 4:2)

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

#### ■ Christian Labour MP prays for party unity

Alex Cunningham, the MP for Stockton North and a Christian, has asked God to help bring the party together after the unsuccessful leadership challenge by Owen Smith. He was speaking after Jeremy Corbyn was re-elected leader of the Labour Party, winning 62% of the vote. Mr Corbyn said, 'I will do everything I can to bring our party together, to make it an engine of progress for our country and the people that depend on the Labour Party to protect their interests, and win power to deliver real change in this country. We have much more in common than that which divides us.' Alex Cunningham said, 'My prayer for the party is for unity, first and foremost.'

**Pray:** for the Christians in all the political parties to bring God's character and Spirit into politics. (1Cor.6:17)

**More:** <http://diariocatólico.net/2016/09/25/christian-labour-mp-prays-for-party-unity-as-corbyn.html>

#### ■ New science and faith projects

Scientists are taking vicars on tours of laboratories and addressing church services as part of a series of projects designed to foster better understanding between science and faith. CofE vicars in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire will tour laboratories with Christian science professionals, while scientists address Sunday services and church discussion forums on science and faith. 'Take Your Vicar to the Lab' is one of eight projects helping churchgoers engage confidently with science, raising the profile of Christians whose vocation is science-related, and changing the debate about science and faith in churches and communities. There will be a science, medicine and technology festival at Ely Cathedral; café-style discussion evenings with students and science professionals in Baptist churches in Leeds; a family science and faith club at parishes in Oxfordshire; 100 scientific activities for Messy Church sessions; and booklets encouraging young people to explore the Isle of Man Cathedral gardens from a science and faith perspective.

**Pray:** for churches to demonstrate successfully that faith and science are complementary, and for all who are using science to explore aspects of the Christian faith. (Heb.11:3)

**More:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2857722/infocusoctober16.pdf>

#### ■ 'Suicidal calls' made to tax credits firm

A firm used by the Government to cut tax credit payments has received calls from 'suicidal' clients. A whistle-blower said most staff weren't even trained to deal with such calls and staff were not offered counselling but were instead told, 'Have a smoke - you'll be fine.' But US firm Concentrix said that its staff are trained in accordance with Government guidelines, and 'are supported as much as possible where we have encountered this type of scenario.' Concentrix was awarded a £75m contract by the department responsible for collecting taxes and paying out certain benefits to help cut tax credit fraud and overpayment. It will not have its two-year contract renewed next year. A member of the company's Belfast office said, 'The 600 workers were yelled at every day by clients, with people crying down the phone to you that they're down to their last bag of wipes or have no food in the fridge to feed their kids'.

**Pray:** for the Government to consider innovative ways of dealing compassionately with clients when incomes are low and families are eligible for child tax credits. (Is.29:21)

**More:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-37427990>

#### ■ Brexit and Scotland's global standing

Brexit will 'enhance' Scotland's standing in the world rather than diminish it, Theresa May has said. In a column in Holyrood magazine, the Prime Minister said the Brexit talks were an exciting chance to forge a new role in the world. Mrs May said Scotland's financial expertise, shipbuilding prowess and food and drink could be global leaders. The SNP said this was jaw-dropping hypocrisy, accusing her government of chaos and confusion over Brexit. In June's EU referendum, Scottish voters backed Remain by 62%, the stated preference of Nicola Sturgeon's government. Writing in the Daily Telegraph Alex Neil, formerly a member of Ms Sturgeon's cabinet, said leaving the EU provides a 'golden opportunity' to win new devolved powers for Holyrood.

**Pray:** for God's direction, enabling and blessings for both governments' decisions at this time. (1Cor.1:10)

**More:** <http://www.briefreport.co.uk/news/may-brexit-will-enhance-scotland-s-global-standing-4427786.html>

#### ■ Prevent anti-extremism strategy

British Muslims should be given a new way of reporting hate crimes that bypasses the police because the Government's controversial Prevent anti-extremism strategy has ruined trust between the two parties, Andy Burnham has suggested. Labour's shadow home secretary called for a root and branch review of the system, and said the true scale of Islamophobic hate crimes was being hidden because Muslims were reticent to report such crimes to Prevent. He compared Prevent to the French ban on the burkini swimming costume and said it singles out one community for different treatment. He said such an approach risked legitimising or inspiring Islamophobic hate crime. Pupils are afraid to speak up in class in case they're seen as extremist. Earlier this year the UN special rapporteur on the right to freedom of assembly warned that Prevent could actually end up promoting extremism, describing it as a 'Big Brother' approach.

