

# Prayer Alert . . .

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## BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

### London launches massive security operation

In a show of force to calm an edgy London, officers armed with submachine guns patrolled uncrowded subway stations and police helicopters hovered over city streets as one of the busiest Underground lines reopened Thursday - four weeks to the day after suicide bombers killed 52 people. Undercover officers mixed with a lighter-than-usual load of subway commuters - many Londoners no doubt mindful that terrorists had attempted similar attacks exactly two weeks after the deadly July 7 transit bombings. The city's nerves were further rattled by a message from al-Qaida warning of more bloodshed, but people made efforts to carry on. "People didn't seem frightened or apprehensive, they were just reading their newspapers and getting on with things, just as the English do," said commuter Pat Wish. It is clear, however, that the attacks have changed the city. London's transport authority said that the underground passengers - normally 3 million passengers daily - had fallen between 5 percent and 15 percent on weekdays and 30 percent on weekends. Hotels have reported cancellations and large stores say sales are down [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk) *Continue to pray for the security forces and against tiredness with all the increased pressure. Pray against the fear that is in peoples hearts. Pray that peace will reign between communities.*

### Sister of murdered Liverpool teenager says we must forgive "Seventy Times Seven"

Dominique, the sister of 18-year-old Anthony Walker who was killed last week in a racist attack in Huyton, near Liverpool, quoted the Bible as she spoke of her response to the terrible brutality against her brother. "Seventy times seven we have to forgive, that's what Jesus said. So we have to, we have to forgive. For me, I know, it's hard. Every day, every day, it's an everyday thing," she said. Anthony had been waiting at a bus stop last Friday night with his girlfriend and his cousin when a man began a "torrent of racial abuse," directed at them, according to the BBC News. They started to walk to another bus stop when they were attacked. Anthony's cousin and girlfriend ran to get help, but when they returned, they found the teen on the ground with an axe in his head. [www.breakingchristiannews.com](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com) *Pray for the Walker family and help them to remain strong in their faith. Pray that their strong witness will touch many hearts including those who committed this crime.*

### **Democratic Unionist Party may frustrate return of Assembly**

The return of the Assembly could be delayed by two years; the Government was warned because of its response to the IRA statement. The DUP sounded the warning in a four-page document given to the Government outlining a series of sanctions the party could take in response to moves by Ministers to bolster the IRA's decision to end its armed campaign. With unionists furious about the failure to consult them about the proposed disbandment of three Northern Ireland-based battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, DUP sources said the party could over the next two years frustrate efforts to revive devolution. Rather ominously for the Government, DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson said: "The prospects of a return to devolution have been damaged very considerably by the actions of this Government." The DUP is expected to tell Tony Blair in Downing Street today that they will disrupt Government plans to hold talks in the autumn about reviving devolution.

[www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk) *Following the euphoria of last week let us pray that God will intervene and bring reconciliation between all parties. Help them to overcome their fears to bring about a lasting peace.*

### **Christian anti-war protester wins in High Court**

Anti-war campaigner Brian Haw, who is an evangelical Christian, has won his personal High Court battle against a new law threatening to end his four-year, 24-hour protest war outside parliament, against the Iraq war. The court ruled that government legislation being brought in to control demonstrations within a mile of parliament did not apply to Mr Haw, because his presence predated the move – aimed specifically at him, and incorporated into the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act. It is now likely that the government will seek a further amendment to the act. But Mr Haw's backers, who include a number of opposition MPs, anti-war activists and human rights proponents, say that parliament is abusing its privileges by using legislation to pursue a vendetta against a person they regard as an irritant, irrespective of the impact on free speech. [www.ekklesia.co.uk](http://www.ekklesia.co.uk) *Pray that although the current security needs are important that our government will be given wisdom in its decisions even though they may not agree with those that protest that have privileges too.*

### **Human rights law 'fails elderly'**

Human rights legislation is failing some vulnerable older people; according to charity Help the Aged. The charity said gaps in the law left older people exposed to mistreatment which cannot be fully investigated or dealt with under the Human Rights Act. It said that while statutory services were covered under the Act, the majority of care – which is contracted to the private sector – is not. It urged the government to push forward with its planned equality bill. The bill, included in the 2005 Queen's Speech, will establish a Commission for Equality and Human Rights, among other aims. [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) *Pray that our government will have wisdom as it looks the planned equality bill and remember all those who are vulnerable including the elderly*

