



PRAYER ALERT...



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■ British Isles & Ireland

- [Brown says markets 'need morals'](#)
 - [Brown and Johnson pledge more powers for tackling anti-social behaviour](#)
 - [Review of babysitting ban ordered](#)
 - [True compassion protects the vulnerable - Sentamu](#)
 - [Samaritan's Purse encourages churchgoers to 'give Christmas away'](#)
 - [UK Charity Share Jesus say keeping people in church is the real challenge](#)
 - [NI: Close treaty poll result forecast](#)
- ## ■ Europe
- [Christians must remind Europe of her roots - Pope](#)

■ Worldwide

- [BREAKING NEWS: Indonesia quakes toll soars; thousands trapped](#)
 - [South East Asia: Hit by massive flooding](#)
 - [Tsunami rescue begins in Pacific](#)
 - [Pakistan: Police shoot mourners at Christian funeral](#)
 - [Sudan: Violence escalating in the south](#)
 - [INSIGHT: Babies with Down Syndrome](#)
- ## ■ Praise Reports
- [Muslim prayer rally far below expectations](#)
 - [Peru: Missionaries give JESUS film to their captors with amazing results](#)

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ Brown says markets 'need morals'

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said financial markets need 'morals' if they are to function properly. Speaking at the Labour conference in Brighton, he defended the government's handling of the financial crisis and stressed his economic credentials. He vowed that the banks that were bailed out would pay back taxpayers and Mr Brown said the government would pass new rules covering bankers' behaviour, including disqualifying those unfit to run banks. 'Any director of any of our banks who is negligent will be disqualified from holding any such post,' he said. 'We will pass a new law to intervene on bankers' bonuses whenever they put the economy at risk,' Mr Brown told his party in Brighton. Under new Financial Services Authority rules scheduled to take effect in January, bonuses will not be guaranteed for more than a year and will have to be spread over three years.

Pray: [that there will be a realisation amongst our financial leaders that they need to make moral decisions. \(Pr.1:5\)](#)

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8281004.stm>

■ Brown and Johnson pledge more powers for tackling anti-social behaviour

Gordon Brown re-launched Labour's crusade against anti-social behaviour against the backdrop of public fury at the fate of a mother driven by a teenage gang to kill herself and her disabled daughter. An inquest jury blamed police and a borough council in Leicestershire for failing to protect Fiona Pilkington from a 10-year campaign of abuse. The 38-year-old killed herself and her daughter, Francecca, by setting alight to her Austin Metro at a lay-by near their home in Barwell. Alan Johnson, the Home Secretary, told the Labour Party conference in Brighton that the Government had made a concerted effort against anti-social behaviour, 'to ensure that people whose lives are blighted by such behaviour are rescued from despair'. Mr Johnson added: 'It's an exceptional case but it's one that should never have happened and there must be no excuses, no complacency, no blaming the media because we don't like the facts that they report'.

Pray: [for our police, social services and local authorities that they will be wise and just in their decisions. \(Pr.29:7\)](#)

More: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6853452.ece>

■ Review of babysitting ban ordered

England's Children's Minister wants a review of the case of two police officers told they were breaking the law, caring for each other's children. Ofsted said the arrangement contravened the Childcare Act because it lasted for longer than two hours a day, and constituted receiving 'a reward'. It said the women would have to be registered as childminders. Minister Vernon Coaker said his department was talking to Ofsted about this particular case. Ms Shepherd recalled: 'A lady came to the front door and she identified herself as being from Ofsted. She said a complaint had been made that I was illegally childminding'. Ms Jarrett added: 'Our children were never in any harm, they were never in any danger. To think that they

would waste their time and effort on innocent people who are trying to provide for their families by returning to the workplace. Surely their time and effort would be better placed elsewhere.'

