

PRAYER ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Prayer Alert . . .

Draft Issue 35

CONTACT US: info@prayer-alert.net

FRIDAY 12 AUGUST 2005

- **British Isles & Ireland**
 - [Merseyfest . . . God's love in action comes to Liverpool](#)
 - [Response to rise in religious hate crime](#)
 - [Judges face human rights shake-up](#)
 - [City terror attack 'inevitable'](#)
 - [New drinking laws will end in violence, warn judges](#)
 - [Hero publican is latest victim of Yob Britain](#)
 - [Church attack 'linked to parade' in Northern Ireland](#)
 - [Clergy 'are failing on discipleship](#)
- **Europe**
 - [New network formed to support faith in Europe](#)
 - [German Evangelical Alliance conference ends with call for social responsibility](#)
- **Worldwide**
 - [Thousands rally against Gaza plan](#)
 - [Tensions rise as 'massive prayer assembly' planned for Jerusalem's Temple Mount](#)
 - [Despite daily terror: Christians set up Bible Society of Iraq](#)
 - [Envoy named for Zimbabwean talks](#)
 - [Food crisis 'runs across Africa'](#)
 - [Nigerian President challenges Christian's to rise against corruption](#)
 - [World Council of Churches calls on Haitians to build new nation](#)
- **Praise Reports**
 - [Thousands of candles shine in memory of Anthony Walker from Liverpool](#)
 - [New website encourages Americans to pray for their nation](#)
 - [House builders encase bible in every house's foundation](#)
- **Looking Ahead**
 - [Dates for your diary](#)

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Merseyfest . . . God's love in action comes to Liverpool

In what is being called the "biggest Christian volunteer event of the year," Merseyfest - with over 300 churches coming together for the purpose of spreading the Gospel and doing "projects of kindness" - will descend on Liverpool August 14th through the 21st. The event will include a "massive free festival," as well as prayer tents open 24/7. Arrowhead ministry founder Geoff Sadler sees Merseyfest as potentially having a huge impact for Christ in the area. "I'm not just saying this because it's where I'm from," remarked Sadler. "But I've never seen, in all my world travels, a place like Liverpool and Merseyside for unity, community and pride in their city. Please be in prayer for this event. It has the potential to change the city forever. In the next few years, Liverpool has its 800th anniversary in 2007 and is the European capital of culture in 2008." www.openheaven.com *Pray that what happens next week will reach many for the kingdom, but also that Gods "presence" will invade the city.*



Response to rise in religious hate crime

The Evangelical Alliance called on Christians to make positive steps to reach out to Muslim and other faith communities in the wake of figures that show a six-fold increase in religious hate crimes in London since the bombings. Joel Edwards, General Director of the Evangelical Alliance, said, "Firstly, I would say that Christian communities throughout Britain should show the love of God by extending the hand of friendship to those affected by the actions of extremists and suffering violence and intimidation as a result. We need to care beyond our creed and serve without compromising our faith. Secondly, hard though it is to face the fact that there are terrorists in our midst our Christian faith requires us to love those who persecute us and I would emphasise this command at the present time." The Evangelical Alliance does remain concerned however, that the Government may use the current climate as an excuse for rushing through the racial and religious hatred legislation. It remains firm in its conviction that such legislation could exacerbate religious tension and increase community division. www.eauk.org *As intercessors I'm sure we can get behind Joel Edwards comments and concerns.*

Judges face human rights shake-up

Lord Falconer is considering new laws forcing judges to take more account of national security when deciding whether to deport terror suspects. The Lord Chancellor said the proposed changes would allow Britain to deport undesirable foreigners while abiding by the Human Rights Act. He denied it would put the government on a collision course with judges. Ministers face a legal battle to deport ten foreign nationals to countries with poor human rights records. Lord Falconer said he wanted the same weight to be given to national security concerns as a suspect's human rights. He denied he was seeking to tell the judiciary how to interpret the law. www.bbc.co.uk *Pray that these changes will not be rushed through without serious thought.*

City terror attack 'inevitable'

It is only a matter of time before London's financial centre is attacked by terrorists, police believe. Potential targets in the Square Mile have been staked-out a number of times but no arrests made, said City of London Police Commissioner James Hart. While the security "ring of steel" has been extended twice since 9/11, only half of firms have made contingency plans, he told the Financial Times. Business group the CBI said "good links" have been formed with police. "There is an ongoing dialogue," it told the BBC News website. "But more can always be done to raise awareness." While there was no specific threat against the City, the mindset of terrorists meant that it was an "obvious target", said Mr Hart. "If you want to hurt the government, hurt people at the same time, and you want to cause maximum disruption...where better to hit than at the financial centre?" He added: "I think it is a matter of when, rather than if." www.bbc.co.uk *Let us pray against this 'inevitability' statement and ask the Lord to confound the 'enemy' that would want to do such a thing.*

