

PRAYER ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Prayer Alert . . .

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CONTACT US: info@prayer-alert.net

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BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Blair heads for clashes on future reforms

Tony Blair set himself up on Thursday for high-risk clashes with his party, refusing to compromise on future reforms despite a first parliamentary defeat that raised doubts about his ability to govern. Forty-nine Labour MPs rebelled on Wednesday against government plans to let police hold terrorist suspects for up to 90 days without charge. Commentators said the shock vote marked a turning point for a once-invincible leader who has seen his authority wane since the 2003 Iraq war, despite winning a third term in May. Further defeats would increase calls for him to go. Blair has already said he will not stand for a fourth term although he intends to serve for a few more years yet. Despite that, Blair said there would be no watering down of plans to reform schools, hospitals and the incapacity benefits system before crucial votes in the New Year. Internationally, Blair also faces testing times. As current European Union president, he must try and secure an EU budget deal by year-end without wounding himself politically at home by giving in to demands from EU leaders to relinquish part of Britain's rebate from Brussels' coffers. And his hopes for a plan to alleviate poverty in Africa could be sunk if ministers fail to agree a deal at trade talks in Hong Kong in December. www.reuters.co.uk *Let us pray for our government that they will be guided by the Spirit over all the decisions they have to make. Pray for Tony Blair in his role as Prime Minister and President of the EU that he too will be open to righteous guidance.*

Mother fights for parental right to be informed about child's abortion

Today (Nov 8) Sue Axon's challenge to the Department of Health will be heard in the High Court as she fights for the parental right to be informed of her child having an abortion. Abortion has been put in the same category as the provision of contraceptive services for under-16s. According to the guidance parents need not be told of a pending operation. This is supposed to follow the principle set down in the leading case of Gillick. However, the Gillick ruling decided that, in general, parents should be made aware of treatment decisions made for under 16s, and that it was only in exceptional circumstances that parents should not be informed. Sue Axon says, 'If I, as a single mother, am not entitled to know when my daughters are about to undergo a potentially life-changing operation, how can I properly discharge my role as a parent?' She is seeking not a right of veto, but a right to be consulted. www.lawcf.org *Let us pray that this case will lead to a clarification that will honour the rights of parents their children and the right to life of the unborn child.*

Memorial service 'too Christian'

Organisers of a memorial service to remember murder victims say its future is in doubt because of concerns it may exclude non-Christians. The service at Trafalgar Square's St Martin-in-the-Fields church attracts hundreds of bereaved people each year. But the Home Office, which provides £2,000 funding, has asked for proof it reaches "all parts of the community". Organiser Sandra Sullivan, 60, accused officials of trying to bully her into changing venues. Her daughter Kate, 23, was stabbed to death in 1992, and she and her late husband funded the event themselves when it began 11 years ago. Three years ago the then Home Secretary David

Blunkett agreed to provide £2,000 annually, saying it helped victims of crime. The grant is up for review after this year's event - due to be held on 10 December - and civil servants have written to organisers with their concerns www.bbc.co.uk *Please pray against the increasing number of attacks by the 'politically correct'*

UK charity offers British Forces personnel prayer by telephone

A UK charity has launched a new service to British Forces personnel and their families serving in Germany which will enable them to receive spiritual support via a new telephone prayer service, reports Assist News. United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) launched the service called Prayerline yesterday, enabling the service men and women and their families in Germany to talk to and pray with someone over the telephone. "All Prayerline staff are fully trained and although the new service will not be an advice or counselling line, it is intended to be a place where people can go when they need someone to pray with," read a UCB press release. Neil Winterton, manager of UCB Prayerline said: "We are pleased to be able to join with the British Armed Forces to supply this service. When families or individuals are struggling, the one thing that they often seek is spiritual support and we look forward to supporting the chaplains in Germany through this project." British Armed Forces Personnel and their families can call the UCB Prayerline on 0800 23 3333 23 www.christiantoday.com *Pray that this initiative will itself be an answer to the prayers for many in the Forces.*