Pray: for the Children's Minister to be granted wisdom when reviewing this legislation. (Pr.3:13)

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8277378.stm>

■ True compassion protects the vulnerable - Sentamu

A truly caring society would not allow its most vulnerable members to feel pressured into the tragedy of suicide, says the Archbishop of York. Writing in the wake of new guidelines on prosecuting assisted suicide, the Archbishop said there must be no 'erosion of respect' for the current law. In his article for The Daily Telegraph he added that 'every terminally ill, severely disabled or vulnerable person deserves the right to have their life, rights and interests protected at all times, and have that reflected in the law'. The Archbishop agreed with the view of one prominent scientist who suffers from multiple sclerosis. Professor Colin Pillinger said a wrong message is being sent out that: 'there are all these people with progressive, incurable diseases just sitting at home waiting to hear if they can go to Switzerland to die'. Dr Sentamu said suicide is 'always a tragedy, no matter the circumstances'.

Pray: that the rights of the vulnerable are upheld and that all have the right to live. (Ps.69:29)

More: <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/true-compassion-protects-the-vulnerable-sentamu/>

■ Samaritan's Purse encourages churchgoers to 'give Christmas away'

The charity, which last year sent over 1.2 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in the developing world as part of the UK's largest children's Christmas appeal, is encouraging Christians worried about the recession to remember the words of Jesus, recorded in Acts 20:35, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Circumstances are worrying for many people in this country right now, but it is an awful lot worse for the vulnerable children and families we work with overseas,' says Simon Barrington, Executive Director of Samaritan's Purse UK. 'Many have seen their conditions worsen as a result of the global recession. These are the very people that we should be showing compassion to right now. For their sake, let's give this Christmas away. The average person in the UK spent a massive £395 on Christmas presents last year. Giving a fraction of our usual Christmas spend away can make a real difference'.

Pray: for a generous church as it remembers those less fortunate. (Ac.20:25)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/samaritans.purse.encourages.churchgoers.to.give.christmas.away/24286.htm>

■ UK Charity Share Jesus say keeping people in church is the real challenge

Last Sunday churches up and down the country were opening their doors as half a million people were welcomed back to church. But despite success over the last couple of years, the challenge is not getting people to come back to church, but getting people to stay, says Share Jesus International. Last September 37,000 people came 'back to church', but it is estimated that only 4,000 of them returned and attend church as a result. 'It's so important that churches are encouraged to reach out and invite people in their communities to come back to church,' said Andy Frost, Director of SJI. 'But the real challenge is supporting our churches to reach out to communities effectively and consistently, not just one week a year, but week after week.' SJI is hosting 'Influence' on October 20-21 at High Leigh Conference Centre, a leaders' retreat designed to share some of the cutting edge thoughts and practice in mission and discipleship. See: www.sharejesusinternational.com/influence

Pray: for the Church as it seeks ways of holding on to its lost sheep and disciple new believers. (Lk.14:4-Mt.28:19)

More: <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2009/s09090162.htm>

■ NI: Close treaty poll result forecast

On Friday voters in the Republic go to the polls for the second time in 16 months to cast their ballots on the Lisbon treaty. Those in favour say it will streamline decision-making in an enlarged EU but opponents argue that it undermines national sovereignty. At first glance it's as if nothing has changed. But Ireland in September 2009 feels very different from June 2008. You can almost smell the fear that recession brings. Last June unemployment was less than 6%; now it is nearly 13%. The budget deficit was less than 3%; now it's nearly 11% and the European Central Bank is helping keep the Republic's economy afloat. Voters will cast their ballots this time in a climate of economic fear - where much as they might like to punish an unpopular coalition they also know Europe has been bailing the country out. Nevertheless, a close result is expected - closer than the polls currently suggest.