### **Abortion total reaches record high**

At 185 000, the number of legal abortions carried out in England and Wales last year was the highest ever. The figures show an increase of more than 3,800 on 2003. Nearly 18 in 1,000 women between 15 and 44 underwent an abortion. Most women having an abortion (77%) were single. The rate was highest among women aged 18 to 24 at 31.9 per 1,000. The under-18 rate fell from 18.2 to 17.8, while for under-16s it fell to 3.7 from 3.9. Rates among the under 14's, however, rose with 157 abortions as opposed to 148 in 2003. 877 14-year olds had abortions. The Department of Health said it was "disappointed" by the statistics. [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk) *Please pray for women in the midst of an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Ask that they would be able to access help and advice.*

### **Salvation Army H2O Youth Project to Raise Spirituality of N.Ireland**

Salvation Army's youth ministry - ALOVE - has launched a new project in Northern Ireland called H2O, in an attempt to offer new hope to the Christian community and revive the spirit. H2O stands for "Hope to Offer". The vision and purpose for Northern Ireland are based on the bible verse Jeremiah 29:11, which is to offer peace and hope to people. H2O is also the chemical name of water, John Mclean, the Divisional (Regional) Youth Officer for ALOVE Ireland explained, "When we initiated the project, we held a team prayer day, at which we had numerous images from scripture that related to water; washing, cleansing, revitalising, refreshing and so on. This gave us the idea for H2O." The key of the H2O project at this early stage is to build a community for the future, according to John Mclean. "Our hope is that the spiritual temperature of the local community will rise and that we will see the community change in its understanding of who they are. Our prayer is that by being real, people will feel valued," Mclean shared. [www.christiantoday.com](http://www.christiantoday.com) *Let us pray that the Lord will bless this initiative and bring hope for the future.*

## **EUROPE**

### **France to expel twelve Islamic extremist preachers this month**

France seems to be taking a hard line in the battle against terrorism by expelling a dozen Islamic "preachers of hatred and violence" between now and the end of August. The action is part of an anti-terrorism package brought by interior minister Nicholas Sarkozy. The minister's proposals echo the desire by the French to take swift action against extremists who are fuelling anti-western feeling among young Muslims in the country. "We have to act against radical preachers capable of influencing the youngest and most weak-minded," said Sarkozy. He added that some 12 mosques are under surveillance for "provocative anti-western preaching." [www.breakingchristiannews.com](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com) *Pray for the French government that they will not cause friction by their actions. Pray for all those who peddle hate that God will break through the deceit and set them free.*

### **Christian initiative calls Germany back to the Bible and prayer.**

The sluggish economy and high unemployment rate are top issues in Germany's elections which will be held prematurely in September. However, a Christian initiative in the country is calling for values to "take priority over economics." "Our country needs to rediscover the values of the Bible. It needs an awakening with the prayer for God's mercy and help," stated Heidrun

Prill, leader of the initiative. According to ANS, Hartmut Steeb, General Secretary of the German Evangelical Alliance, said that "even a secular state needs the 'responsibility towards God' as laid down in the preamble to the German constitution." A recent opinion poll revealed that 60 percent of the Christian democrats in Germany believe in God.  
[www.breakingchristiannews.com](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com) *Pray that the people will heed the call and rediscover the bible and prayer.*

## WORLDWIDE

### Churches work together on Niger famine

The international Action of Churches Together (ACT) alliance of relief and development organisations is continuing to respond to the growing famine in Niger – while in the UK a collective Disasters Emergency Committee appeal has been launched. Last year's poor rains and swarms of locusts saw Niger - one of the world's poorest nations - plunged into crisis. Some 3.6 million people are now at risk. A prolonged drought only worsened the deep poverty in the country, says a key ACT body. Swiss Interchurch Aid (SIA/ACT) started responding in April this year with emergency assistance. It is helping tackle what is called a "silent famine" by the United Nations. The drought has affected almost a third of the country's population. In total, some 3,800 villages out of 10,000 throughout Niger have been affected by the famine. Of these, 800 are located in the region where Swiss Interchurch Aid / ACT is responding. According to the Red Cross, almost eight million people are at risk of hunger not only in Niger, but also Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso [www.ekklesia.co.uk](http://www.ekklesia.co.uk) *Pray for this relief effort that all the efforts will bring about significant changes for the people in need.*

