



# PRAYER ALERT...

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

### ■ Churches must make disciples, says church leader

The Rev Canon Mark Rylands said the 'number one priority' of churches was to demonstrate the Good News of Jesus Christ in their communities and share the faith 'naturally'. He said that the task of growing the church and the Kingdom was not restricted to the clergy. 'We need to continually encourage lay ministers, youth workers, church wardens and the whole people of God to set about this task,' he said. 'It seems that where the parish clergy are having to become more Episcopal now in overseeing more churches and helping people to discover their gifts, Bishops need to become more apostolic, helping to share the faith, and make and grow new disciples,' he said. 'We need to concentrate on making new disciples and growing mature disciples so we can become Christians who make a difference in our communities.'

**Pray:** for the church, the people who as Christians make a difference by living the Faith. (Mt.28:19)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.co.uk/article/churches.must.make.disciples.says.bishop/24000.htm>

### ■ Preacher threatened with arrest for reading out extracts from the Bible in public

A street preacher is at the centre of a row over freedom of speech after police threatened to arrest him for reading the Bible in public. Lawyers acting for Miguel Hayworth have demanded an explanation over the alleged intimidation and abuse of power by three officers. Andrea Minichiello Williams, the director of the Christian Legal Centre said 'They were clearly told that reading the Bible and preaching can be offensive and that they could be arrested, furthermore, they were subjected to abuse and intimidation.' Mr Hayworth has been a street preacher in the Manchester area for five years. 'One plain-clothes officer, who was with the other two uniformed officers, said: 'It is against the law to preach and hand out tracts: preaching causes offence and handing out tracts is harassment and could result in an arrest.' However, in its letter to the police, the Christian Legal Centre said: 'Freedom of religion and freedom of religious speech is specifically protected by the European Convention on Human Rights.'

**Pray:** for our continued freedom to proclaim the Gospel. (1Ti.4:13)

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/6034144/Preacher-threatened-with-arrest-for-reading-out-extracts-from-the-Bible-in-public.html>

### ■ Treatment of Christians is 'hypocritical' says Paisley

Ian Paisley Junior said expressions of Christianity are being 'muzzled'. Mr Paisley, a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, was commenting in the light of US President Obama's controversial nomination of a professing Christian to a senior health post. In an article for the Belfast News Letter, Mr Paisley said 'Really it may be an exaggeration but at times I feel we are getting to the point where anyone seeking public office or who seeks to play a role in modern society and who happens to have a shred of Christianity about them will be required to sign a recantation of their beliefs. It offends me that

expressions of Christianity are so muzzled by some for fear of offending others yet those very same defenders of 'liberty' would not raise a single word of objection to those who insult Christian values or beliefs.'

**Pray:** for Christians in the workplace and in public life, especially those who find themselves being pressured to keep their faith private. (Jn.7:4))

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/20090814/treatment-of-christians-is-hypocritical-says-paisley/>

#### ■ General Sir Richard Dannatt facing 'cowardly' smear campaign

Sir Richard, an active Christian, has been an outspoken critic of Labour's support for the Armed Forces in his role of Chief of the General Staff. He will step down from his post and retire from the Army next week. Some Labour insiders are concerned that in retirement, Sir Richard will become even more vocal in his criticism of the Government's record on defence. The Daily Telegraph reported last month that some Labour MPs are preparing moves to tarnish the general's reputation once he leaves office. One minister said at the time that Sir Richard would be 'fair game' in retirement. Bob Ainsworth, the Defence Secretary, responded to that report by issuing a formal warning to all ministers in his department not to brief against Sir Richard, who is planning to write a book about defence when he leaves office. Despite Mr Ainsworth's warning, Labour moves against the general are said to be continuing.

**Pray:** that Sir Richard would be guided and protected by the Holy Spirit as he moves into his new role in civilian life. (Lk.12:11b-12)

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/6056146/General-Sir-Richard-Dannatt-facing-cowardly-smear-campaign.html>

#### ■ Archbishop joins search for missing chef

Dr John Sentamu joined Miss Lawrence's father, Peter, in the centre of her home city York, to remind people they are still looking for her. They handed out miniature, wallet-sized versions of posters appealing for help to find the 35-year-old. Standing on the steps of York Minster, Dr Sentamu said: 'Five months is a very long time but hope never, ever dies. So my own prayer is that may she be protected, may she not be frightened, may she not be afraid. And for Peter and the rest of the family, may you find courage and hope because the rest of us are solidly behind you.' Miss Lawrence was last seen near her home in Heworth Road, York, on March 18. She spoke to both her parents on the phone that evening but failed to turn up for work the next day.

