

PRAYER ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Prayer Alert . . .

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BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Violent crime 'showing 6% rise'

Violent crime in the three months to the end of June increased by 6% on the same period last year, according to quarterly Home Office figures. But crime overall fell by 2% compared with last year, the figures showed. The Home Office said the figures for violence reflected better recording of crime and more proactive policing. Domestic burglaries fell by 11% and car thefts by 8%. There was a provisional 5% rise in firearms offences - mainly due to imitation weapons www.bbc.co.uk *Although there is much good news in these statistics we need to continue praying against the violence within our society.*

Milton Keynes (MK) host festival of Satanic music

Hundreds of devil worshippers are descending upon Milton Keynes (MK) for a festival of Satanic music on the 26th October 2005. A notorious American extreme death metal pioneers *Deicide* will headline the gig. The band has satanic leanings and has been a constant thorn in the flesh of various American Christian denominations. The lead singer Glen Benton even has an inverted cross burnt into his forehead. He has called his first son Damien named after the Omen antichrist character. The bible says 'we are the light of this world'. There is enough darkness already in MK and this is an insult to the God we serve. *Christians in MK have started praying let us join them and intercede on behalf of MK against Satanic influences over the City.*

Sunday trading bid prompts fury

Church groups have reacted with fury over a new campaign aimed at increasing Sunday shopping hours. Keep Sunday Special campaign has taken a firm stance against Deregulate, launched this week, branding it fundamentally 'anti-children and anti-social'. KSS is concerned any relaxation on trading laws will require more parents to work on Sundays, affecting how much time they spend with their children. Spearheaded by retail giants Tesco, B&Q and Asda, details of the move first appeared in June. KSS attaches special importance to Sunday as the traditional day of rest and argues the proposed measures would disrupt an ordered society where children have a chance to grow up with parental support and input. Dr Michael Schluter, Chairman of KSS, said: "Christianity is a relational religion. Relationships are the most important thing in people's lives and are key to self-worth, identity and security. www.churchnewspaper.com *Let us pray that there will not be any more relaxation on Trading Laws that have already eroded the special importance of Sunday as God's day of rest.*

Children 'drink to danger levels'

Some children in Northern Ireland start drinking alcohol from as young as 11, according to new research. The Health Promotion Agency report, analysing drinking behaviour of people between the ages of 11 and 16, also said many drink to dangerous levels. The report - from secondary analysis of alcohol data from 1997 to 2003 - was made with the Irish Temperance League. Victoria

Creasy of the HPA said there were links between "high risk drinking and unsafe sexual behaviour". "These figures are of real concern because young people are more vulnerable than adults to suffering physical, emotional and social harm from their own and other people's drinking," she said. "There are strong links between high risk drinking and unsafe sexual behaviour, unintended pregnancy, traffic and other accidents, failure at school and mental health problems." www.bbc.co.uk *Let us pray that This report will be a wake up call for parents, authorities and young people.*

Make UK poverty history, says church action group

Church Action on Poverty (CAP) is [calling on the Britain government to take more decisive action against inequality in Britain](#), after official statistics indicated that more than one in four children in the UK still live in poverty. Housing and homelessness is a particular area of concern, with the number of families living in temporary accommodation having increased by a third in the past three years. In a response issued yesterday, CAP welcomes the progress that the government has made in tackling deprivation since 1997, but says that it has to go much further and faster if it is truly to 'make poverty history' here in Britain. Niall Cooper, [Church Action on Poverty's](#) national coordinator, declared: "Although the government has now accepted the need for action to tackle the growing debt crisis in this country, it has still failed to set any targets for tackling extortionate lending and ensuring that the poorest households have access to affordable credit." www.ekklesia.co.uk *Pray that this report will lead to those in government taking action to address the needs of those living in poverty within the UK*

Thousands of Churches to participate in largest prayer initiative for persecuted Church

According to organizers of IDOP -- the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church -- more than 200 million men, women and children in more than 60 countries face discrimination, persecution and even death for their Christian faith. The 2005 IDOP takes place in the UK on Sunday November 6th. Prayer has always been the strongest weapon used by the followers of Christ in all situations. This year, Christians in over 100 countries will join in prayer to strengthen those who are persecuted for their faith and to comfort those who are overcoming the great losses wrought by the Southeast Asian tsunami, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the 7.6-magnitude earthquake in South Asia. The goals of IDOP are three-fold: increase awareness of the persecuted church worldwide, lead in prayer on behalf of the persecuted church, promote ongoing and appropriate action on behalf of the persecuted church. www.idop.org or www.worldevangelicalalliance.com

