

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

■ From HOPE's executive director

'I've just returned from an amazing gathering of Christian leaders meeting for 24 hours to pray and consider how we make Jesus known in our country over the next thirty years. The Windermere Leaders' Summit was hosted by HOPE, the Church of England, and the Evangelical Alliance. It was humbling to be led in prayer by Namjin Kim from the Korean churches in the UK (did you know that hundreds of South Korean Christians visit our country, at their own cost and in their holiday time, to intercede for us)? Yemi Adedeji, HOPE's associate director, and Pete Greig from the 24/7 prayer movement spoke prophetically in the opening Bible sessions. Yemi focused on Jesus' encounter with the grieving widow from Nain (Luke 7): "Jesus is speaking to his Church: arise!" and Pete spoke from 1 Kings 18 on Elijah: "I hear the sound of a heavy rain!"

Praise: [God for the freedom we have to gather, pray and commit to make Jesus known effectively. \(Isaiah 52:8\)](#)

More: http://hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/256555/Latest_News.aspx

■ From the Bishop of the Northeastern Caribbean

'Dear brothers and sisters, Hurricane Irma has dealt a hard blow to our diocese and beyond. We are grateful to Almighty God for sparing our lives, and mourn for those whose lives were ended. I urge you to remember the Apostle Peter when he got out of the boat to join Jesus walking on the water. He was fine until he let the winds and waves distract him from the Lord. When he began to sink, he cried out, "Jesus, save me". And He did. As we go through these difficult days of cleaning up after Irma and struggling with the loss of life and property, let me urge you to keep your eyes on Jesus. Please pray for one another and do not let Satan cause you to stumble. Many places of worship have been damaged, but few of the flock were taken from us. By God's grace, we will rebuild and prosper in our Lord Jesus.'

Praise: [God, who keeps us in perfect peace when we focus on Him. \(Psalm 28:1a\)](#)

More: <http://anglicanmainstream.org/hurricane-irma-devastation-relief-efforts-through-local-anglican-churches-need-help/>

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ Friday Focus: harvest - food with friends

Matthew 14:13-21 tells of Jesus feeding five thousand. It's a stunning picture of God's unrivalled generosity and provision for us. What does this tell us about His nature? Our God is a God of hospitality who welcomes each of us, an Incarnate God who sits at the table with us and fills us with good things. He makes his dwelling among us. (Chine McDonald, World Vision UK/ Share a Meal)

Pray: [Lord, may we be people of hospitality, reflecting the generous open-heartedness of Your Kingdom. As we give thanks for Your provision for us at harvest, may we also remember those facing famine and hunger and play our](#)

part in providing for those in need. (Matthew 14:20,21)

More: http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/283989/Friday_Focus.aspx

▣ Johnson's vision of post-Brexit Britain

In a newspaper article, Boris Johnson made a stand against the pessimism and accusations surrounding Brexit, saying that there are people 'woefully underestimating Britain and thinking that Brexit isn't going to happen'. He added, 'There are some media observers - in this country and abroad - who think we are going to bottle it. I detect scepticism about whether we have the stamina, guts or persistence to do it. They think the Brexit bill will get lost in a House of Commons crevasse or buried in legal proceedings. They think that we will simply despair of finding the way out of the EU and sit down on the floor and cry, like some toddler lost in the maze at Hampton Court. Well, insofar as they doubt our resolve, I believe they are wrong; and I tell you that this country will succeed in our new national enterprise, and will succeed mightily.' He went on to speak patriotically about Brexit, but his article has divided public opinion.

Pray: for the vision of a successful, stable, British Brexit to be a reality; for an end to negative media prophecies and propaganda of 'cabinet splits'; and for helpful wholesome press soundbites. (Ephesians 4:29)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/15/boris-johnson-vision-bold-thriving-britain-enabled-brexit/>

▣ Parsons Green terrorists

A boy of 17 is the sixth person to have been arrested in connection with the London Underground bomb at Parsons Green last week. He was detained at a 'halfway house' for asylum-seekers, following police counter-terror operations in Dover, Hounslow and Newport. He is the youngest of the suspects being questioned over a homemade bomb blast that failed to detonate fully but still injured thirty people on a packed train during morning rush hour. IS claimed the attack was carried out by 'soldiers of the caliphate'. The head of the Metropolitan Police's counter-terrorism command said, 'This continues to be a fast-moving investigation. A significant amount of activity has taken place, and searches are continuing at five addresses. Detectives are carrying out extensive inquiries to determine the full facts behind the attack.'

