



# PRAYER ALERT...

An initiative of the Prayer Forum of the British Isles & Ireland  
[www.prayer-alert.net](http://www.prayer-alert.net) [editor@prayer-alert.net](mailto:editor@prayer-alert.net)

Issue 3408

Website

Contact Us

Donations

Friday 22 August 2008

## ■ British Isles & Ireland

- [\*\*FRIDAY FOCUS: 22nd August - Hope for our neighbours - Luke 10:25-37; Deuteronomy 10:17-19\*\*](#)
- [Travel rules tightened for child sex offenders](#)
- [More youths in hospital as hard drug prices fall](#)
- [Britain's 'youngest terrorist' convicted](#)
- [Petition attacking Iris Robinson MP rejected](#)
- [Church celebrates 10-year rise in GCSE Religious Education entrants](#)

## ■ Europe

- [Spain: European Day of Prayer – 6 September](#)

## ■ Worldwide

- [Pakistan: Christians face uncertain future after Musharraf resignation](#)
  - [India: CSW condemns brutal murder of Catholic priest](#)
  - [Nepal: Terrorists target Indian priests](#)
  - [Indonesia: Muslim mob storms Indonesian Church](#)
  - [Nigeria: Group attacking Christians in Central Nigeria](#)
  - [Philippines: Autonomy deal scrapped](#)
- ## ■ Praise Reports
- [Prayer and outreach, focus of weekend for some Olympians](#)
  - [Ireland gets its first Christian Radio Station](#)

## BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

### ■ **FRIDAY FOCUS: 22nd August - Hope for our neighbours - Luke 10:25-37; Deuteronomy 10:17-19**

God places us in communities and knows who our neighbours are.

**Give thanks:** for where I live and my neighbours, remembering God loves them.

**Pray:** a BLESSing on my immediate neighbours; for opportunities to express God's love to them; for those I know who may be lonely or isolated; for an increase in community spirit in my street/area; for those who have difficult situations with their neighbours.

**Consider:** how can I be a better neighbour especially to anyone feeling under pressure.

**More:** <http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/pagesys.cfm?plD=144>

### ■ **Travel rules tightened for child sex offenders**

Laws to control the movement of convicted child sex offenders will be tightened, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said on Wednesday. Under the proposals, sex offenders could be banned from travelling abroad for up to five years and will have to tell police at an earlier stage of their plans to go overseas. The announcement comes as former pop star and convicted paedophile Gary Glitter, 64, was due to return to Britain after spending nearly three years in a Vietnamese prison for child sex abuse offences. Campaigners have said the authorities needed to take tough action to stop him travelling abroad again. Smith said the case had raised issues about the system but added it was constantly under review. 'The UK has a rigorous system in place for managing child sex offenders which is among the toughest in the world. The changes I'm announcing today will strengthen that even further,' she said in a statement.

**Pray:** for the authorities as they tighten the system to control offenders and that God would break their addiction. (Pr.16:17)

**More:** <http://uk.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUKLK9429220080820>

### ■ **More youths in hospital as hard drug prices fall**

Rising numbers of young people are ending up in hospital for drug abuse as the price of heroin, cocaine and ecstasy drops, new figures show. Statistics from the NHS reveal a sharp rise in admission for drug-related health issues in the ten years up to 2007. Admissions of under-16 and those aged 25-34 increased by more than half. There were 1,200 admissions of under-16s last year alone. The drop in price suggests that larger quantities of drugs are being smuggled in to the UK despite Government efforts to block the illegal trade. Ken Checinski, an addictions psychiatrist at St George's Hospital in London, said: 'Affordability is at an all-time low and, like with alcohol, that just leads people to use more or stronger drugs, whether it is a student using skunk - a form of cannabis that is ten times stronger than the typical joint - or a City worker's cocaine binge.'

**Pray:** that the authorities would be granted success in their search for illegal drugs and for the health professionals who minister to those effected. (Ep.2:1-5)

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/20080815/more-youths-in-hospital-as-hard-drug-prices-fall/>

#### ■ Britain's 'youngest terrorist' convicted

A London court has convicted three men of a number of terrorist offences, including a teenager considered by the Prosecution to be the 'youngest terrorist arrested and prosecuted' in the UK. Hammaad Munshi, 18, from Dewsbury, and Abid Hussein Khan and Mohamed Sultan, both aged 23, were arrested 'in possession of large amount of material related to terrorism, including al-Qaeda documents, other information documents, poisons and firearms,' said the police. 'These are not actions of people who are just curious or sympathizers with terrorist targets. These are actions of people who are a very real threat to our community,' said John Parkinson, superintendent of the anti-terrorist brigade from Leeds. 'While these men were not actively involved in planning terrorist acts, they were seeking to incite others to terrorist purposes, promoting the ideology of al Qaeda and training programmes,' he said. The accused also used the Web to disseminate technical information on 'how to kill' and how to make napalm, explosives, detonators and grenades.

