

PRAYER ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Prayer Alert . . .

Draft Issue 33

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FRIDAY 29 JULY 2005

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BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Parents 'not advising on drugs'

Two-fifths of parents leave the job of educating their children about drugs to schools and the police, a survey says. The charity Action on Addiction also found more than half of teenagers thought the media were the best source of information on the subject. One in four said their parents were ill-informed. Action on Addiction called for families to get more "up to speed" on drug issues. Chief executive Lesley King-Lewis said: "This research clearly indicates the importance of good communication between parents and their children. The message from teenagers is that their parents may not be as up to speed on the issues or as aware of the environment as they think they are." Some 41% of parents left all drugs education to outside agencies such as schools and police, the charity found. *Pray for parents that they will take up their responsibilities to help and protect their children.*



Some parents were worried about appearing to 'nag' children

Hate crimes 'rise after UK bombs'

The number of attacks on Asians has risen significantly since the London bombings, police and Muslim groups say. The number reported to the Islamic Human Rights Commission - not including those reported to police - has risen more than 13-fold, its chairman said. The total number of "faith-related" attacks reported across London rose 500% compared with the same period last year, the Muslim Safety Forum says. This "backlash" is "exactly what those who promote terrorism want" police say. Association of Chief Police Officers community and counter-terrorism head Assistant Chief Constable Rob Beckley told BBC News the police would protect Asians and Muslims. "We have to, and we will, sustain a response to this." www.bbc.co.uk *Following the recent bombings in London continue to pray against any ongoing sectarianism. Pray for our police force who are facing a difficult task. Continue to pray for those injured and bereaved. Pray for all the perpetrators that God will bring light into their darkness.*

Dying man loses right to be fed battle

The General Medical Council won its appeal yesterday against a court ruling which gave terminally-ill Leslie Burke the power to stop doctors withdrawing food and drink when his illness reaches the final stages. Mr Burke, 45, who has a degenerative brain condition, won a ruling last year in the High Court to stop doctors withdrawing nutrition. But yesterday a panel of three judges headed by Master of the Rolls Lord Phillips set aside the decision of Mr Justice Munby, which was hailed as a landmark for terminally-ill patients at the time. Commenting on yesterday's verdict Dr Andrew Fergusson Consulting Medical Adviser to CARE said "At the end of this long legal process, these very difficult areas have been clarified and this verdict should not be considered in the language of 'winners and losers'. Mr Burke's understandable fears on behalf of vulnerable people have received considerable publicity, and the public and media reaction all along has been encouragingly favourable to the view which properly values human life. Conversely, remarks made by the judge after Mr Burke's first hearing which gave individual patients too much autonomy, and could therefore have been used by others to justify a (non-existent) 'right' to receive euthanasia, have now been balanced. The GMC material only ever had the status of guidelines. Statute law currently protects human life and this position has not been threatened by the latest verdict. *Let us pray for all those involved in difficult decisions such as this that they will be guided by God. Help them to remember to value human life as God intended.*

Parents don't know what their children are watching on TV

One parent in four has no idea what their children are watched on television last night, it has emerged. As the pressure on both parents to go out to work intensifies, many are leaving youngsters unsupervised in front of the TV for long periods. Some fear, however, that they are being exposed to violent or sexually explicit programmes. A survey found that more than a third feel guilty about their inability to monitor what their children are watching. And a similar proportion admits that they do not trust their youngsters to restrict themselves to programmes suitable for their age. For the survey, research company TNS interviewed 356 families across the country. It found that two-thirds of children aged between 2 and 12 watch TV without supervision. www.dailymail.co.uk From the 25th the Ofcom Broadcasting Code, which has special regard for under-18s, comes into effect and it can be seen at: www.ofcom.org.uk/tv/ifi/codes/bcode/ *As with the first item above let us pray for parents and the protection of young minds.*

ChildLine faces loss of overnight helplines

The charity ChildLine has warned that it may be forced to close down its overnight helplines to avert a cash crisis. Esther Rantzen, the charity's founder and chairwoman, said staff operating the free 24-hour service summoned emergency assistance for 1,859 children last year, including some at immediate risk of suicide or abuse. About a quarter of the calls came in during the night shift, from 9.30pm to 7.30am. The overnight service is at risk due to a collapse in charitable donations on which the organisation relies for 90% of its funds. ChildLine said the tsunami relief appeal and other competing demands on the public's generosity resulted in a sharp drop in income this year. Since April donations have been about 30% below normal. She launched an appeal for extra funds to keep the service running www.guardian.co.uk *As with all charities money is needed to enable its success. Pray that God will release the necessary funding to allow this much needed initiative to continue.*

Tories encouraged to stress faith and values

The Conservative Party was encouraged to return to what one of its prominent members described as the core values of "faith, flag and family" in order to win back flagging public support. In a move that may alarm those wary of the entwining of religion and party politics, former Tory minister Edward Leigh said that the party should not be afraid to proclaim its support for "traditional Christian values." In what appeared to be a conscious echo of US President George Bush's electoral appeal to the "faith vote", he declared that Conservatives should combine religious ethics with patriotic appeal. The comments, coming in a pamphlet published by the recently-formed Cornerstone Group of socially conservative Tory MPs, are being seen as a deliberate riposte to "modernisers" in the party. www.ekklisia.co.uk *Let us pray for any initiative that puts 'Christian values' at the heart of its goals*