Pray: for God to give supernatural wisdom to our security and police forces so that any further terrorists will be discovered and future plots exposed and thwarted. (Psalm 31:21)

More: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/parsons-green-attack-latest-teenager-17-sixth-person-arrested-london-underground-bomb-a7958486.html>

▣ Theresa May at the UN

In a keynote speech at the UN General Assembly, the Prime Minister said Britain will continue to be the second biggest contributor to the UN, but warned that 30% of the annual £90 million funding for agencies would be ring-fenced for those showing 'sufficient results'. She said the UN must change 'in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century'. This echoed President Trump's earlier message that financial contributions to the UN were now under threat. Mrs May vowed Britain 'will never let anyone destroy our way of life', following recent terror attacks. She condemned the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons in Syria and North Korea's controversial nuclear weapons programme, and warned Donald Trump that withdrawing from the Paris climate change treaty ranked alongside North Korea's nuclear missile tests as a threat to global security.

Pray: for Mrs May's words to international leaders to be received positively and lead to progress. (Psalm 18:25)

More: <http://newburghgazette.com/2017/09/21/united-nations-is-failing-the-world-theresa-may-tells/>

▣ Schools break law on RE

Recent research suggests that more than a quarter of England's secondary schools do not offer religious education, despite the law saying they must do so. The National Association for RE Teachers, which obtained the unpublished official data under the Freedom of Information Act, says that missing the subject leaves pupils unprepared for modern life. But the main union for secondary head teachers said many schools covered religious issues in other lessons through conferences, citizenship lessons or assemblies. By law, RE must be taught by all state-funded schools in England, with detailed syllabuses agreed locally. The data showed that 26% of secondary schools were not offering RE lessons; 34% of academies were not offering RE to 11 to 13-year-olds; and almost half were not offering it to 14 to 16-year-olds. As more schools become academies, the problem could escalate.

Pray: for schools to keep within the law and apply a clear structure for teaching RE. Pray for more specialist RE teachers to be trained and employed so that children are religiously literate, and for more opportunities for local churches to be invited into schools to help fill the gap. (Proverbs 22:6)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-41282330>

▣ UK and the Mozambique debt crisis

Liam Fox, secretary of state for international trade, has visited Mozambique, which is in a debt crisis after surreptitiously borrowing from two London-based banks in 2013. The loans remained hidden until 2016: none were agreed by the Mozambique parliament, so they were illegal. Commenting on Mr Fox's visit, the director of the Jubilee Debt Campaign said, 'The UK needs to take responsibility for the actions of these banks in arranging \$2 billion of loans to Mozambique. Credit Suisse should be investigated as to whether it undertook the enhanced due diligence required by UK money-laundering regulations. Furthermore, the Government should act immediately to ensure all loans to governments given under UK law are publicly disclosed when they are given.'

Pray: for all the relevant information to be available for an audit into the loans, and for dishonest bankers and perpetrators of money laundering to be prosecuted. (Isaiah 5:20)

More: <http://www.eklesia.co.uk/node/24345>

▣ Theresa May condemns modern slavery

Theresa May has told the UN that people need to wake up to the horrors of modern-day slavery, and victims must have confidence to come forward and be given the support they need. She added, 'Modern slavery will only be defeated by making more people aware of the horrific abuses going on in their own communities'. The Prime Minister has the power to do something about this on the international platform. Two years ago, as home secretary, she brought in the most up-to-date laws in the world to crack down on modern slave-drivers. On 19 September she spoke out in an attempt to secure a global commitment by the UN to acknowledge the scandal and unite with tough action against the perpetrators. She urged leaders 'to work collaboratively and internationally', and 'to look at their own situation'.

