



# PRAYER ALERT...



An initiative of the Prayer Association of the British Isles & Ireland  
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## BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

### ■ **FRIDAY FOCUS** -16th November - Work colleagues - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18; Hebrews 13:15-16

How often do we affirm our work colleagues? People carry huge issues around with them about family, health, rejection etc, in addition to work responsibilities. **Confess:** the times you have been consumed with your own workload that you have not noticed the struggles of others. **Give thanks:** for the people you work alongside and for the gifting they contribute to the workplace. **Pray:** a BLESSing daily on your work colleagues and be prepared to listen, show love, concern and pray about their struggles. **Consider:** having coffee/lunch with someone this week.

**More:** <http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/pagesys.cfm?pid=123>

### ■ **Children's film based on anti religious book**

The Golden Compass fantasy film due to be released on 7 December is based on the first book of a trilogy called His Dark Materials written for children by author Philip Pullman. The author is an avowed atheist who stated 'I don't think its possible that there is a God'. Pullmans books have strong anti-religion and anti-God themes. In the Sydney Morning Herald Pullman said, 'My books are about killing God.' Conservative British columnist Peter Hitchens labelled Pullman the Most Dangerous Author in Britain, and described him as the writer the atheists would have been praying for, if atheists pray. The Catholic League wants Christians to stay away from this movie because it knows that the film is bait for the books. Parents who take their children to see the movie may be encouraged to buy the three books as a Christmas present. And no parent who wants to bring their children up in the faith will want any part of these books. See CL report on <http://catholicleague.org/catalyst.phpyear=2007&month=October&read=2322>

**Pray:** for more Christians to be aware of the root of this film and books. (Mt.6:23-24)

**More:** <http://www.snopes.com/politics/religion/compass.asp>

### ■ **Report criticises all-day drink laws**

The Government's policy on 24-hour alcohol licensing has been a mistake, says a new academic report. The Nuffield Council on Bioethics says tax on alcohol should be raised, and the legal hours for selling alcohol made shorter. Its report points out research showing that binge drinking can be reduced when the availability of alcohol is restricted. The report's publication coincides with the formation of a 22-strong group of health organisations which will lobby for a 10 per cent increase in alcohol tax to combat binge drinking. The Nuffield report says: 'Increasing tax on alcohol and restricting hours of sale have been shown to be effective in reducing alcohol consumption. Yet the Government's alcohol strategy has focused on public information campaigns and voluntary labelling schemes, measures that have been shown not to be effective.' Lord Krebs, the chairman of the committee which produced the report, said: 'There is also an urgent need for an analysis of the effect of extended opening hours on levels of alcohol consumption, as well as on anti-social behaviour.'

**Pray:** that this new report will lead to the government reconsidering their current policy. (Pr.23:20-21)

**More:** [http://www.christian.org.uk/issues/2007/other/24hourdrinking\\_13nov07.htm](http://www.christian.org.uk/issues/2007/other/24hourdrinking_13nov07.htm)

### ■ 11 million facing vetting to work with children

More than one in five Britons will have to pass a vetting test under ambitious new child protection rules, ministers have said. Eleven million people are expected to have to register in a system intended to prevent a repeat of the Soham murders. Children's Minister Kevin Brennan yesterday started the consultation period for the scheme, which will cover everybody who works regularly with under-18s. Those included will range from teachers to Sure Start centre workers, as well as volunteers running clubs and hobby groups. Even taxi and bus drivers routinely asked to take children to and from school will be vetted. The rules will also apply to those working with vulnerable adults. Organisations which fail to make sure their helpers go through checks face fines of £5,000. The vetting regime will be run by a new quango, the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Its task is so big that the register will be phased in over the next five years.

**Pray:** for wisdom over the decisions and priorities needed to achieve the necessary standards of safety. (2Sam.22:2-4)

**More:** [http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in\\_article\\_id=494138&in\\_page\\_id=1770](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=494138&in_page_id=1770)

### ■ Christian lawyers call for action on Embryology Bill

Christian lawyers have responded to the publication of the Government's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill with an appeal to Christians to write to House of Lords peers. The Bill - previously the Human Tissue and Embryos Bill - is to receive its second reading in the House of Lords on Monday 19 December. The LCF said 'it was 'imperative' that people write to members of the upper House to warn them of the Bill's implications'. The LCF has described the Bill and the philosophy behind it as 'disturbing', calling it 'nothing less than the deconstruction of the traditional family and a radical change in what it means to be human'. The Bill is a 'dangerous experiment which puts the interests of the children affected at risk', the LCF added. The lawyers' main concerns with the Bill are that it will redefine the family by conferring legal 'parenthood' on couples undergoing assisted reproduction, including same-sex couples or people who have no biological relationship with the child.