"We must change our method", Dr Billy Kim tells Baptist Centenary Congress

Flamboyant president of the Baptist World Alliance, Dr Billy Kim, opened the BWA Congress with the question: "Where is the modern-day Spurgeon?" His question was whether or not the Baptist Church had responded effectively to the changes in society, community and the world in the 100 years since that Spurgeon. The president of the BWA has told those in attendance at the Baptist World Centenary Congress that the Church must re-think its method on bringing the Gospel to the people of the world. "Although water is everywhere, people suffer from an unquenchable thirst. Every person needs the living water from our Lord Jesus Christ," said Dr Kim. www.christiantoday.com *Pray that the Lord will bless our Baptist brothers and sisters as their international conference continues over this weekend*

Church of England denies blessings for same-sex unions

The Church of England announced yesterday it will not give Christian blessings to same-sex couples wishing to 'marry'. The decision was announced by a group from the House of Bishops led by the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Rev Graham James and is a response to the Civil Partners hip Act which gives gay couples similar legal rights to married couples, due to come into effect in Britain December. The Archbishop of Canterbury said although the new law would be respected, gay civil unions would not be afforded the same sanctity as heterosexual marriage. Bishop James rejected resolutely equal status for same-sex and heterosexual marriage: "Civil partnerships are not gay marriages. Marriage can only be the sexual union of one man and one woman that is in English law as well as the Church." www.christiantoday.com *As this subject continues to dominate Church politics pray that the Lord will guide all their decisions remembering that it is His Church.*

EUROPE

France sentences sex ring members

A French court on Wednesday convicted and sentenced 62 people for taking part in a child prostitution ring engaged in the sexual abuse of children as young as six months. Billed as the biggest child sex trial in France, 65 men and women were accused of taking part in a child prostitution ring, in which 45 children, aged from six months to 15 years, were raped or sexually assaulted between 1999 and 2002. The court sentenced Philippe V, accused of raping his own grandchildren, to 28 years in jail. Eric J. and Jean-Marc J., two central figures of the prostitution ring, received sentences of 28 and 26 years. The prosecution has said most of the abuses took place in the house of a man and woman in the Saint-Leonard suburb of Angers, a town that promotes itself as a gateway to the picturesque Loire valley. The role of the social services is also in the dock because social workers failed to spot the crimes despite monitoring the families of some of the accused. www.reuters.co.uk
Pray for the authorities everywhere that they will be able to route out such evil. Pray for the minds of those who have been damaged that God will bring healing and for the perpetrators that He will bring restoration.

Christians pressurize Belgium government over homosexual adoptions

Under pressure of European Christian Political Movement-member C'axent and others, the Belgium Christian Democrats have changed their point of view towards adoption by homosexuals. There is now a historic opportunity to keep this bill from being accepted in Parliament. A national action has been started (initiators: CDF and C'axent, both ECPM members) Already more than 3000 people signed the petition against the bill and a national manifestation will take place on September 10. Please pray with us for Belgium. Visit our action website www.actiegezin-actionfamille.be *Pray that the Belgium government will make the 'right' decision on this subject*

WORLDWIDE

Iraqi Church leaders fear imposition of Islamic law

A letter signed by the leaders of nine Christian denominations in Iraq pleads that the new constitution should ensure the equality of all faiths in Iraq. The leaders' concerns arise from reports that the Shi'a majority are pressing for Islamic law to be enshrined in the constitution. The church leaders are fearful that if shari'a is given a position in the constitution, Christians and other non-Muslims will face the same kind of discrimination and second-class status which they experience in other countries where the law is based on shari'a. Iraq would become an Islamic state. Bishop Andreas Abouna, who presented the letter, said that a pro-shari'a constitution would result in such a massive exodus of Christians from Iraq that the Christian presence could all but disappear. There have been Christians in Iraq since the first century AD. www.barnabusfund.org *Pray that the new constitution will not be based on shari'a and will affirm the equality of all faiths in Iraq in a clear and unambiguous way. Pray that Iraqi Christians will not give way to fear, but will know peace in their hearts.*

China arrests 100 young Christians at Bible study as crackdown continues

Chinese authorities arrested 100 Christian young people as part of the government's continuing crackdown on churches outside state control. The Christians had been meeting for a Bible study in Langfang City, Hebei province, when police abruptly arrived and arrested everyone present, according to the U.S.-based monitor [Voice of the Martyrs](http://www.voiceofthemartyrs.org). In a separate incident, 10 pastors were arrested during a baptism service in Sui County, Hunan province, on July 1, according to VOM. The Christians had gathered to baptize 60 new believers in a. Ten church leaders were arrested at the scene and given 15 days of "administrative detention." www.worldnetdaily.com *Pray for the Church in China as it goes through another period of persecution that the Lord will continue to strengthen it. Pray for those that are imprisoned for their faith.*