**Pray:** for serviceable strategies that will prevent people from turning to terrorism. (Ps.111:10b)

**More:** <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/prevent-anti-extremism-strategy-legitimising-islamophobic-hate-attacks-andy-burnham-warns-a7330951.html>

#### ■ Poland: law banning all abortions?

Currently, abortion is illegal in this predominantly Catholic country except in cases of rape, incest, if the life of the mother is in danger, or in cases of severe foetal deformities. Polish legislators are considering a bill that would ban abortion and make getting or performing an abortion a punishable offence. Pro-abortion groups have raised support for a bill which would legalise abortion on demand up to twelve weeks' gestation. They claim that restricting abortion and punishing doctors who perform abortions and women who get abortions force women to choose between giving birth to an unwanted baby or going to jail. Their pro-abortion bill has gained about 215,000 signatures. Meanwhile, this spring a pro-life bill was introduced. It is citizen-led, and has collected about 450,000 signatures of support. The new bill, if signed into law, would make abortion illegal in all cases except when the life of the mother is endangered.

**Pray:** for the protection of every person's life from conception to natural death. (Ps.127:3)

**More:** <http://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/poland-considering-law-banning-all-abortions.html>

#### ■ France: the Great Wall of Calais

Building work has begun on a wall in Calais to prevent migrants from stowing away on cars, trucks, ferries and trains bound for Britain. Dubbed 'The Great Wall of Calais,' the concrete barrier half a mile long and 13 feet high on both sides of the two-lane highway approaching the harbour will pass within a few hundred metres of 'the Jungle' housing more than 10,000 migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East trying to reach Britain. The wall is due to be completed by the end of 2016. Around 200 migrants from Calais are successfully smuggled into Britain each week according to police estimates. Migrants create roadblocks to slow trucks. When trucks stop, they climb aboard the vehicles heading to the Channel Tunnel or ferries. Many of the migrants who are turned away move to the Jungle and try over and over again. The image of Calais today in the media is very negative.

**Pray:** for governments to have the compassion and wisdom to face and successfully resolve the challenges posed by economic migrants, persecuted immigrants and refugees from wartorn areas. (Pr.19:1)

**More:** <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/9012/calais-migrants>

## WORLDWIDE

#### ■ Sounding the shofar for Rosh Hashanah

In Hebrew, 'Rosh Hashanah' means 'Head of the Year' and it's known as the Jewish New Year, celebrating the completion of creating the world and highlighting the relationship between God and humanity. This year Rosh Hashanah falls on 2 - 4 October. The shofar (horn) has been and is continuing to be sounded every morning (except Shabbat) in many Orthodox Jewish communities, stirring hearts to seek God and repent of sin. Maimonides, a respected Jewish sage of the Middle Ages, likened the sound of the shofar to an alarm call: 'Sleepers, arise from your slumber, and those who are dozing, awake from your lethargy. Review your actions, repent from your sins, and remember your Creator!' (Hilchot Teshuvah 3)

**Pray:** for Jewish people everywhere to waken to the Messiah as they seek God's face at this time. (Eph.5:14)

**More:** <http://www.ibtimes.com/when-does-rosh-hashanah-2016-start-end-dates-facts-about-jewish-holiday-2420556>

#### ■ 10/40 Window Sunday

This Sunday is a special opportunity to focus prayer on regions of the world that are home to the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists; the majority of the world's least-reached people groups; the poorest of the poor; 45 of the 50 nations where Christians are most persecuted. This happens every year on the first Sunday of October. People are invited to celebrate and pray in their homes, in small groups, large groups, at Church and anywhere where Christians gather to seek the Lord, because the 10/40 Window is the 'final frontier' of world missions in order to finish the task given to the Church. Pray for powerful intercession this weekend to inspire more people to continue praying beyond October using nation profiles and prayer points. Pray for more Christians to learn about how to get involved in reaching the people of the 10/40 Window.