**Pray:** that our MP's will look seriously at the implications of this legislation and use their vote wisely. (Rev.4:11)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian.lawyers.call.for.action.on.embryology.bill/14541.htm>

### ■ Rob Frost promoted to glory

The Frost family and Share Jesus International are sad to announce the death of a great author, presenter, visionary, leader, evangelist, and preacher. Rob Frost, founder of Share Jesus International, passed away peacefully in hospital on Sunday 11 November at 11.40pm with his family around him. He was diagnosed with skin cancer in June and underwent treatment. Rob was taken into hospital on Wednesday 7th November. He was in no pain but gradually drifted into eternity with liver failure as a result of secondary melanoma. Rob set up the mission agency in 1986 with the sole purpose of sharing Jesus in many different contexts and countries.

**Pray:** for the Frost family, friends and colleagues at this time. (1Th.3:9)

**More:** <http://www.ucb.co.uk/index.cfm?itemid=226#1591>

## EUROPE

### ■ EU auditors find errors in billions paid out by member states

EU auditors have once again refused to sign off the bloc's accounts while noting that EU farm subsidy reform means that handouts are going to golf clubs rather than farmers. The president of the European Court of Auditors, Hubert Weber, gave a negative statement of assurance on the EU's spending when presenting the 2006 accounts report to the European Parliament's budgetary control committee late on Monday. 'I believe that the EU citizens are entitled to expect EU funds to be properly managed and controlled across the Union,' he told MEPs, concluding that this is not yet the case. The red card from the auditors is the 13th in a row and comes despite several improvements introduced in recent years to boost the regularity of EU cash distribution.

**Pray:** that the MEP's will meet the challenge of properly managed accounts that we are entitled to. (Rom.13:6-7))

**More:** <http://euobserver.com/9/25128>

### ■ French strikes: Let battle commence

In a wintry November 12 years ago, a first-term French president brought weeks of chaos to the streets and paralysis to the railways by trying to end the country's generous 'special regimes' for public-sector pensions. In the end, Jacques Chirac's government did what French governments do best: it dropped the whole plan. This week, another new president, Nicolas Sarkozy, was confronted with what some hard-left union leaders promised would be a replay of 1995. On Wednesday railway, bus and metro workers brought France to a standstill on the first day of a rolling, open-ended, strike against similar plans to end the special regimes. This marks the start of the most testing period of Mr Sarkozy's presidency. On November 20th teachers, town-hall staff, post-office workers and other civil servants are due to strike. A week later it will be the turn of magistrates. And militant students have put up blockades on 20-odd university campuses. In two cases, riot police were sent in to clear them.

**Pray:** for France at this time that this period of unrest will not lead to conflict but resolution. (Rom.13.1)

**More:** [http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=10143203](http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10143203)

### ■ Georgia set to end emergency rule

Georgia will lift a state of emergency on Friday, nine days after it was imposed amid opposition protests, the country's speaker has said. 'Georgian life will return to normal on 16 November,' Nino Burjanadze said. President Mikhail Saakashvili

initially announced a two-week emergency on the sixth day of protests in Tbilisi. He said a week ago he would hold early polls, meeting a key opposition demand as international criticism grew of a police crackdown on protesters. Following a meeting with Georgian officials on Tuesday, US Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza said he had been assured the state of emergency would soon be lifted. Russia says its troops have left their last base in Georgia, removing a source of friction between the two neighbours. A final convoy left its base in Batumi, Georgia, and crossed into Armenia at about 2000 GMT on Wednesday, a senior Russian military officer said. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7095857.stm> (see also Prayer Alert 4507)

**Pray:** Praise God for answered prayers! Keep praying that these steps will be the start leading to a lasting peace and stability. (1Ti.2:1-2)