**Pray:** for Miss Lawrence, her family and all for all missing persons and their families too. (Je.23:4)

**More:** [http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/UK-News/Archbishop-of-York-joins-search-for-missing-chef-Claudia-Lawrence-five-months-after-she-disappeared/Article/200908315364152?Ipos=UK\\_News\\_Third\\_UK\\_News\\_Article\\_Teaser\\_Region\\_0&lid=ARTICLE\\_15364152\\_Archbishop\\_of\\_York\\_joins\\_search\\_for\\_missing\\_chef\\_Claudia\\_Lawrence%2C\\_five\\_months\\_after\\_she\\_disappeared](http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/UK-News/Archbishop-of-York-joins-search-for-missing-chef-Claudia-Lawrence-five-months-after-she-disappeared/Article/200908315364152?Ipos=UK_News_Third_UK_News_Article_Teaser_Region_0&lid=ARTICLE_15364152_Archbishop_of_York_joins_search_for_missing_chef_Claudia_Lawrence%2C_five_months_after_she_disappeared)

#### ■ Tough times for Wycliffe as donations fall

Wycliffe Bible Translators in the UK says it is planning for a 'tough' financial year ahead amid falling donations and a difficult economic climate. The organisation, which is involved in an estimated 80 per cent of all current Bible translation projects, says it has been hit by changes in currency exchange rates, building repairs to the UK Wycliffe Centre, and a reduction in donations to the general fund. The drop in donations has led to a reduction in the payouts from the Supplementary Fund, which helps serving Wycliffe missionaries who are not able to raise enough money to support their living costs. 'This is the first time that our current Supplementary Fund has been unable to meet the needs of those claiming on it and this is an indicator of how serious the current financial situation is,' said Eddie Arthur, Executive Director of Wycliffe UK.

**Pray:** for Wycliffe, that the present situation will not last long and funding will return to former levels. (2Co.8:14)

**More:** <http://wycliffe.org.uk/blog/?p=1290>

#### ■ Anglicans challenged to find unity in diversity

The challenge within the fractured Anglican Communion is to find ways of 'being together despite - and even because of - our diversity,' according to a USPG: Anglicans in World Mission boss. Member-churches of the Anglican family are 'not clones,' says the Rev Elfed Hughes, director of the Britain and Ireland Relations Team of USPG, one of the oldest Anglican mission agencies. 'There is richness, depth and variety in our personalities and ways of thinking,' insists Mr Hughes, in an upbeat message in the autumn issue of Transmission, the quarterly of the body whose patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury. He claims: 'So what is needed is an approach to dialogue that will enable us to discuss and hold different points of view - while remaining in harmony.' Optimistically, he adds: '\*\* Recognition that people 'on the fringes' are important \*\* Recognition that 'we can learn from each other' \*\* There should be no fear of change'.

**Pray:** that the Church would find unity in all its diversity and bring honour to its head Jesus Christ. (Col.1:17-19)

**More:** <http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/news/?NewsID=4891>

## EUROPE

#### ■ Germany: EU legislation does not curb religious freedom says Merkel

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has reassured evangelical Christians that European anti-discrimination legislation will not curb their freedom of worship and religious expression. In an interview with three German evangelical media organizations she emphasized that EU anti-discrimination laws were only meant to prevent any disadvantages for specific groups. For example, older people should have the same opportunities as younger persons; women should have equal rights as well as people with special needs. Anti-discrimination legislation is meant to strengthen equality, said Merkel. She was interviewed in Berlin by journalists of Evangeliums-Rundfunk (Gospel Radio), the media association KEP (Conference

of Evangelical Publicists) and the news agency 'idea'. Merkel, raised in a vicar's family in East Germany, called on Christians to refrain from despondency and put their trust in God. The power of their faith would enable them to weather difficult times and face the future with confidence. 'We regard every individual as God's creation equipped with freedom and responsibility' said Merkel. (See also Prayer Alert 3309)

**Pray:** for the MEP's as they consider this legislation that they would be granted wisdom, discernment and clarity in its decisions. (Pr.10:13-14)

**More:** <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2009/s09080129.htm>

#### ■ **Holland: Monogamous men urged to stand up and be counted**

The World Congress of Families (WCF), meeting in Amsterdam, has been told that men in monogamous relationships hold the key to bolstering the traditional family unit. Family Research Council's Dr. Pat Fagan spoke to the WCF gathering on the need to strengthen the role of the traditional family in society worldwide. He is promoting monogamous marriage between a man and a woman - rather than relationships of unmarried couples producing children, or same-sex relationships that cannot produce children. 'Let monogamous men get serious about protecting their children and their families, and obtaining justice for them,' he suggests. 'The monogamous culture has never encountered this form of competition ever before in human history.' Fagan urges monogamous men to defend the pillars of traditional society. 'The education, health, and social welfare bureaucracies do not serve the monogamy culture,' he notes. 'He believes that men in monogamous relationships can properly deal with the welfare of the family, but they must step forward and defend it.'