Pray: for international governments to implement sturdier action against this evil. (Psalm 10:12)

More: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/slaves-on-our-streets-theresa-may-public-awareness-modern-slavery-defeating-horrific-abuses-a7954706.html>

EUROPE

EU: Macron demands EU treaty changes

In what will be seen as a kick in the teeth to Jean-Claude Juncker, the European Commission president, Emmanuel Macron insisted that the EU should set goals for the next ten years and enforce treaty changes, or risk other member states following Brexit. The French president urged 'new ambition', or the Brussels bloc would face the 'dismantling of Europe'. His comments followed Mr Juncker's state of the union speech, which included his master plan for greater integration without treaty change. Speaking in New York, Mr Macron warned of difficult months and years ahead for the bloc if it could not shake off its image of overbearing bureaucracy; he said that other countries which are not comfortable with this will leave. Juncker had called for EU integration in the face of rising populism and elections in Italy, Sweden, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, where Eurosceptic parties are gaining momentum.

Pray: for Mr Juncker as he attempts to rebuild the bloc in his five-year term as EC president. May God be the author of all his plans and proposals for Europe. (Jeremiah 29:11)

More: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/856873/brexit-news-latest-eu-pound-to-euro-jean-claude-juncker-emmanuel-macron-boris-johnson>

EU: Theresa May's Brexit speech

Yesterday, the day before Theresa May delivers her first major Brexit speech in Florence, she met with her Cabinet to discuss her terms for Brexit. The last time she addressed the EU was in January, at Lancaster House, when she set out her original vision for Britain outside the EU. Now, with negotiations deadlocked over the 'Brexit bill' and the role of the EU courts, Europe is looking for a major policy intervention. Boris Johnson says the media is talking 'nonsense' about MPs having split allegiances while he and Philip Hammond, at opposite ends of the soft/hard Brexit debate, attempt to present a choreographed show of unity. However, some believe today's speech will not generate 'an immediate breakthrough' in Brexit talks.

Pray: He thwarts the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success.

More: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/blog/live/2017/sep/21/may-brexit-speech-florence-cabinet-meets-to-discuss-theresa-mays-florence-speech-on-brexit-politics-live>

WORLDWIDE

Mexico: earthquake disaster

Rescue workers, backed by an army of untrained volunteers, are still searching for survivors buried under mounds of rubble in Mexico City. The death toll from the magnitude 7 earthquake, on Tuesday, has reached 237 and is expected to rise. 44 buildings collapsed completely, and thousands are damaged and unstable, in the sprawling city built on a drained lakebed. As rescuers work against the clock, there has been an outpouring of civic generosity. Thousands of people donated time and medicines, food and water, blankets and basic supplies, to help relief efforts. Restaurants delivered food to shelters where thousands of people were forced to seek refuge after their homes were damaged. But there is concern about the need to rely on civilian volunteers and donations, and the slow arrival of government rescue services to some poorer neighbourhoods. Many questions about building regulations resurfaced as rescue efforts continue. See the next article.

Pray: for the patients evacuated from damaged hospitals; for those in fear of more collapsing buildings; for comfort for victims, and strength for all working to aid survivors. (Psalm 40:17)

More: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/20/mexico-earthquake-volunteers-survivors-rescue>

Mexico: earthquake safeguards

Tuesday was the 32nd anniversary of a huge earthquake in Mexico which resulted in thousands of deaths and many large buildings destroyed. This week's quake demolished old buildings and less solidly-constructed new buildings. The cure for earthquake devastation is well known: fix the old buildings and improve construction methods for new ones. A complex and expensive decision, but necessary as Mexico City is notoriously vulnerable to earthquakes due to very soft and wet ground underneath. This amplifies the shaking, making the ground like jelly and prone to liquefaction. There have been 34 earthquakes bigger than magnitude 7 within 300 miles of Mexico City since 1900. There is clearly more work to do. Rodolfo Soriano Nuñez, a sociologist and independent public policy analyst, said that government new building codes are not working. 'We see new buildings have collapsed while older ones have survived.'

Pray: for abundant finances to be made available and tough building codes implemented so that new structures have extra resistance to earthquakes and older buildings have appropriate reinforcement. (Psalm 72:12)

More: <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/20/opinions/what-made-mexico-shake-vidale/index.html>

Caribbean: Hurricane Maria

Dominica's prime minister said, 'We have lost all that money can buy' after Hurricane Maria made landfall there on Tuesday. Two days later rescue teams were struggling to reach the first victims stranded without power, running water or communications. Sadly, Maria moved along a similar track to Irma, the hurricane that devastated areas two weeks earlier. The military and police on the British Virgin Islands switched from focusing on recovery and cleanup after Irma to preparation for Maria, and started securing safe shelters for residents. Fortunately they were spared the full force. Yesterday, on its way to the Dominican Republic, Maria made landfall on Puerto Rico - the strongest hurricane there since 1928, when 300 people died. Over the coming weeks we can pray for the major relief efforts that will get under way to re-establish communication, restore electricity, and deliver medical aid, food, water, mattresses, clothes and other basic necessities.