### Hunger in Mali is being 'ignored'

Rich donor countries are ignoring the food crisis facing Mali, the international charity Oxfam has warned. The United Nations launched a \$7m appeal for the more than 1m people in need of food aid in December, but only 14% of this has been raised. This contrasts with neighbouring Niger where media attention has helped the UN raise \$16m, although it says three times as much is needed there. Last year's drought and locust plague hit the entire West African Sahel. [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) *Pray that those who have plenty will not forget. Let us indeed remember that the need is not just confined to country borders but across Africa.*

### Tensions rise in Sudan after death of vice president

Anger and frustration is building across Sudan following the death of John Garang, Sudan's first vice president. According to Christian Aid partners many people are concerned about the impact his death may have on the progress of Sudan's already fragile north-south peace process. Dr Garang, who led the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), died on Saturday in a helicopter crash. Christian Aid's partner, the New Sudan Council of Churches has reported that his death has caused 'profound shock and deep sorrow'. In a statement they added: 'His death has hit us all like a thunderbolt, coming at a time when our hopes were at an all time high and when we were set for the reconstruction of our nation. [www.christian-aid.org](http://www.christian-aid.org) *Continue to prayer for peace and reconciliation in this nation and against any negative impact following John Garang's death.*

### Chinese Citizens Increasingly Stand Up for Human Rights

China is witnessing a rising anger against official corruption and a growing determination to stand up for basic rights. Signs are emerging that unregistered Protestant and Catholic believers, Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur and Hui Muslims, peasants, factory workers, academics and journalists all share a growing sense of the injustices perpetrated against them by the ruling Communist Party. In regard to unregistered Christians, the idea of standing up for persecuted believers is gaining momentum. For example, five prominent Chinese lawyers have offered to defend house-church Pastor Cai Zhuohua, arrested in September 2004 for printing 200,000 Bibles. One of these lawyers, Professor Fan Yafeng, is an associate researcher at the Institute of Legal Studies at China's prestigious Academy of Social Sciences. Officials charged Cai with illegal business practices; Cai claims the Bibles were printed for free distribution and thus did not constitute a business offence. The government has unsuccessfully pressured all five lawyers to drop their defence of Cai. Government officials may fear the case will attract unfavourable international attention. [www.biblenetworknews.com](http://www.biblenetworknews.com) *Praise God for this trend by some Chinese, standing up for basic rights. Pray Gods protection for the lawyers who have offered to defend Pastor Zhuohua.*

### Indian Supreme Court Hearings on Dalit Christians

The Supreme Court of India has issued an order, calling on the Government of India to reconsider the denial to Dalit (formerly 'untouchable') Christians of fundamental rights enjoyed by Dalits professing Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths. This matter will be brought before the Supreme Court on 25 August 2005. A series of civil society public hearings are due to take place in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to document discrimination faced by Christian converts drawn from the Dalit population, and their continued victimisation in society. The Dalit Christian community in India has launched a vigorous political advocacy campaign to secure a just outcome, and has asked for the support of the international community towards this end. *Pray for the success of this initiative that this will lead to the cessation of the discrimination of Dalit Christians.*

### Iraq - A bloody week for U.S. troops

US military deaths continue to rise in Iraq, with three soldiers killed Wednesday night in a Baghdad-area bombing, a U.S. military spokesman said. The soldiers were members of Task Force Baghdad, part of the 3rd Infantry Division. The latest deaths bring to 24 the number of U.S. forces killed in Iraq this week. Fourteen Marines were killed in a roadside bombing near Haditha in western Iraq earlier in the day. On Monday, six Marine sniper team members died in a fire fight near the same city. On that same day, another Marine was killed in Hit, also in Anbar province where Haditha is located. Since the start of the war, 1,824 U.S. forces have died in Iraq. Pacifying Iraq's western Anbar province, where Haditha is located, is a top priority for US forces. Officials say stability and political progress cannot be secured unless anti-US fighters are rooted out of the region. CNN *Continue praying for this troubled nation and against the ongoing killings not just against the military but also civilians.*