New drinking laws will end in violence, warn judges

Judges in England and Wales have warned government ministers to expect a huge increase in rapes, domestic violence and serious assaults as a result of the relaxation of drinking laws this year. Senior judges have told the Home Office to expect incidences of alcohol-fuelled violent crime to soar when the new law allowing round-the-clock drinking comes into force in November. A paper from the Council of Her Majesty's Judges said: "Those who routinely see the consequences of drink-fuelled violence in offences of rape, grievous bodily harm and worse on a daily basis are in no doubt that an escalation of offences of this nature will inevitably be caused by the relaxation of the liquor licensing which the Government has now authorised." Source: The Times 10/8/2005 www.mediawatchuk.org *Let us pray that these changes will not lead to the understandable fears being realized. If proved correct that the government will respond quickly to reverse this law.*

Hero publican is latest victim of Yob Britain

A village is mourning the death of a publican who has become the latest victim of Britain's Yob culture. Bob Todd was killed as he tried to intervene after a man was attacked by a teenage gang outside his pub. Mr Todd died from head injuries after he was run over trying to stop a car full of youths driving away. The man he tried to save suffered a broken jaw in the attack outside The Star pub in Pucklechurch, South Gloucestershire, which happened at about midnight on Friday. Mr Todd's widow, Diane, said: "I hate the evil scum who have done this. My husband would do anything for anyone and hated anyone getting hurt. He was a peace-loving and gentle man". Vicar the Rev Stuart Young said: 'There's a sense of disbelief, a feeling of it couldn't happen here' www.dailymail.co.uk *Continue to pray for this ongoing problem of teenage Yob culture in our communities.*

Church attack 'linked to parade' in Northern Ireland

A Catholic church in County Antrim has been vandalised in an overnight attack. Paint bombs were thrown at the Church of Our Lady in Harryville near Ballymena. It is the third attack on the church in the last month. Police condemned those responsible and said it was linked to tensions over a republican parade in the town. Father Paul Symonds said it was very frustrating and the attack had come just after the church had been restored after a previous incident. "The doors and step had been thoroughly cleaned-up, initially with help from some of our Protestant neighbours and the doors had been repainted and now they have been very badly scarred with the paint bomb," he said. Ulster Unionist assembly member Rev Robert Coulter condemned the attack. www.bbc.co.uk *Pray that incidents such as this will not stir up the troubles as Northern Ireland moves forward with the peace process. Pray that those involved will realise the futility of such actions.*

Clergy 'are failing on discipleship

Clergy are failing to train their congregations in discipleship, leaving them lacking the training and confidence necessary to make a difference in society, according to a leading Christian commentator. Mark Greene, Director of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC), said that churches are adopting a 'convert and retain' policy rather than encouraging people to share the Gospel. He described this as "warehousing people for heaven". One reason that many Christians struggle with talking about their faith is that they don't know how to live the message of the Gospel, research conducted by LICC found. Addressing the Keswick Convention, Mr Greene said that church leaders were spending least time on discipleship, which Jesus spent most time doing. "The Gospel of Jesus is not just a way in, it is a way on. The goal of the church is not to make converts but to make disciples. It is extremely rare to find a pastor who regularly meets with a group of people to disciple them for life in today's world". www.churchnewspaper.com *Pray that our leaders will take up the challenge of making true disciples.*

EUROPE

New network formed to support faith in Europe

Two British organisations promoting ecumenical Christian cooperation across Europe have merged. CAFE (Christians and the Future of Europe) and CEWERN (which has focussed on East-West issues) have united to form 'Faith in Europe': the Churches' European Relations Network. Faith in Europe will be a body-in-association of the official ecumenical structure, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). Its first general secretary is Philip Walters, director of research from the Keston Institute. The aim of the new organisation is to review religious issues across Europe, to promote contact and visits, to

encourage informed discussion of European issues in the churches, to act as a conduit for support for the churches, and to hold regular briefings. www.ekklesia.co.uk *Pray that this new organisation will build strong relationships to encourage co-operation and growth of the European Church.*