**More:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7094034.stm>

## WORLDWIDE

### ■ SPECIAL FEATURE - Iraq City Profile - Ramadi

Ramadi, to the west of Baghdad on the road to Syria, was infamous for its levels of violence, even by Iraq standards, until May of this year. Up to that point there were reportedly over 30 attacks a day during 2006 and early 2007. A drive through the city would leave you shocked by the destruction and desolation. Now things have changed in an astonishing way and the city of 400,000 seems to have completely turned around. Find out more in this week's city profile: [www.iraqprayer.org/city%20profiles.htm](http://www.iraqprayer.org/city%20profiles.htm)

**Pray:** with thanks for a massive reduction in the violence and ask God's protection for this city of Ramadi.

**More:** <http://www.iraqprayer.org/Ramadacityprofile11.07.pdf>

### ■ Basra militants targeting women

The chief of police in the southern Iraqi city of Basra has warned of a campaign of violence against women carried out by religious extremists, which included threats, intimidation and even murder. Some victims were dressed in indecent clothes by their killers or had notices attached to them. Women interviewed by the BBC said they no longer dared venture on to Basra's streets without strict Islamic attire. Forty-two women were killed between July and September this year, although the number dropped slightly in October. The relatives are reluctant to report the crimes for fear of a scandal or because they despair of the police's ability to solve them. A female lawyer in Basra contacted by the BBC by phone from London, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals, said attacks on women in the city were occurring 'every two or three days'.

**Pray:** for an end to attacks on women and for the influence of militants to end. (Ps.59:2-5)

**More:** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/7095209.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7095209.stm)

### ■ Hamas leader suspected of Gaza Christian slaying

The central Gaza chief of Hamas' military wing, Ashraf Abu Layla, is accused of murdering Rami Ayyad the manager of the Gaza Strip's only Christian bookstore. His body was found last month riddled with bullets and displaying visible signs of torture. 'The most disappointing aspect of this discovery is that not only is this a Hamas person who committed this crime, but also that despite the assurances right after the murder that they had nothing to do with it, they haven't distanced themselves from him. In fact they have sent him on a pilgrimage to Mecca,' said Open Doors USA president Carl Moeller to Mission Network News. Hamas leaders have previously promised to provide protection to the strip's small Christian community. Ayyad left behind a pregnant wife and two young children.

**Pray:** that God will protect and deliver His people through this time of turmoil. (Ps.40:17)

**More:** [http://www.christianpost.com/article/20071114/30074\\_Hamas\\_Leader\\_Suspected\\_of\\_Gaza\\_Christian\\_Slaying.htm](http://www.christianpost.com/article/20071114/30074_Hamas_Leader_Suspected_of_Gaza_Christian_Slaying.htm)

### ■ Israeli lawmakers pre-empt Jerusalem concessions

Israel's Parliament yesterday moved to pre-empt concessions on the status of Jerusalem as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert reiterated his demand for Palestinians to recognize Israel as the Jewish state. The manoeuvring comes ahead of an international peace meeting expected later this month in Annapolis in which Israel and the Palestinians are to lay out the basis for talks aimed at resolving the decades-old Middle East conflict. But the two sides remain deeply divided over the content of a joint document they wish to present at the US talks, and the Palestinians have refused to accept Israel's demand to recognize it as the state of the Jewish people. Israel's Haaretz daily reported yesterday that the government plans to announce a freeze on settlement construction and declare a willingness to remove 'illegal outposts' before the conference.

**Pray:** Your kingdom come your will be done Lord, on earth as it is in heaven. (Heb.10:23)

**More:** <http://arabnews.com/?page=4&section=0&article=103566&d=15&m=11&y=2007&pix=world.jpg&category=World>

### ■ China crackdown on House Churches

China's Communist government has ordered a crackdown on mushrooming underground house churches in a key province as part of a nationwide plan against devoted Christians across the country, according to a secret document leaked Tuesday, November 13, and obtained by BosNewsLife. The order was issued July 24, 2007 entitled 'Notice on Forwarding Work Plan for Special Administration on Christian Activities in Duodao District' and sent to all township, Party committees, and other relevant government officials. Although it was issued on a local level it reveals that the central government has directed a national campaign specifically against unregistered Christian house churches. The Communist Party, atheistic in its ideology, only allows 'official' churches to operate, over 100 million Christians prefer to worship in unregistered house churches.