Brazilian priest murdered in Rio

A Brazilian priest who campaigned for the families of 29 people allegedly killed by rogue police officers has been shot dead. Paulo Henrique Machado, 35, was shot at least five times while in his car in the Nova Iguaçu area of Rio de Janeiro. He headed a support group for victims of the massacre in March - which led to charges for eight police officers. The 29 men, women and children were killed when gunmen drove through the city's poor suburbs, firing at random. Police are investigating whether Machado's death was linked to the massacre. Human rights groups compared the shootings to attacks by death squads, which are said to operate in many areas of Brazil. www.bbc.co.uk *Let us remember those who grieve and pray for the Christian Church in its stand against corruption.*

British aid flights reach Niger

Flights carrying British aid have arrived in Niger, West Africa, where millions face starvation after drought and a plague of locusts. A British Red Cross team will distribute food, seeds, medical equipment and other essential items. The Red Cross said up to 2.5m people urgently needed food, and one in 10 children could die unless helped. It is trying to raise £8m worldwide. The UK government has announced a total contribution of £3m. Miranda Bradley, part of the Red Cross team, said the crisis could be the worst famine in Africa for more than a decade. The charity launched an appeal after the drought and plague of locusts left eight million facing famine in Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso. *Continue to pray for all the nations across Africa that are caught up in famine and ongoing wars.*

PRAISE REPORTS

IRA says armed campaign is over

The IRA has formally ordered an end to its armed campaign and says it will pursue exclusively peaceful means. In a long-awaited statement, the republican organisation said it would follow a democratic path ending more than 30 years of violence. Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said the move was a "courageous and confident initiative" and that the moment must be seized. Prime Minister Tony Blair said it was a "step of unparalleled magnitude". "It is what we have striven for and worked for throughout the eight years since the Good Friday Agreement," he said. The IRA made its decision after an internal debate prompted by Mr Adams' call in April to pursue its goals exclusively through politics. *Praise God for this wonderful news!! Let us pray that this will now bring lasting peace after 36 years of conflict.*

God speaks - again!

Six years ago, one of the hottest topics in the USA was the advertising campaign "God speaks", which consisted of funny and thought-provoking one-liners in white text on a black background. No logo, no address, no telephone number, just signed "God". From very small beginnings on a handful of billboards, the campaign spread to 10,000 billboards across the nation, and also caught the attention of the media. The campaign was backed by an anonymous sponsor who wanted to draw attention to the God of the Bible in a creative, disarming and thought-provoking way. Now, there's a new campaign, titled "God speaks - again!" This time, there's also a web site www.godspeaks.com for people who have become curious and want to know more. *Any initiative that shows that the God of the Bible still speaks today is worthy of praise.*

'Survivor' islands on the brink of revival

The tropical island setting for TV's 'Survivor' programme: Vanuatu is now the site of a sweeping move of God which some local pastors are calling a revival. Evangelists have been going from tribe to tribe evangelizing since 2003, and the fruit of the gospel is being seen throughout the 85-island nation. The tribal leaders have been very supportive of the missionary efforts. Three High Chiefs who control over 15,000 people have publicly accepted the Lord. Another Great Chief with control over 10,000 people has called for the Gospel to come and replace the traditional religions and the cults. One of the early evangelists, Luke Franklin, says, "People are running to the Kingdom of God." The local volcano will have nothing compared to the fire of the Holy Spirit being outpoured there". www.breakingchristiannews.com *May His Spirit continue to flow in blessings for all the peoples!*

LOOKING AHEAD

27th – 31st July: *The Baptist World Congress* where over 11,000 Baptists from over 114 countries will attend at the International Convention Centre and National Indoor Area in Birmingham. Speakers include Steve Chalke and former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter.

5th August - The creators of the website www.erishalom.com have organized a worldwide day of prayer and fasting on behalf of Eritrean Christians who have been imprisoned for their faith. According to UCB, they have called for urgent intercession for their fellow Eritreans who are being persecuted for following Christ saying, "Throughout the Bible, whenever Christians are in any kind of difficult situation, the whole Church would pray as one without ceasing." <http://www.ucb.co.uk/index.cfm?itemid=152#487>

2nd – 9th August: *Fire from the North*, Prayer & Worship Conference, Shetland. During a gathering of Scandinavian intercessors in 1996, God spoke through a prophecy that He wanted a conference to be held in Shetland that would link Christians from the UK and Scandinavia to pray together for Europe. www.ruachministries.org/

4th–21st August: *Merseyfest* is gearing up to be Britain's largest urban mission for 2005. We urgently need YOUR help. Please pray for: Team - wisdom and continued favour with those in authority; Church to arise to the challenge; necessary financial breakthroughs; people to register early; church across the nation to help us through prayer, giving and serving. Details www.merseyfest.com

9th – 11th September:- *The Lawyers Christian Fellowship National Conference:* this year we will meet at Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire. Teresa Conradie will be giving the keynote speech (Teresa is chairman of the South African Christian Lawyers' Association) and Rev. Simon Robinson addressing the theme: "The truth will set you free." www.lawcf.org