**Pray:** for this year to be a significant year, with millions of Christians in large and small groups joining Windows International Network in interceding for the 10/40 Window. (Mt.28:19,20)

**More:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL3PNFghKxc>

#### ■ Trumpet Call South Africa

From north to south, east to west, Africa faces enormous challenges and presents equally enormous opportunities. In recent years leaders from the South Sea Islands have followed a vision to see the 'Welcoming of the King of Glory' into each continent; last year they came to Europe and combined their visit with the European Trumpet Call in Romania. This year brothers and sisters from several countries, together with representatives of the Khoi, the indigenous people of South Africa, went to the most southerly tip of Africa, Cape Agulhas, for Trumpet Call South Africa. They stood on the shore where the Indian Ocean meets the Atlantic Ocean. The roar of the wind and seas added to the stones on the prayer altar built there over the years as they declared the Sovereignty of Christ, laid a red carpet on the beach, broke bread and in worship and praise welcomed the King.

**Pray:** for the King of Glory to trample down all works of the enemy throughout the African continent. (Is.5:26)

**More:** <http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/ipc-connections/item/8218-welcome-the-king-of-glory-in-the-southern-gate-of-africa>

#### ■ USA: 'After school with Satan'

Satanists from the Satanic Temple (TST) intend to open 'After-School With Satan' clubs. The Washington Post and other press outlets reported TST chapters petitioning nine school districts to allow them to preach Satanism in elementary school facilities after school by forming after-school Satan Clubs. They want to plant seeds of Satanism in children, to influence them to accept Satan and evil from an early age. The Satanists are focusing only on children aged 5-12. Satanism is held to

be a religion by some US courts. Satanists are using wrong legality to attack the country's most impressionable citizens, young children. Local residents are being asked to urge these nine school districts to do everything in their power to oppose and resist the satanic onslaught. In August the Tucson Arizona Area School District successfully rejected TST's application for an After-School Satan Club; other school districts could also pass similar policies to reject the applications.

**Pray:** for God to give success to all those standing against satanic threats to children. (Mt.18:6)

**More:** <https://americaneedsfatima.org/Campaigns/after-school-satan-club-protest.html>

#### ■ Syria: SAS training Syrians

Both International Business Times and Russia Today have joined The Sun and Daily Mirror in reporting that British Special Forces are secretly training 'New Syrian Army' (NSA) rebels in Jordan. IB Times says the aim of the Marine commandos and SAS is to equip and empower the US-backed NSA to fight IS. Those who join the NSA are supposed to sign a pledge only to fight IS and not the Syrian Army. But the media are saying, 'Don't let us be surprised if they turn their fire on Syrian regular forces.' Recently, US-led aircraft attacked a Syrian army unit, resulting in 62 deaths. According to the Independent, the Ministry of Defence confirmed British jets were involved in killing 62 sons, husbands and fathers. Previous attempts by the US to train Syrian rebels met with disaster. The Pentagon spent \$500 million training just five men in 2015 and rebels handed vehicles and ammunition over to extremists. The programme was shut down.

**Pray:** for God to give those running this training scheme wisdom and power to act on lessons learned and not prolong the conflict. (Job 12:13)

**More:** <http://www.christianvoice.org.uk/index.php/sas-training-new-syrian-army/>

#### ■ Pakistan: teen's arrest for blasphemy

The arrest of a Christian teenager in Pakistan for liking an 'inappropriate' photograph on Facebook has been widely condemned. The British Pakistani Christian Association said words cannot express the insanity, the depravity of this situation. Nabeel Masih, 16, is accused of blasphemy charges for clicking the 'like' button under an image of the Kaaba in Mecca, one of the holiest sites in Islam. A Muslim alerted officers to the post saying he found it insulting to his religion, police said. The teenager has been held in custody ahead of a trial. If found guilty, he could face the death penalty. The British Pakistani Christian Association chairman Wilson Chowdhry said, 'If this kind of thing is sanctioned by the government then the Pakistani government has taken leave of all moral sense, and any semblance of protection for its Christian and minority citizens.' See: <http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Teen-s-arrest-for-blasphemy-after-Facebook-picture-is-insanity>

**Pray:** for governments and NGOs to raise further concerns about Pakistan's treatment of Christians (Is.11:4a)

**More:** <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/teenage-boy-christian-arrested-sharing-blasphemous-facebook-post-in-pakistan-nabeel-chohan-kaaba-a7321156.html>

### IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD PRAYER CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, UK

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