Pray: for the desperate people who have had to cope with fear and despair and now have to rebuild communities. May they be drawn to look to God for comfort and hope. (Psalm 23:4)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/20/hurricane-maria-path-latest-news-live-puerto-rico-virgin-islands/>

▣ Bankrupt Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico has been in a painful recession since 2006; previous governments dug it deeper into debt by borrowing to pay operating expenses, year after year. For the last two years, officials have been seeking assistance from Washington, testifying before stern congressional committees and even before the supreme court. In May, with creditors at its heels and its coffers depleted, it sought what is essentially bankruptcy relief in federal court, the first time in history that an American state or territory has taken this extraordinary measure, because of a \$123 billion debt. Government workers are foregoing pension money; public health and infrastructure projects are not happening because of the crushing weight of debt. Now, Hurricane Maria has ripped through Puerto Rico, causing potentially thirty billion dollars in damage and threatening to exacerbate the population exodus that has helped push the island into bankruptcy. See <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-20/puerto-rico-faces-steep-damage-toll-as-hurricane-batters-island>

Pray: for Puerto Rico's long and contentious journey of recovery. Pray for God to prompt President Trump to retract a recent tweet that there should be no 'financial bailout'. (Psalm 35:2)

More: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/03/business/dealbook/puerto-rico-debt.html?mcubz=0>

▣ USA: Warriors for Christ, schoolroom sex video

Rich Penkoski, a conservative Christian parent in West Virginia, voiced concern after Jackie Coffin, a middle school teacher, showed her class of 13-year-olds a suicide-prevention music video that featured hip hop music, two male high school students in bed together, and a sex toy. Penkoski told the Christian Post that this was not the suicide-prevention video approved by the school, while Coffin instructed students not to tell their parents that she had played it during class. Penkoski works as a leader of Warriors for Christ (WFC), who have launched a new Christian social media alternative to Facebook called SocialCross.org. So far nearly ten thousand users have joined the new platform. WFC also made headlines and received much backlash when they announced, 'Anyone posting an LGBT rainbow flag emoji to the Facebook page will be banned by the page's administrators'.

Pray: for educators to be sensitive to potential pitfalls when broaching the subject of suicide, and for an increase of powerful and anointed Christian media to spread across the internet. (Psalm 9:11)

More: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/middle-school-students-shown-pro-gay-video-during-class-christian-parent-upset-199210/>

▣ Pakistan/USA relationship

A brother in Pakistan writes, 'Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif continues to resist being thrown out of government for corruption. He denies the accusations, and is still trying to run the party. His children are bringing court cases and running for office, as is his wife. Pray that the country will not be torn apart. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is now PM. He received two degrees from the USA and then worked there for several years before working in Saudi Arabia's oil business. He was formerly minister of petroleum and natural resources. May his years in the US be the basis for good relationship between the two countries. Weeks after he came to office, President Trump delivered his Afghanistan policy, accusing Pakistan of supporting state terrorism. Pakistan has had more military and civilians killed by terrorists than any other country, and the nation took this as an affront.'

Pray: for better relations between Pakistan and the USA, which used to be considered Pakistan's best friend. (Amos 3:3)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/08/17/former-prime-minister-nawaz-sharif-questioned-pakistani-corruption/>

▣ Australia: same-sex vote

There is an expectation in Australia that once the result of the same-sex marriage postal vote is announced on 15 November the matter will be resolved once and for all. According to opinion polls a Yes vote looks likely, clearing the way for amendments to the Marriage Act. But there's a twist in this long-running, angry issue (yesterday a man head-butted former prime minister Tony Abbott as he campaigned for a No vote). Opposition leader Bill Shorten seeks to define marriage as 'a union between two people' meaning that all are eligible: heterosexuals, homosexuals and people of any other gender or sexuality. This could be immensely complicated.

Pray: for unbiblical agendas to be rejected in the debates around defining marriage. (Leviticus 18:4)

More: http://www.ausprayernet.org.au/newsletter/PrintNewsletter.php?e_id=00000003855

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD PRAYER CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, UK

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