German Evangelical Alliance conference ends with call for social responsibility

The 110th German Evangelical Alliance Conference ended on Sunday in Bad Blankenburg, Thuringia, with a call to all Christians to assume a greater social responsibility. Participants at the Conference were also urged to engage themselves in bringing about a greater respect for biblical values in the run up to the elections in September. More than 2,500 people, most of them under the age of thirty, attended the five-day Conference on the theme of 'God is for us'. According to the Director of the Alliance Centre, Bishop Reinhard Holmer, the Conference showed a great readiness among Christians to engage independently with the Bible. He also noted a 'deeper proclamation' of the Bible message as a particularly positive feature of the conference. www.christiantoday.com *Pray that as the delegates return they will take up the challenge of the gospel.*

WORLDWIDE

Thousands rally against Gaza plan

Tens of thousands of Israelis have staged a rally in Tel Aviv in protest at plans to pull out of Gaza, six days before the withdrawal is due to begin. Demonstrators clad in the symbolic orange colour of the protest movement filled Rabin Square, where successive speakers denounced the evacuation. Opponents of the plan have stepped up their protests in recent days, vowing to sabotage the withdrawal operation. Jewish settlers are due to be removed from Gaza and part of the West Bank. Protesters waving flags and banners streamed into the square in what is likely to be the last such mass show of resolve against the plan before the withdrawal gets under way. The demonstration comes a day after tens of thousands of Orthodox Jews held a mass prayer gathering at the Western Wall in Jerusalem - Judaism's holiest site - against the impending pull-out. The withdrawal of settlers from the Gaza Strip is due to get under way on Wednesday next week, with a further withdrawal from four settlements in the West Bank soon afterwards www.bbc.co.uk *Please pray for peace in Israel as these withdrawals take place. Pray against any confrontation.*

Tensions rise as 'massive prayer assembly' planned for Jerusalem's Temple Mount

A Jewish Temple Mount group known as Revava, is planning on Monday, Aug. 14th, to hold a "massive prayer assembly for the rebuilding of our holy Temple on its historic site." The group may very well meet with much opposition however, as a Palestinian leader with alleged ties to Hamas is urging Arabs to surround the holy site next weekend to "protect it from Israeli protesters." Chairman of the Israeli group Revava, David Ha'ivri told World Net Daily, "The Muslims must understand that their rule over our holy place has come to an end and that the Jewish people will exercise our religious rights on the Temple Mount. We expect thousands of Jews to take part." www.worldnetdaily.com *Pray for the "shalom" of Jerusalem and that each heart, both Jew and Arab, would be illuminated by The Messiah*

Despite daily terror: Christians set up Bible Society of Iraq

Amid daily turmoil and terrorist attacks solid steps have been taken towards establishing a Bible Society in Iraq. In little more than a year a task force has managed to set up office in Baghdad and started the process of registering the Bible Society as a non-profit organization. Plans are already under way for a "Year of the Bible", a series of Bible seminars and workshops for Christians and church leaders. A Lebanese Christian music and drama team is expected to return to Iraq with the program "Just for Kids". Iraqi children still vividly remember the troupe's last performances in 2003. According to a report published by the United Bible Societies (UBS) in Reading, England, sporadic explosions are part of daily life in Baghdad. Churches, Christian organizations and individuals are among the primary targets. This continues to be the main activity of UBS in Iraq. In conjunction with World Compassion, Christian Freedom International, World Evangelical Alliance and Campus Crusade for Christ, thousands of Arabic pocket Bibles, illustrated Bibles and New Testaments have been distributed. Between last Christmas and New Year some 150,000 Scriptures were handed out all over the country. www.assistnews.net *Praise God for this initiative and pray that through this, many more will be drawn into the kingdom.*

Envoy named for Zimbabwean talks

Former Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano has been appointed to try and set up talks between the Zimbabwe government and opposition. He was named by the African Union just days after President Robert Mugabe appeared to rule out such talks. South Africa - and other countries - hope dialogue could ease Zimbabwe's economic and political problems. Meanwhile, Mr Mugabe has said he will give farmland to up to 6,000 members of the armed forces. This is the latest stage in his controversial land reform programme, which has seen some 4,000 white farmers driven from their land. www.bbc.co.uk *Pray that the pressures now being initiated by the African Union will be listened to bring relief to the oppressed.*

Food crisis 'runs across Africa'