Race equality efforts stepped up in Scotland

A new national coalition on race equality is to be established as part of an "uncompromising" drive to stamp out discrimination in Scotland. Communities Minister Malcolm Chisholm has also announced the creation of a £2m fund to support local projects to tackle racism and support integration. He said: "No-one should be held back in modern Scotland because of their race, colour or background." The coalition will cover issues such as ethnic minorities' employment problems. The body, which will be chaired by Mr Chisholm, will also look at the issues of verbal or physical abuse. The moves were announced following an eight-month race equality review. An action plan and racial equality strategy will be published next year. Mr Chisholm said the steps unveiled on Thursday were laying the foundations for "a comprehensive set of measures to tackle disadvantage and discrimination in Scotland to make race equality a reality for everyone". www.bbc.co.uk *Pray that this move will lead to discrimination being stamped out in Scotland.*

Pray for Croydon.

I was alerted about the event too late for inclusion in last weeks Prayer Alert but for the past few years Croydon has hosted an International Witchfest each year. This year's festival took place last Saturday and was supposedly the biggest in the world. It began with a "Circus of horrors" on Friday evening and during the Saturday, lots of seminars and events took place... The Witchfest organisers heard that London Prayer net was taking steps to raise prayer and targeted them. - so even now your prayers would be appreciated (see. www.londonprayer.net/south) *Pray for the protection of Christians involved in praying against this event locally and that any steps that the Witchfest took will be covered by the blood of Christ.*

EUROPE

France in flames - eyewitness account

Last night (Tuesday) 1400 vehicles were in flames. And there have been a many more each night for the past 11 nights. A decrease was noticed on the 12th night. I have just returned from several days of ministry and discovered the enormity of these riots. The average age of the rioters ranges from 16 to 17 years, which reveals the depth of the unrest. (Some are only 13 or 14 years old, 500 youth under 18 years of age have been arrested). These are not organized riots but are spontaneous and anarchistic, caused by a minority of individuals. The rioters have set fire to vehicles in their own suburbs, to stores, public transportation, and attacked the police force or the firemen as well. There were 36 wounded police officers last night, and there is an estimated 26 million euros of damage to public buildings! Schools, baby nurseries, town halls have been burnt; even 2 catholic churches were damaged yesterday. Companies have been destroyed, all of which has only created more unemployment. Several people (6 to this date) died following attacks out of sheer aggressiveness and violence. The majority of these rioters are French (born in France) but are of North African, African or different origin, immigrants whom France invited here 30 or 40 years to help rebuild the labour force in the country. All the large towns of France have been touched, 274 communities at this day. *Pray that God's people have wisdom and care in their response to the rioting and sense of injustice in this nation. Pray that God's people will be His voice in this land, to help bring peace and to glorify God. Pray for the government to have the wisdom to bring the rioting to an end and to restore peace.*

Belgium plays down third night of violence

With law-enforcement officials claiming that the torching of cars, trucks and cellars in Belgium is not "systemic violence," the nation endured its third straight night of arson attacks yesterday with two immigrant teenagers being arrested. According to Expatica News, the violence occurred in the cities on Antwerp, Brussels and Ghent. Belgian law-enforcement officials say the arson attacks are simply copycat acts in response to the last two weeks of Muslim rioting that has occurred in France. "This does not make a Paris of Ghent," police warned in downplaying the Belgium incidents. Police commissioner Steven de Smet said while officials are taking the attacks seriously, "we must not panic, either. Expatica reported that in Brussels alone, up to 15 vehicles and two cellars were torched last night before order was restored to the city at about 11 p.m. According to Reuters, a number of cars were set on fire in the German cities of Berlin and Cologne yesterday, and there have been similar reports of violence in Sweden. www.worldnetdaily.com *As the troubled situation in France appears to spread pray that the authorities will be able to contain it and establish peace.*