**Pray:** for young Muslims that they will not listen to the extremists and succumb to their rhetoric. (Pr.8:32-36)

**More:** <http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/news/?NewsID=2525>

#### ■ Petition attacking Iris Robinson MP rejected

The Prime Minister's office has rejected a petition asking it to reprimand a Christian MP who expressed the Bible's teaching about homosexual practice. A statement published last week says, 'There is no constitutional role for the Prime Minister to reprimand individual Members of Parliament who are accountable to their electorate for their own comments.' The statement also referred to equality legislation which protects people from discrimination on grounds of religion, as well as sexual orientation. Iris Robinson, DUP MP for Strangford, was speaking on a BBC radio programme in June when she said the Bible describes homosexuality as an 'abomination'. She also referred positively to the work of Dr Paul Miller, a psychiatrist who helps people suffering from unwanted same-sex attraction. Following the comments John O'Doherty, Co-Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board LGBT Reference Group, made a formal complaint to the police about the remarks. Mrs Robinson pointed out that her criticism was directed at the practice of homosexuality rather than homosexuals themselves. Click the 'More' link to read the government statement in full.

**Pray:** for Christians in government that they will remain strong in their faith and hold to the Word of God. (Ps119:105-107)

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/20080814/petition-attacking-iris-robinson-mp-rejected/>

#### ■ Church celebrates 10-year rise in GCSE Religious Education entrants

One week after the Church of England announced an increase in entrants to A-level Religious Education, the Church is again celebrating as even more students opt for GCSE-level RE. This year, 8,016 students will enter GCSE RE, 4.7 per cent more than last year. The figures, announced on Thursday, mark a year on year rise in GCSE-level entrants over the past decade. They also show that this year 1,265 more students took short course GCSE RE than last year. The Church of England's Head of School Improvement, Nick McKemey, believes the rise is a sign that students appreciate the important role that religion plays in modern society. The Church of England announced last week that the number of A-level RE students has risen each year for the last five years. In 2007-2008, 20,100 students took the A-level RE full course. 'These figures present a significant challenge to those who would present modern society as wholly secular,' said McKemey.

**Pray:** that this trend will lead to many more coming to a true understanding of who God really is and a belief in Jesus as our Saviour.

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/church.celebrates.10year.rise.in.gcse.religious.education.entrants/21264.htm>

## EUROPE

#### ■ Spain: European Day of Prayer – 6 September

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord from Madrid, Spain:

We are looking for prayer partners all over Europe that will pray from their own cities for the fulfilment of God's promise, to pour out His Spirit on our descendants. A joint effort of prayer; A cry of desperation for a new outpouring for the thirsty land of Europe; A time of preparation for the Spanish Church to receive God's visitation during the Pentecostal European Conference (PEC October 2008), in Madrid; To pray in twos or threes, or, even better, with their church and other churches in their city. We will ask you to pray for three things: 1- For an outpouring of the Spirit over your own city. 2- For an outpouring of the Spirit over one of the 50 provincial capitals of Spain. 3- For an outpouring of the Spirit over Madrid during the Pentecostal European Conference (24 – 25 Oct.) Because Europe is a spiritually parched dry land, and is in desperate need of a visitation the theme of the conference is: 'A new outpouring for a new Europe', based on Isaiah 44:3-4. Spain has never seen a revival; we are preparing for this to happen in our generation. The first of these Pentecostal conferences was held in the year 2000 in Helsinki, Finland; then, in 2003, in Berlin, Germany; in 2006, in Brussels, Belgium; and last year it was held in Oslo, Norway. This year it is Madrid's turn to receive the blessing, and to try and break out of the spiritual isolation Spain has been in for so long. So, the idea for the 6th of September is that at least one person be praying with two or three others from his/her church, and even with other churches in the city for 1) the capital of their nation, 2) for a city in Spain, and 3) for the PEC conference, so that God will truly pour out His Spirit all over Europe. We really appreciate any help you can give us. Thank for your prayerful consideration of this call. Please feel free to contact us: Leopoldo and Renee Lobo, prayer coordinators for PEC Madrid 2008. Let Leopoldo know if you will be standing with them in prayer. <LRLobero@telefonica.net>