EUROPE

Hampton Court meeting for EU Heads of State

EU Heads of State will meet on 27 October to discuss a vision for Europe. The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Blair and attended also by the Presidents of the European Commission and Parliament, is intended to be an informal brain-storming and there is to date no firm agenda. The purpose is to discuss Europe's place in the world, the security of European citizens, and the ability of Europe to compete in a global economy. The EU budget and the fiercely contested question as to how much each country should pay is surprisingly not on the agenda. The meeting will take place against a background of criticism of the UK Presidency by other EU governments for lack of leadership and vision. *Pray for the UK government and for diplomats as they discuss these issues with their counterparts in preparation for this meeting. Ask that God would give leaders the wisdom and discernment they need and that the meeting will be productive. Pray for the UK Presidency that God would give a clear vision and the ability to lead.*

Bird flu

Following the confirmation of the H5N1 virus in Turkey and Romania, EU Health Ministers meet informally in Rickmansworth on 20-21 October to discuss plans to deal with a flu pandemic and to prepare for a discussion of this issue at the EU Agriculture Council in November, and the UN meeting in Geneva on 7-9 November. At official level EU Chief Veterinary and Chief Medical Officers meet regularly to discuss measures which need to be coordinated across Europe. *Please pray for Ministers and officials that they will plan effective measures to protect European countries from a flu pandemic and pray for constructive coordination worldwide at the UN meeting.*

EU politicians pressure European pro-life countries to drop abortion restrictions

The European Union's Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution earlier this month titled 'Women and Religion in Europe', which recommends that countries "ensure that women are not subjected to religiously inspired policies and laws [such as] abortion law[s]." 'Maintaining laws that protect the most innocent and helpless members of society -- the unborn -- in contrast to a so-called woman's right to choose to kill their unborn children, PACE maintains, is a form of "intolerance and discrimination" aimed at women by what they decry as male-dominated religion -- an obvious reference to Roman Catholicism. The resolution, the brain-child of Swiss Group of the European People's Party, Mme Rosmarie Zapfl-Helbling, also strongly condemned religions that support a "patriarchal culture which holds up the role of wife, mother and housewife as the ideal," as another form of discrimination against women.' In related news, in a new bid to target European Union member states with pro-life constitutions, the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), a radically pro-abortion group, sponsored an event titled Abortion - Making It a Right for All Women in the EU, in cooperation with 17 Members of European Parliament (MEPs) representing 12 different member countries. The event hosted women from Catholic European countries who contend that prohibition on abortion in their country is a violation of their human rights. www.lifesitenews.com *Let us pray for this ongoing situation over abortion and ask that God will intervene and bring His wisdom to bear on those involved.*

New German Cabinet strikes religious balance

Politicians in Germany are still struggling over the formation of a new government after the close outcome of the general elections on September 18. The Christian Democrats have only a slight lead over the Social Democrats under Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. The former Parliamentary antagonists -- the Christian Democrats (made up of the Christian Democratic Union CDU and the Bavarian Christian Social Union CSU) on the one hand and Social Democrats (SPD) on the other - are intent on forming a "grand coalition". While negotiations will not be finalized before mid-November the parties have already nominated a cabinet under the leadership of former opposition leader Angela Merkel (CDU). Her government will not only be balanced out along party lines -- Christian and Social Democrats will have eight ministers each -- but also according to religious adherence. As the evangelical news

agency "idea" found out seven cabinet members are Catholics, seven are Protestants and two have no religious affiliation. www.assistnews.net *Pray for the new government in Germany and for all the Christians in the cabinet that they will be open to God's direction in all their decisions.*

WORLDWIDE

Hurricane Wilma forces evacuation

Officials in Mexico, Cuba and Florida have started evacuating thousands of people from areas threatened by the strongest hurricane ever recorded. Hurricane Wilma, which has weakened to a Category-Four storm, is packing winds of about 155mph (270km/h), its heavy rains already lashing outlying areas. At least 11 people have been killed in Haiti by floods and landslides. The storm's barometric pressure - a measure of its strength - reached the lowest on record in the Atlantic basin. As of 2300 on Wednesday (0300 GMT Thursday), the centre of the hurricane was about 235 miles (380km) south-east of Cozumel, Mexico. Wilma is moving at a speed of 8mph (11km/h) towards Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, but is expected to turn north-west on Thursday, said the US National Hurricane Center. It said the "potentially catastrophic" storm was expected to dump up to 63cm (25 inches) of rain in mountainous areas of Cuba until Friday, and up to up to 38cm (15 inches) in the Caymans and Jamaica until Thursday. www.bbc.co.uk *Pray for the people of Florida and the Gulf Coast Region, that the Lord would protect their lives, and pray as it says in the word, 'Peace still the Storm' in Jesus name.*