With attention on food shortages in Niger, aid agencies say a vast "hunger belt" is stretching across Africa. People across Africa are affected, from Niger in central Africa to Somalia on the Indian Ocean seaboard. Latest reports from the Famine Early Warning Systems Network say over 20m people are at risk from food shortages. The broad cross-section of international aid agencies says that urgent action is required in seven countries across Africa. But a broader look at the continent shows much wider need. The Famine Early Warning network, made up of a variety of aid agencies including the aid arm of the US government, USAid, says no fewer than seven African states are facing food emergencies. These are mostly on the fringes of the Sahara desert and stretch from Niger, through Chad and Sudan, to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. (See Prayer Alert 34). www.bbc.co.uk *Continue to pray that the necessary relief operations will reach all peoples. Pray for the nations that have plenty will have compassion on those who have little. Pray against conflict that troubles so many of these nations.*

Nigerian President challenges Christians to rise against corruption

The Nigerian president has urged church leaders to nurture a new generation of God-fearing politicians. President Olusegun Obasanjo, speaking out against corruption amongst public officers last week, said: "Dirty people make politics dirty. If we continue to leave politics in the hands of dirty people it will continue to remain dirty. Children of God must rise to the occasion. The church has a major role to play in identifying, nurturing, promoting and guiding leaders at all levels of our society and our polity. "When we leave politics to people who do not fear God, have no respect for the constitution and are insensitive to the masses we sow the seeds of bad governance and the recycling of poverty, corruption and underdevelopment." President Obasanjo urged all Christians and "people of goodwill" not to shy away from politics which could lead to the betterment of Nigeria and Nigerians. www.churchnewspaper.com *Pray that the Presidents words will bare fruit, that Christians will take up the challenge and that corruption will be rooted out.*

World Council of Churches calls on Haitians to build new nation

General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Rev Dr Samuel Kobia told church leaders and members during an ecumenical service at the Methodist Church of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Sunday that Haitians should work together to build a new and alternative nation. Rev Kobia said the challenge facing Haiti was one of building reconciliation and dignity from "dislocated communities" and fear. "We are called to work to transform Haiti ... from a violent to a peaceful state," he said. Haiti's interim president Boniface Alexandre was promised by Kobia in a meeting last week that Haiti's "serious problems" would be on the agenda of the Council's forthcoming assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in February 2006. Kobia also said that WCC member churches would be consulted on how best they and the Council can support Haiti's transition to democracy and bring an end to the country's long history of violence and poverty. www.christiantoday.com *Pray that this call will be heeded and that the problems of the past will be put aside so that Haiti will be transformed.*

PRAISE REPORTS

Thousands of candles shine in memory of Anthony Walker from Liverpool

Crowds holding candles filled the street that led from the church to McGoldrick Park where the teen, who was described as a devout Christian, was brutally attacked last week. Anthony's mother, Gee (49), was moved to speak to the thousands who had come to honour the life of her son. "What a sea of people," she said. "This was not planned, but I just thought I had to say thank you for coming. Anthony was a special boy and I am sure he touched the lives of many people." Mrs. Walker, a special needs teacher, urged the people not to let the tragedy be repeated, saying, "You young people, don't let this happen again. Let his life bring change to you. Please don't let his death be in vain." www.breakingchristiannews.com (See Prayer Alert 34) *Continue to pray for the Walker family and thank God for their wonderful testimony even in such a tragic circumstances.*

New website encourages Americans to pray for their nation

A new web site has been established to encourage Americans to pray for their country. Pray4theUSA.com distributes an e-mail list of prayer points once each week. "As Americans, we are blessed with unparalleled freedom and opportunity," says Frank Williams, who created Pray4theUSA. "The United States of America is a gift from God - a gift we should not take for granted. Pray4theUSA.com was created to encourage people everywhere to pray for our nation." www.breakingchristiannews.com *We welcome this new initiative and pray for its success.*

House builders encase bible in every house's foundation

According to an AP release, some Texas homeowners are literally standing on the promises of God, because they are living in homes with a Bible encased in its foundation. Possibility Custom Homes owners James Wallace and Andy Eckert believed that God would bless their company if they built it on a godly foundation. Wallace and Eckert don't advertise the fact that they build homes with a Bible in the foundation, but they don't hide the fact either. They explain to buyers why they do it and so far no one has objected. www.breakingchristiannews.com *May His word bring a blessing to all that live in these homes.*

LOOKING AHEAD

4th–21st August: Merseyfest Britain's largest urban mission for 2005. We. Please pray for: Team - wisdom and continued favour with those in authority; Church to arise to the challenge; church across the nation to help us through prayer. Details www.merseyfest.com

26th – 29th 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

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

29th October: Trumpet Call III - Back to the NEC Arena for a third National Trumpet Call Day of Prayer. Make sure the date is in your diary www.worldprayer.org.uk