### **Bombay flooding destroys Churches**

The torrential rains and flooding that have brought Bombay, India to a standstill have swept away 12 Gospel for Asia affiliated churches and swamped GFA's local Bible College with more than four feet of water, ministry officials have confirmed. "Fortunately none of our workers or students has been hurt," said a GFA spokesperson. The record-breaking monsoon rains caused the death of more than 500 people in Bombay and elsewhere in the state of Maharashtra. Half died in Bombay where transport is still disrupted and trading on financial markets suspended. The navy is helping rescue efforts. Thousands remain stranded amid fears the number of dead could rise. Particularly hard hit was the city's slums, where 5 million of the Bombay's 16 million people live. According to officials, the rain on Tuesday was the heaviest recorded in a single day in India. More than 26 inches fell in Bombay. [www.assistnews.net](http://www.assistnews.net) *Pray for this area of India and for all those caught up in these floods especially for those who have lost loved ones.*

## **PRAISE REPORTS**

### **Community prayer cover grows in South Australia**

Pray South Australia has a vision to establish prayer teams in as many country communities as possible and their efforts are beginning to bear fruit. Phyllis Lines who represents both Pray South Australia and the Australian Prayer Network in country South Australia reports that communities are picking up the vision in many parts of the State. The Port Lincoln Christian Ministers Association recently launched "Pray Port Lincoln". "Pray Cummins" has been commenced by a small but passionate group of praying people who want to see their town and district transformed by the power of God. Pray Roxby Downs was recently launched and prayer warriors from Coffin Bay, Wangary and Wanilla recently met to plan the establishment of a prayer watch for their areas also. These new additions to the prayer network of South Australia now take their place alongside existing networks in the north and west of the State, Pray Mid-North, Pray Spencer Gulf, Pray Port Pirie, Pray Port Augusta and Pray Blyth [www.ausprayernet.org.au](http://www.ausprayernet.org.au) *Praise God for this growth and interest in prayer And that He will anoint their efforts.*

### **Miracle in Toronto**

There were no fatalities in today's crash of the jetliner in Toronto as moments before the plane burst into flames, all 309 passengers plus crew jumped to safety. Air France flight 358 from Paris flew into Toronto's Pearson International Airport this afternoon just after 4:00. But what seemed like a routine flight quickly turned into a nightmare as surrounding thunderstorms caused the plane to overshoot the runway by 200 yards. [www.breakingchristiannews.com](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com) *Praise God for this miracle that so easily could have been a horrific disaster.*

### **Massive Bible download in Arab world**

The Praying Through the Arabian Peninsula (PTAP) initiative reports that over the past three years well over 200,000 Bibles have been downloaded from the internet via computers in the Arabian Peninsula. <http://www.pray-ap.info> *Pray that the Lord will open the eyes of all those who have opened up His word.*

### **Military Cross recipient was told Iraq would "Make or Break" his relationship with God**

L/Cpl Darren Dickson, a 22-year-old bus driver and part-time soldier, received the Military Cross for bravery from the Queen at a ceremony in Edinburgh, Friday. According to the report in the Telegraph, Dickson was the first soldier in the Royal Logistic Corps, and only the second member of the Territorial Army, to be awarded a Military Cross. Indeed, Dickson said the experience had strengthened his faith in God. "Before I went out, I spoke to my vocational director and we agreed Iraq would be good for me. I was told it would make or break my relationship with God. Iraq has changed me physically and spiritually. I want to become a Franciscan and to be ordained." [www.breakingchristainnews.com](http://www.breakingchristainnews.com) *Praise God for another powerful testimony of faith.*

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**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/](http://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](http://www.merseyfest.com)

**26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August:** Connect Europe will gather emerging (younger) visionary leaders from across Europe in Prague for three days of friendship and strategy around God's purposes for Europe and the generation. Pray for an outpouring of prayer and release of a new generation into the fullness of the future. [www.connecteurope.org](http://www.connecteurope.org)

**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](http://www.lawcf.org)