Muslim riots break out in Denmark as well

As Muslim riots spread across France, Denmark is also beginning to see its own Islamic Intifada. In Aarhus, Denmark, young Muslims were heard chanting, "This land belongs to us!" A masked spokesman for the rioters told Danish reporters that Muslims were tired of being oppressed and harassed and warned the police to stay away. "This is our area. We rule this place," he said. The riots have increased following a cartoon in Danish paper The Jyllands Posten involving Mohammed. Rocks and firebombs have become commonplace in many neighbourhoods and fire-fighters are afraid to enter them to put out the fires. www.israelnn.com *Pray that these copy-cat riots will quickly die down and peace will be restored.*

UK and France head for EU budget clash

London and Paris were last night on a collision course over Britain's £3.2bn EU budget rebate secured by Margaret Thatcher more than 20 years ago. In the first major discussion on the budget since an acrimonious summit in June, France made clear that Britain

would have to give ground if a deal is to be reached. Philippe Douste-Blazy, the French foreign minister, said: "Britain will see its rebate increase as spending increases and that is difficult to accept." France is stepping up the pressure on Britain because it believes it is completely isolated over the rebate. Every country but Britain believes it is outdated - even Britain's east European allies are angry with the delay in agreeing a budget. Budget negotiations have been on hold since the collapse of a European summit in June. British officials made clear yesterday that Mr Blair would veto a deal in December if France refused to change the Luxembourg proposal. [The Guardian](#) *Continue to pray for the European parliament as they seek a resolution to the Budget problems.*

WORLDWIDE

Christian girls shot near church

Two 17-year-old Christian girls were shot in the second recent attack of its kind in Indonesia. Washington, D.C.-based International Christian Concern said two armed men shot the girls – Siti Nuraini and another identified only as Ivon – at close range with pistols near a Pentecostal church in Poso, Central Sulawesi. Both girls are in critical condition, in a coma. The attacks followed the beheadings of three Christian high school students in the area late last month. (See Prayer Alert 45) ICC said the new attack took place as 10 national police officials of the Muslim-majority nation were in Central Sulawesi probing the beheadings. According to some reports, the perpetrators of the beheadings are in custody but have not been formally charged. The Poso area, which has a relatively large Christian population, has seen at least 40 attacks recently against the Christian community, including shootings, killings and major bombings. ICC says there have been no convictions or arrests in any of these attacks. www.worldnetdaily.com *Continue to pray for the Christians in Indonesia that the lord will protect them and strengthen their faith under such persecution.*

'Al-Qaeda' claims Jordan attacks

The al-Qaeda network has claimed it carried out the bomb attacks which killed at least 57 people in three hotels in Jordan's capital Amman. The alleged claim was made in a statement posted on the internet. Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Muasher had earlier said that al-Qaeda militants in neighbouring Iraq were a "prime suspect" for the bombs. At least 300 people, mostly Jordanians, were injured in the blasts at the Grand Hyatt, Radisson and Days Inn hotels. King Abdullah II, who cut short his visit to Kazakhstan to return to Jordan, said the deadly blasts were "terrorist acts" and pledged that "justice will pursue the criminals". In the worst attack, hundreds of guests were enjoying a wedding reception at the Radisson SAS when the bomb went off. www.bbc.co.uk *Pray for those who have been affected by these blasts. Pray that the authorities will remain open to being the middle ground between Arabs and the west.*

33 die in Baghdad cafe blast ahead of Straw visit

At least 33 people have been killed in a suicide bomb attack on a crowded cafe in central Baghdad, marking an end to the relative lull in violence in the Iraqi capital. The attack came shortly before Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, was expected to arrive for a previously unannounced meeting with Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari. The pair is expected to hold a joint press conference later today. The bomber walked into the restaurant and detonated an explosive vest at about 9.30am (0630GMT) while officers from a nearby police station were eating breakfast. Several hours before, six people were killed when two car bombs were detonated near a police station and mosque in al-Shab, a Shia district in the north of the capital. Five policemen were killed when a suicide car bomber struck a patrol near Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad yesterday. www.timesonline.co.uk *Continue to pray for this nation as it struggles to find peace and democracy amid so many atrocities.*