LATE NEWS - Hurricane postpones another homosexual party

For the second time this year, an Atlantic hurricane is forcing the postponement of a popular homosexual event filled with "unthinkable debauchery." Hurricane Katrina cancelled the 'Southern Decadence' event in New Orleans (See Prayer Alert Special on Katrina 2 September.) The annual 'Fantasy Fest' in Key West, Florida, had been slated to kick off today with the theme, 'Fantasy Fest: Freaks, Geeks, and Goddesses'. But the threat of Hurricane Wilma is putting a damper on the festivities, delaying events until after the storm passes. www.worldnetdaily.com *Is God cleansing us? (See Prayer Alert 39 September 9.) Pray that this event will not just be postponed but cancelled*

Christians are here for 'such a time as this'

In the wake of several natural disasters around the world, Christians across America are being called upon to pray continuously, to be vigilant about daily Bible study, to be prepared for disaster themselves, and to boldly share the hope of Jesus. Christian Emergency Network (CEN) CEO and Founder Mary Marr is calling upon Christians everywhere to recognize that the number of natural disasters occurring around the world are causing people to ask questions about God. Hence, she said, "This generation of Christians is here, now, 'for such a time as this.' The Apostle Paul taught young Timothy, 'Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season...' (2 Timothy 4:2a). Well, if ever there was a season when this generation of the Body of Christ can share the Hope found only in Jesus Christ, this is it." She continued, "Not only are Americans recovering from the devastation of a series of hurricanes, more than 50,000 are dead in Pakistan and neighbouring nations from last week's earthquake, the north eastern United States is recovering from a weekend of flooding, and Tropical Storm Wilma is just east of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and may turn into yet another hurricane that will hit the Gulf Coastal United States. And, this is but a handful of disasters presently impacting millions around the world. Combine this with fears of the avian flu and volatile world events, and it is clear that we live in a world that is on edge." www.assistnews.net *Let us indeed pray continuously and be vigilant at this time seeking God's wisdom over these worldwide situations.*

Continued prayer and help needed for survivors of South Asia earthquake

As aid continues for victims of the recent devastating earthquake in South Asia, the death toll is feared to rise to more than 54,000, with the Himalayan winter's chill just around the corner. In some cases landslides, triggered by the earthquake and aftershocks, have closed off roads for medicine and other supplies and could take weeks to clear. James Morris, executive director of the U.N. World Food Program sees the relief effort as one of the world's most challenging. "The aid agencies have managed to give some help to hundreds of thousands of people, but there are an estimated half a million more people out there in desperate need, who no one has managed to reach," he said. "People don't just need food - first of all they need shelter, blankets and medical assistance - then food and clean water." www.breakingchristiannews.com The UN says the shortfall in aid for victims of the South Asian quake has made the relief situation worse than after last December's tsunami. UN emergency relief chief, Jan Egeland, said the organisation had never seen such a "logistical nightmare". Earlier Secretary General Kofi Annan warned of a second wave of deaths unless more aid was sent immediately. www.bbc.co.uk

Indonesian Christians attacked as they worship on the street

Christians in Jatimulya, East Bekasi, in West Java, were attacked on Sunday 16th October as they met together to worship on the street. Outdoor worship was the only option for these Christians as their church building had been recently forced to close, part of an ongoing pattern of forcible church closures in West Java. The Christians came from three churches that had been ordered by the Mayor of Jatimulya to close their church buildings five weeks ago, the closures then enforced by a radical Muslim group called the Alliance Against Apostasy. The constitution of Indonesia guarantees freedom of religion, but with their buildings closed and forbidden to meet for worship in private homes, the Christians have had to gather in the streets each Sunday, in order to worship together. While no one was seriously hurt, and the Christians remain committed to meeting together, there is fear that there will be more violence and greater danger as they do so. Thank God for their faith to continue meeting together; ask Him for protection over them wherever they meet, and that He will bless these faithful brothers and sisters with a peace that surpasses human comprehension. www.barnabusfund.org *Pray for all Christians in Indonesia who are fearful under the current circumstances. Pray that despite the efforts of officials and Muslim radicals the Church in Indonesia will not be overcome by the persecution they suffer.*