**Pray:** for God to pour out His Spirit in a new outpouring on Spain and all of Europe. (Is.44:3-4)

**More:** [www.pec2008.es](http://www.pec2008.es)

## WORLDWIDE

### ■ **Pakistan: Christians face uncertain future after Musharraf resignation**

The future for Pakistan's minority Christian community is an uncertain one after the resignation of Musharraf this week, says Glenn Penner of Voice of the Martyrs Canada. Musharraf ended his nine-year reign as Pakistan's army chief when he stepped down on Monday to avoid impeachment. Discussions on the new president already ran into trouble on Tuesday when coalition leaders came to blows over the re-appointment of 60 judges who were purged by Musharraf last year. Stability took a further knock on Thursday when at least 63 people were killed in twin suicide bombings outside a munitions factory in the Pakistani town of Wah. And on Tuesday when a suicide bomb in the compound of a hospital in northwest Pakistan killed 20. Penner said there was an urgent need for Christian leaders in Pakistan to 'help Christians in the country know how to be good citizens at a time when Pakistan needs good citizens. They need people who are concerned about their country and who are going to be able to make a positive impact.'

**Pray:** for Pakistan as it goes through this difficult period that God will use His people to impact the Nation for good. (Jer.29:7)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/pakistans.christians.face.uncertain.future.after.musharraf.resignation/21252.htm>

### ■ **India: CSW condemns brutal murder of Catholic priest**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) has strongly condemned the murder of a Catholic priest in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday and called for a proper investigation into the attack. Father Thomas Pandippallyil's body was found in Nizamabad district on Sunday morning, bearing the marks of eighteen stab wounds and submersion under water. According to Indian Catholics, his body was severely disfigured and his eyes had been gouged out. CSW has recorded a consistent pattern of religiously-motivated attacks against Christians in Andhra Pradesh. Several church leaders have been murdered in the state during recent years and many more have been physically assaulted, but convictions for these attacks are almost unknown. CSW's Advocacy Director, Alexa Papadouris, said, 'We strongly condemn this attack, and urge the authorities to treat it with the seriousness which it warrants, ensuring that it is properly investigated and the motives thoroughly probed. Christians in India face religiously-motivated violence on a huge scale, which routinely goes unpunished.' (See also Prayer Alert 3308)

**Pray:** for Christians in India as they face ongoing persecution for their faith, that God would send His angels to protect them. (Jn.15:18-20)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/csw.condemns.brutal.murder.of.catholic.priest.in.india/21249.htm>

### ■ **Nepal: Terrorists target Indian priests**

Father John Prakash Moyalan, a Catholic priest killed on July 1 by an underground militant Hindu organization in Nepal, might have been alive today – had he not been an Indian, according to the Himalayan republic's Christian community. With the law-and-order situation in the new republic plummeting since elections in April and relations with southern neighbour India becoming increasingly acrimonious, Christian leaders here said Indian Catholics in Nepal are facing a greater threat from Hindu extremists. Father John Vianney, head of the Pastoral Animation Centre (PAC) in Lalitpur, estimated that there are about 40-45 Indian priests in Nepal. Indian priests, he said, are the softest targets. 'If a western priest comes under attack, his government will take it up immediately,' he said. 'If a Nepalese priest is attacked, other Nepalese and the media will raise a hue and cry. But the Indian government doesn't take up cudgels on behalf of its citizens in Nepal, and people feel they can be targeted with impunity.' (See also Prayer Alert 3308)

**Pray:** that the threat to Christian priests in Nepal would be lifted and that God would protect them. (Jas.4:7)

**More:** <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/content/view/702/>

### ■ **Indonesia: Muslim mob storms Indonesian Church**

Last Sunday a Muslim mob stormed a church service in Cipayung, East Jakarta, forcing Christians to flee and then erecting banners in the street declaring a ban on 'churches and religious services.' As the church members were celebrating the nation's Independence Day, the assailants arrived at the church shouting 'Allahu Akbar!' or 'God is greater!' Some in the mob were neighbours but the majority were not local, said Pastor Chris Ambessa. Church members tried to close the gate leading into the church compound, but the mob forced its way in and chased church members out into the street. The intruders then erected banners in the street declaring a ban on 'churches and religious services' in the village. Ambessa had sought permission from district officials to hold a special thanksgiving service on Independence Day and had been given verbal approval. After Sunday's attack, however, Ambessa said he felt disheartened and saw little point in reporting the incident to the police since he did not expect positive intervention. (See also Prayer Alert 2708)