Thousands join Azerbaijan protest

Thousands of opposition supporters in Azerbaijan have taken to the streets to demonstrate against the results of Sunday's parliamentary elections. The elections, won by the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, were criticised by international observers. The government of President Ilham Aliyev allowed the opposition to hold a three-hour rally in the capital, Baku. Facing accusations of fraud, Mr Aliyev sacked two local officials for allegedly interfering in the elections. Election officials have ordered re-runs in two districts and one recount. About 15,000 protesters attended the march and rally, many wearing or waving orange flags in a reference to the success of the "orange revolution" that brought President Victor Yushchenko to power in Ukraine after disputed elections. The numbers fell far short of the 30,000 to 50,000 the opposition had hoped for. www.bbc.co.uk *Pray that the people of Azerbaijan will find a solution to these problems. Pray that God's people will be a strong influence to the solutions bringing His authority and blessing.*

Madagascar's church ban referred

A court in Madagascar has refused to rule on the banning of the popular FPVM protestant charismatic church. It said only the president could overturn the ban after consulting a council of ministers to which the court referred the church's appeal. The church was shut by police last month after the interior ministry declared it a threat to public order. President Marc Ravalomanana is also deputy head of the island's more traditional FJKM church. A devout Christian, Mr Ravalomanana swept to power in a six-month revolution three years ago and was re-elected to his church post last year. The FPVM - which has some 300,000 followers - is accused by the interior ministry of illegally occupying churches assigned to Mr Ravalomanana's church in the south-east of the country. But FPVM members said the landlords offered them the buildings, most of which are wood and thatch huts. The civil court said that it could not reopen the FPVM because it lacked the authority to overturn a ministerial decision of this nature. www.bbc.co.uk *Pray that God's people will find unity being faithful to the prayer of Jesus Christ, as seen in John 17, 'that they may be one'.*

Mugabe tells U.S. envoy: 'Go to hell'

Police on Tuesday detained the entire leadership of Zimbabwe's trade union umbrella organization to muzzle protests against worsening economic conditions, union officials said. The move came as President Robert Mugabe said a U.S. diplomat who blamed government policies for Zimbabwe's crisis could "go to hell." News of the arrests of all the top leaders of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trades Unions, representing 30 worker organizations with 1 million members, came in a statement expressing "utter shock and dismay" by the trade union congress in neighbouring South Africa. The Zimbabwe Congress of Trades Unions had scheduled a midday march to "remind government and employers that workers are hungry, angry and tired in a speech in Zimbabwe last week, U.S. Ambassador Christopher Dell said that gross mismanagement and corruption had wrecked the once prosperous economy. He also challenged the government to admit that the demolition of thousands of homes, shacks and market stalls earlier this year had

left a humanitarian crisis. www.cnn.com *Continue to pray for this troubled nation. Pray that God will intervene and take over His sovereign rule through His people.*

Beijing, protestant minister sentenced for illegally printing Bibles

A Chinese court on Tuesday sentenced a Protestant minister, Cai Zhuohua, his wife and her brother to prison terms of up to three years for illegally printing Bibles and other Christian publications, one of their lawyers said. Cai was sentenced to three years in prison, his 33-year-old wife, Xiao Yunfei, was given a two-year prison sentence and her brother, Xiao Gaowen, 37, an 18-month term, attorney Zhang Xingshui said. They were expected to appeal and have 10 days to do so. In China only the State Bureau of Religious Affairs has the right to publish the Bible, generally in small numbers that cannot be sold in bookstores. Defence attorney Gao Zhisheng revealed that the four, who have been in prison for the past thirteen months, are accused of "illegal business practices" because of the large number of Bibles and Christian religious books found in their church. www.asianews.it *Pray for the Church in China as it continues to face ongoing persecution. Pray that they will be strengthened and by their witness bring glory to God.*