**Pray:** that as believers we would defend our Christian principals and stand up for marriage and family as we have been taught. (Tit.1:6)

**More:** <http://www.onenewsnw.com/Culture/Default.aspx?id=641572>

## WORLDWIDE

#### ■ **INSIGHT ARTICLE: Eritrea: repression escalates**

A Christian imprisoned by the repressive government of Eritrea died in August 2009 because authorities refused to provide him with medical treatment. Yemane Kahasay Andom contracted malaria at the Mitire Confinement Centre after 'continuous physical torture' and solitary confinement. Eritrea is ranked No. 9 on the Open Doors World Watch List 2009 for worst persecutors of Christians. Despite its size (smaller in land area than Nepal or Tunisia, and smaller in population than Turkmenistan), the nation of Eritrea is inflicting great suffering on Christians. The constitution supposedly guarantees freedom of religion, yet since 2002, only certain mainline churches have been approved of by the state. The rest - especially evangelical and Pentecostal churches - have been forced to close.

**Info:** <http://www.prayer-alert.net/info/3409Eritrea1.pdf>

#### ■ **Muslim World: 30 days of prayer**

August 22 to September 20 are dates to join millions of Christians around the world participating in this largest ongoing international prayer focus on the Muslim world. Globally most Muslims have not even had an opportunity to hear of Jesus' death for sins and His resurrection. They believe that Jesus was a prophet sent from God but they never think of Him as God's appointed King who reigns over the nations (Mt 28:18-20). Many Christians recognise the spirit of Islam releasing an agenda in the nations to overtake the earth with false worship and idolatry, although the majority of Muslims have no concept of the agenda being perpetrated by Satan. Christians can call for God's power to be released during this season, asking for angelic visitations to Muslims, and calling on God for them to know His power of love, grace, mercy and salvation. See praise item one for inspirational testimonies of Muslim conversion in this season of Ramadan.

**Pray:** Lord let this season be a time when Muslims encounter the LIVING GOD, the Alpha and Omega, the one who lives and evermore will reign. (Ps.68:11)

**More:** <http://www.30-days.net/>

#### ■ **Kyrgyzstan: New laws crack down on religious minorities**

Authorities are cracking down on religious minorities. The government requires churches to collect 200 signatures from adult citizen members (an insurmountable requirement for churches that are not even allowed to meet) in order to register and even if churches are registered they may only gather in the city of their registration. 'Before this last presidential election in 2005 when the current president came to power, churches in Kyrgyzstan seemed to have very little difficulty,' said Joel Griffith of Slavic Gospel Association. 'They seemed to be able to meet for worship and maybe hold children's ministries without too much difficulty. But in the last couple of years we are seeing authorities take a much tougher line.' Some churches have convictions against registration and if they try to register the process can be nearly impossible. The government has been able to put their thumb down on any new group of believers that would want to come together and form a church. Griffith asked an official to explain the signature policy and the response was - it is an example of the 'game-playing' government officials are doing.

**Pray:** against government corruption and for believers to be protected as they are led by the Lord. (Ps.33:10-11)

**More:** <http://www.mnnonline.org/article/13091>

#### ■ **Sri Lanka: Rash of attacks on Christians**

Attacks on Christians in Sri Lanka have surged following the government's defeat of Tamil separatists in May. The most recent attack on July 28 resulted in an Assemblies of God church being set alight. There was a similar arson attack on the same church almost a year ago. Church members registered a complaint with police but at press time no arrests had been made. Compass Direct reported a pastor and his wife visiting a church member and a 50-strong mob gathered at the door shouting that they would not tolerate any further Christian activity in the village. The police answered repeated requests for

help after two hours, arrested three people and later released them. Christian Post reported the Archbishop saying 'Christians are not aiming at converting Sri Lankan Buddhists to Christianity by 'unethical means'. Their desire is to be able to practice their faith freely, live harmoniously and contribute to the country's well-being.' See <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20090819/no-unethical-conversion-says-sri-lanka-s-new-archbishop/index.html>