**Pray:** for the church in Indonesia as it faces persecution that God would hold the hand of the enemy. (Mt.5:10)

**More:** <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/content/view/707/>

### ■ **Nigeria: Group attacking Christians in Central Nigeria**

Blaming the death of their leader on Christian prayers, an Islamist group that launched a hate campaign in response to an evangelistic event in 2004 is reportedly attacking Christians in this Kwara state capital with renewed virulence, area Christians have said. At least three Christians have died and several others have been injured in attacks with machetes and

other weapons since June, clergymen said. They said the attacks began after the death in May of Dr. Ali Olukade, head of a local group of Islamists called Tibliq, possibly patterned after the worldwide Tablighi Jamaat missionary movement. (See also Prayer Alert 3308) Dr. Olukade was critically injured in an auto accident in 2006 and he succumbed to his injuries in May. His extremist followers, according to the Rev. Cornelius Fawenu, secretary of the Kwara chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), believe that his death was the result of prayers by Christians upset when Muslim threats cut short a major event by German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke in 2004.

**Pray:** against the lies of nonbelievers and pray that the truth will out. (Jn.4:23)

**More:** <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/content/view/703/>

#### ■ Philippines: Autonomy deal scrapped

The Philippine government has pulled out of a controversial autonomy deal with Muslim separatist rebels, following days of fighting. The government had agreed to expand an existing Muslim autonomous zone in a bid to end decades of violence. But Christian communities opposed the deal and when the Supreme Court blocked it, the rebels launched attacks. Earlier this week, raids by guerrillas from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on several towns near the border of the existing autonomous zone in the southern island of Mindanao left at least 30 people dead. But on 4 August the Supreme Court suspended the agreement after Christian lawmakers argued it was unconstitutional and would increase sectarian tensions. Fierce fighting then broke out after several hundred guerrillas occupied villages in North Cotabato province. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced by the fighting, villages have been burned and shops looted. (See also Prayer Alert 3308)

**Pray:** for the situation in Mindanao and for the innocent people caught up this conflict that God would bring it to a peaceful end. (1Ti.2:1-2)

**More:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7573824.stm>

## PRAISE REPORTS

#### ■ Prayer and outreach, focus of weekend for some Olympians

Carl Lewis, was one of several Olympic athletes last weekend, to stand onstage in a church auditorium and share their faith before a packed house. The legendary track and field star talked about the others who had made a spiritual impact on him during his Olympic career. 'Just like God put so many wonderful people in my life,' said Lewis, 'you take the same thing—take the people that He has put in your life and make sure that you are somebody that He put in their life.' According to the CBN report, about 40 athletes, coaches and chaplains met earlier on Sunday in the Olympic Village, for morning worship and prayer. Athletes in Action has permission by the Chinese government to distribute a documentary highlighting the faiths of some of the world's best athletes. Meanwhile, in churches and homes across the country, Chinese Christians continue to pray for their nation as the Games head into the final stretch.

**Praise:** God for the testimony of believers and pray that opportunities will grow leading others to Jesus. (Mt.18:16)

**More:** <http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/429726.aspx>

#### ■ Ireland gets its first Christian Radio Station

HCJB Global Voice is partnering with Irish Christians to broadcast the Gospel in the city of Cork. Every denomination is reportedly represented on Life FM's board of directors, so the station is unifying the Body of Christ. Missionary Roger Basik admits it is 'somewhat surprising' that Life FM is the first Christian radio station in Ireland. 'For 20 years there was a group of individuals trying to actively get Christian radio there, and they were denied over and over every year, until eventually the government relented and saw the need for it,' said Basik. 'They've granted the first Christian radio station in Cork of all places, the second-largest city.' According to a report in Mission Network News (MNN) Ireland has the fastest-growing rate of youth suicide in the world and Cork has the highest suicide rate in all of Ireland. Basik noted that although Christian 'religion' is common in Ireland, it's no coincidence the radio station will be in a spot of real spiritual darkness.

**Praise:** God for this opportunity to shine His light into areas of darkness and bring His message to encourage believers and non-believers alike. (2Cor.4:6)

**More:** [http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display\\_art.html?ID=5711](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=5711)

## PRAYER FORUM OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Please feel free to distribute Prayer Alert to anyone you feel will benefit from its ministry. All we ask is that you do not edit or change it in any way or charge for its use without contacting us for written permission.

Prayer Alert is a partnership project of the Prayer Forum of the British Isles and Ireland  
C/O World Prayer Centre, Cornerstone House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG, England