**Pray:** for God to continue to keep the underground Church in China hidden in the palm of His hand, and for Him to bring about the end of Chinese government's secret practices against Christians. (1Cor.1:8,9)

**More:** <http://www.worthynews.com/christian/china-launches-crackdown-on-house-churches-secret-document-shows/>

■ **Musharraf may doff uniform in two weeks**

President General Pervez Musharraf said he would step down as army chief after a Supreme Court ruling on the validity of his re-election, which he said was expected by the end of November. Speaking with The Associated Press, he said he would then begin a new presidential term as a civilian, warning that the country risks chaos if he gave into opposition demands to resign. He accused former premier Benazir Bhutto of fuelling political turmoil, and rejected Western pressure to lift emergency rule. Musharraf said he had considered his position, but now felt he was the man to lead Pakistan into democracy and would not step down until stability returned to his country, Musharraf said he felt let down by the West and betrayed by the media.

**Pray:** for peaceful elections and for God to raise up trustworthy leaders for Pakistan. (1Ki.3:28)

**More:** [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=20071115\story\\_15-11-2007\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=20071115\story_15-11-2007_pg1_1)

■ **Crimes against children in India at record high**

Youth and children comprise more than 55 per cent of India's population. Yet, be it abuse, rape or kidnapping, crimes against some of the 400 million children in India are at an all-time high. According to a National Human Rights Commission report released on Monday India has witnessed a 4 per cent increase in crimes against children below 18 years. More alarmingly, the child rape rate has gone up by 14 per cent and kidnappings and abductions by 10 per cent. It also notes that missing children remain a neglected and low-priority intervention area. The report observes that the juvenile justice system has failed to provide care and protection to vulnerable children. As the country celebrates Children's Day, statistics show that for thousands of boys and girls, childhood is not the happiest time of their lives.

**Pray:** that the police and NGOs' would work successfully together to curb these crimes and care for the children. (Ps.72:4)

**More:** <http://www.efionline.org/articles/1314.htm>

■ **BREAKING NEWS: Scores dead in Bangladesh cyclone**

At least 242 people have been reported dead after a powerful cyclone battered southern Bangladesh, levelling villages and uprooting trees. Officials have warned that the death toll could rise and that the extent of the damage is still unclear.

**Pray:** for the people of Bangladesh at this difficult time.

**More:** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/7097678.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/7097678.stm)

## PRAISE REPORTS

■ **Twenty million pray in UK - Tearfund survey**

Prayer is a vital part of life for nearly half of UK adults, with 20 million saying they pray and one in three adults believing that God is watching over them, according to a report published last Sunday by Christian relief & development agency Tearfund. With around 40 days left until Christmas, the results fly in the face of the commonly held view that faith is increasingly irrelevant in today's secular society. The new findings on prayer follow a survey earlier this year by Tearfund which revealed that 7.6 million adults attend church at least once a month. The Prayer in the UK report provides an authoritative insight into prayer, revealing that prayer is perhaps more common than many believe. Of the 42 per cent (20 million) of UK adults who pray, 13 million pray at least once a month and 12 million at least once a week. Nine million adults pray every day.

**Praise:** If my people will humble themselves and pray . . . (2Ch.7:14-150)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/twenty.million.pray.in.uk.tearfund.survey/14549.htm>

■ **Ugandan rebel group seeks forgiveness for its crimes**

A Ugandan rebel group which has committed appalling human rights abuses over the years and has been implicated in cult-like religion has said it realises it was wrong and wishes to seek forgiveness from its many victims. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has been criticised by human rights and church groups for years. Now, under conditions of ceasefire, its leaders say it wishes to ask people's forgiveness for crimes committed against Ugandans. In response, Catholic Archbishop John Baptist Odama of the diocese of Gulu, in northern Uganda, says that there are 'concrete hopes for peace' and restoration of justice in the region. The people say they are ready to forgive the rebels for the suffering inflicted. They are applying the Gospel command: 'love your enemies and pray for their conversion'. The fact the LRA delegation is continuing its mission in northern Uganda is positive. After Gulu the delegation went to West Nile and then to Lira' said the Archbishop of Gulu.

**Praise:** God for this good news and pray that this will lead to lasting peace. (Mt.5:9)

**More:** <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/6251>

## PRAYER ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

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