International day of prayer for the persecuted Church (IDOP) November 13, 2005

As we approach the next IDOP it is essential that we have a clear understanding of the situation that is facing The Persecuted Church within the 10/40 Window: People are killed everyday because they claim the Name of Jesus and when we pray we affect the outcome of dangerous situations. To ignore the Persecuted Church is to deny the international body of Christ. You may know that, according to Open Doors International, 43 of the top 50 countries considered to be the most brutal in their practice of the persecution of Christians are located within the 10/40 Window. The atrocities that continue to occur in Sudan, North Korea, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Pakistan are a disturbing trend that many in the body of Christ are unaware of, or simply ignore or refuse to deal with. You can bring change to this disturbing trend. WIN, in partnership with numerous international partner ministries, recently launched Praying Through the Window 8: The Persecuted Church in the 10/40 Window and would like to extend an opportunity for you to coordinate focused prayer during the month of November -highlighting Sunday, November 13th. www.win1040.com and www.IDOP.org *With so many places where the Church is being persecuted ask God to give us His wisdom on how to pray.*

PRAISE REPORTS

An awakening in the Bahamas: invitation to a 'Friendly Invasion'

Promise Keepers president and CEO Dr. Tom Fortson received a letter from The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, The Honourable Perry Gladstone Christie, Prime Minister. It read: "This letter serves as a formal invitation from the people and the Government of The Bahamas to Promise Keepers to stage a friendly invasion of our shores with your message and mission which we know will ignite a new appreciation in all our people on the responsibilities of Christian manhood." Rev. Dr. William Thompson, president of The Bahamas Christian Council said he welcomes U.S. promise keepers "with open arms to join our Lord and Saviour and the men of the Church in The Bahamas in causing the greatest spiritual 'Awakening' to reach our shores to become a reality beginning this November 2005." Events from November 7 to 12 reportedly include prison dormitory repair, a prison ministry event, youth outreach, leadership training, a "Night of National Repentance" www.breakingchristiannews.com *Pray that this will lead to a mighty awakening throughout the Bahamas.*

Rev Billy Graham celebrated his 87th birthday on Monday

A report from ANS states that his latest big crusade in Flushing Meadows, NY, was indeed his last. The official word from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is he will not be doing any more large crusades like the one held in Corona Park, this past June. The announcement comes as the beloved evangelist prepared to celebrate his 87th birthday on Monday. "Ruth and I have enjoyed our time together these last few months, and we both feel at peace about the decision to have the New York meetings be our last," said Dr. Graham. "We know that God can still use us to reach people with the Gospel message in other ways, and we look forward to seeing how He will do so." More...<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/s05110025.htm> *Let us give thanks to the Lord for his ministry.*

LOOKING AHEAD

13th November: *International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)* According to Open Doors International, 43 of the top 50 countries considered to be the most brutal in their practice of the persecution of Christians are located within the 10/40 Window. They would like to extend an opportunity for you to coordinate focused prayer during the month of November --highlighting Sunday, November 13th. www.win1040.com

14th - 20th November: A week of prayer entitled '*Transform Southwark*' We are asking every church in Southwark to participate as we pray for the peace of the city and seek a blessing on this borough. You can do this simply by signing up to hold an open prayer meeting for the borough during all, or part of one day that week. On registering you will be provided with a prayer calendar with facts and specific prayer requests from the police. www.sfi.org.uk

1st December: *Global AIDS Day2Pray* The annual international day of action on HIV/AIDS The Global AIDS Day2Pray is a day for prayer and remembrance of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. GAPP, Churches Together and our global partners are mobilizing local churches, on a citywide, regional and national basis to participate in united prayer for the global AIDS pandemic. Local churches are setting aside 6 minutes of their Sunday Service on either November 27th or December 4th, the Sunday immediately preceding or following World AIDS Day for prayer and awareness. GAPP is making available FREE downloadable resources to all churches who register for the Global AIDS Day2Pray www.globalaidsprayer.org

3rd December: *International Day of Disabled Persons* Initiated by the UN in 1984 to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The theme of the Day is based on the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disiddp.htm>