**Pray:** for the Christians in Sri Lanka to be strong and stand in the strength God provides as they face opposition. (Ps.30:1)

**More:** <http://www.assistnews.net/STORIES/2009/s09080113.htm>

#### ■ **Afghanistan: Afghans vote despite sporadic violence**

The Afghan government has requested international and domestic media not to report violence during polling hours, but the United Nations says it has asked authorities to lift the ban. Reuters reported two Taliban fighters engaged in a shootout with Afghan forces in Kabul being killed. The attack came after the Taliban said 20 of their fighters had infiltrated the capital. Despite the violence the United Nations said there were encouraging signs of high turnout. Preliminary results of the election are not expected for at least two weeks, and much prayer is needed in the coming weeks to thwart attempts by the reported 20 Taliban fighters to maim and kill.

**Pray:** for God's mercy towards Afghans and deliverance for all who have been subjected to years of insecurity and fighting. Pray for a season spiritual and physical change. (Ps.120:6-7)

**More:** [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle09.asp?xfile=data/international/2009/August/international\\_August1472.xml&section=international](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle09.asp?xfile=data/international/2009/August/international_August1472.xml&section=international)

#### ■ **Mexico: Evangelicals refuse to participate in religious revelry**

'Traditionalist Catholic' leaders last month expelled 57 evangelical Christians from towns in two states for refusing to participate in their religious festivals. Leaders of traditionalist Catholicism - a mixture of Roman Catholicism and native rituals - expelled 32 from their homes in Hidalgo state and another 25 from a town in Oaxaca. In each case the evangelicals were deprived of their property for refusing to participate in drunken festivals that included worship of Catholic icons. Hundreds of evangelical Christians from six Mexican states organized a caravan on Aug. 10 on behalf of the 32 refugees from Hidalgo state, who were struck with machetes and ropes and forced to leave behind 121 acres of land planted with crops, as well as their homes and animals. At press time Christian lawyer Samuel Noguera had still not been able to reach a solution with authorities. One of the expelled evangelical leaders, Enrique García, asked for local and state authorities to respect the rights of those who have been expelled.

**Pray:** and ask the Lord to remove all spirits of religiosity from the region and for his wisdom and revelation to enable His people to worship Him in spirit and truth. (Jn.4:24)

**More:** <http://www.compassdirect.org/en/display.php?page=lead&lang=en&length=long&idelement=&backpage=&critere=&countryname=&rowcur=>

## PRAISE REPORTS

#### ■ **Ramadan: Does God answer our prayers?**

Here are some testimonies how God indeed answers our prayers! \*\* An Iranian woman from Germany was met by an angel in a dream. She now wants to know more from the Christian faith and is in contact with a cell group from a church. \*\* In Berlin, Germany, a cell group with former Muslims during Ramadan experienced members returning after a long absence, with a 'new fire' for the Lord. \*\* From North Africa the first known person from the Saharawi people has recently converted to Christ. \*\* I told my Muslim friends that I was praying for them and were sooo shocked that a Christian would fast with them. \*\* In a letter received from HCJB World Radio, in the last 12 months there has been increased response to gospel broadcasts. In the Middle East there is an increased focus and enthusiasm for providing radio for Muslim countries. (See also Article in World above)

**Praise:** God that our prayers would be answered and many more Muslims will be drawn to Christ. (Ps.17:6-7)

**More:** <http://www.30-days.net/testimony/pananswer/>

#### ■ **Bolivia: No need is too small, no problem too big for God**

One night at the north eastern tip of Bolivia, in Guayamerin, a young mother had a dream. She saw how a medical team arrived in her village by boat and saved her terminally ill child. The next morning to her surprise a boat did really arrive in the village. On board were Belgian missionary doctors Rik and Sabine Celie who work in Bolivia, and happened to visit the village 'spontaneously' for the first time. The young mother quickly approached them to come and help her terminally ill child. Rik and Sabine were able to give the baby proper medical care and the child recovered fully. The Celies regularly have 'divine encounters' like this. 'We just try to be open for God's voice and be flexible when we travel,' Sabine says. 'He led us to this hospital ship that was literally waiting for a doctor to show up.' An inspiring video about the medical missions work in Bolivia is on the 'More' link.

**Praise:** God that he speaks to us through visions and dreams. (Nu.12:6)

**More:** <http://www.doctorsonmission.org/video.htm>

## PRAYER FORUM OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

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