Dalit court case on hold until October 25th

The Indian government once again attempted to scuttle the Supreme Court's hearing of a case that would grant affirmative action rights to low caste Dalit Christians. (See Prayer Alert 42) Under current law, Dalits who profess any other religion are granted rights to work and education, but they lose those rights if they become a Christian. This week the government asked the court to throw

out the case because they had appointed a commission to look into the situation. [Gospel for Asia](#) KP Yohannan says the court said no and has set October 25th as the date to hear the case. He says the extra time is on their side. "There will be a greater amount of international pressure coming up on the government to make this decision. And, if they say no to it this is going to be a human rights violation and huge crisis for the government. They only have one option; to do what is right according to the constitution. That's what we're praying for and I think it's going to happen." *God has given us more time to pray for the Dalit Christians, please pray that international pressure will increase.*

PRAISE REPORTS

Power of Prayer: Miraculous Rescue in Taiwan

In the midst of amazing disasters, this story that reminds us of God's goodness and how He answers prayer. It started on September 28, when a cave-in buried well-digger Liu Ching Tai. Taiwanese TV stations, gripped by his story, broadcast live from the site of the rescue operation. So they recorded his sister crying out to God and believing him to save her brother and other family members praying that God would shield Liu with rocks to keep the 2500 pounds of dirt from crushing him as they worked to free him. After 26-hours of digging, rescuers finally freed Liu. He immediately cried out "Thank you, Lord!" Rescue workers called his deliverance "miraculous" and said they found that two rocks had covered Liu's head and kept him safe. Liu was able to breathe the air that was trapped between the cracks. Liu and his sister are elders in the Presbyterian Church. They say the event is a testimony to God's amazing power and the power of believing prayer. [CWNews.com](#) *Miracles are Gods to give and praise God for this powerful testimony.*

Venezuelans rise up to support mission group expelled by Chavez

Last Friday, (See Prayer Alert 42) Venezuelan's president, Hugo Chavez, ordered the U.S. missionary group, New Tribes Mission (NTM), out of Venezuela . . . but perhaps he should have first asked the indigenous Venezuelans who were being ministered to by the missionaries. Among the allegations were accusations the group "built luxurious camps next to poor Indian villages, circumvented Venezuelan customs by flying in and out of dozens of private airstrips with their planes, and conducting mining studies in the gold-rich region." Evidently, Chavez underestimated the effect missionaries have had on some of Venezuela's poorest people who have risen up to challenge him. "Why don't they ask (the Indian communities) ... if they've really been abused?" asked Domingo Gonzalez, a native working with the mission's group. "The indigenous Venezuelans need to be heard, not to be spoken for." An AP report published in the Seattle PI says that Jose Kayupare of the Puinare tribe challenged Chavez's claims that the New Tribes Mission constituted an "imperialist infiltration that was exploiting native communities." "For those of us who live in the jungle, this really is a decision that the majority of indigenous people in Amazonas (state) don't support and that we are not going to accept under any circumstances," said Kayupare. [www.breakingchristiannews.com](#) *Praise God for the testimony of the communities that have benefited from the New Tribes Mission.*

Sudan's newest presidential advisor a prominent Sudanese Christian leader

According to a report on CWNews, an ordained Christian minister has been appointed as advisor to the head of Sudan's Islamic government. Rev. Harun Ruun said the appointment came as a surprise. While in exile, Rev. Ruun had been serving as executive secretary of the New Sudan Council of Churches, which works to bring Catholics and Protestants together in southern Sudan. He will now become one of twelve key advisors to President Omar el Bashir, under the new national-unity government. Ruun accepted the appointment as a "challenge to continue his work for the welfare of Christians and of Sudan." [www.breakingchristiannews.com](#) *Pray that Harun will be able to bring God's wisdom to the Islamic government in Sudan.*

LOOKING AHEAD

5th October – 3rd November: *30-Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.* For the latest "30-Days" news and for prayer materials during Ramadan 2005 [www.30-days.net](#)

19th -26th October: *National Parents' Week.* Register for resources on website or by phone to The National Family and Parents Institute (NFPI) Tel: 020 7424 3460 Website: [www.nfpi.org](#)

23rd October: *Bible Sunday.* Resources available from The Bible Society contact: Website: Tel: 01793 418100 [www.biblesociety.org.uk](#)

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](#)

6th November: *International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.* What began as a core group of about 7,000 churches, the IDOP has grown to be the largest prayer day event of its kind in the world. Last year, an estimated 200,000 churches experienced the spirit of unity by taking part in this Day of Prayer. Information

10 November: *Hope for London Leaders' Prayer Breakfast.* Over the past two years, increasing numbers of Christian leaders in London have been gathering together at the Hope for London Leaders' Breakfasts to lift the capital before God. Pete Broadbent will be the speaker this time on 'Confidence in our Unity' and Noel Robinson will lead worship. [www.eauk.org](#)
visit: [www.idop.org](#) or [www.worldevangelicalalliance.com](#)

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