Pray: that the people of Ireland will be given spiritual insight and wisdom as they vote this Friday. (Pr.21:30)

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8281602.stm>

EUROPE

■ Christians must remind Europe of her roots - Pope

Pope Benedict XVI has warned that attempts to marginalise the influence of Christianity upon public life in Europe are 'detrimental to the well-being of society'. The Pope said that the 'timeless saving truths' of the Gospel had shaped Europe and would continue to shape the social and cultural development of the continent. 'Europe continues to undergo many changes. It is hard to believe that only two decades have passed since the collapse of former regimes gave way to a difficult but productive transition towards more participatory political structures,' he said. The Catholic leader was speaking on Sunday to 40 leaders of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic. His three-day visit, which began on Saturday, came as the country prepares to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, which ousted the

communist regime that had ruthlessly persecuted believers and confiscated church property. The Pope added 'that Christians must remind others of Europe's Christian roots in the face of the marginalisation of the faith'.

Pray: for the people of Europe that they would return to their Christian roots. (Is.11:1)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christians.must.remind.europe.of.her.roots.pope/24284.htm>

WORLDWIDE

■ **BREAKING NEWS: Indonesia quakes toll soars; thousands trapped**

A second powerful earthquake rocked western Indonesia on Thursday as rescuers struggled to reach survivors of the previous day's quake, which killed more than 500 people and left thousands trapped under collapsed buildings. The death toll from Wednesday's 7.6-magnitude earthquake off Sumatra island was expected to rise as rescuers dig through the rubble, sometimes by hand, in heavily populated cities. The latest, 6.8-magnitude quake damaged hundreds of additional buildings, and communications remained cut in some areas. 'Let's not underestimate (the disaster). Let's be prepared for the worst. We will do everything we can to help the victims,' President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said in Jakarta before flying to Padang. A total of 529 people were confirmed dead and 440 were seriously injured, the Social Affairs Ministry's crisis center said. It said 376 deaths occurred in Padang, a coastal city of 900,000 and capital of West Sumatra province. The rest were in four surrounding districts. Thousands were believed trapped, said Rustam Pakaya, head of the Health Ministry's.

Pray: in the midst of chaos God would release supernatural forces of organised relief to those in despair, respite to those without strength and reinforcement to all broken lines of communication. (Ecc.3:1)

More: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,558283,00.html>

■ **South East Asia: Hit by massive flooding**

The Philippines has appealed for foreign aid to deal with the disaster, which has displaced more than 450,000 people. President Gloria Arroyo has opened the presidential palace to survivors to receive food aid and shelter. Some 380,000 people are living in makeshift shelters three times more than previously reported. Weather forecasters are predicting more heavy rain, increasing the urgency of helping those left most vulnerable by the worst flooding in more than 40 years. Many have lost everything except their clothes when their houses were submerged. The Philippines Government estimate of the number of people killed in severe flooding around the capital, Manila, to 240. At one point 80% of Manila was under water. (click 'More' button for images to stir us into intercession). The death toll is expected to rise further as thick mud is cleared from the worst affected areas. Thailand has also been hit by massive flooding. The whole area needs urgent prayer. See report of the typhoon hitting Vietnam at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8281484.stm> and Cambodia at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8281950.stm>

Pray: South-East Asia belongs to Jesus! Ask him to powerfully pour out all his grace, mercy, peace, love and healing over the area at this time. (Ps.24:1)

More: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/8277088.stm

■ **Tsunami rescue begins in Pacific**

Rescue workers on the Samoan islands and Tonga are continuing to search for survivors after a tsunami struck, killing at least 149 people. The prime minister of Samoa said 110 people were dead on his islands and the devastation 'was complete'. Officials said planes carrying aid supplies were arriving on Samoa and nearby American Samoa. They said tens of thousands of people need help in villages swamped by waves triggered by Tuesday's huge earthquake. The United Nations said it was sending an emergency team to Samoa. 'The devastation caused was complete,' Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele told Radio New Zealand after inspecting the south-east coast of the main island of Upolu, the hardest-hit area. 'In some villages absolutely no house was standing. All that was achieved within 10 minutes by the very powerful tsunami.' He said his own village of Lesa had been washed away. Samoan authorities have said that some islanders remain unaccounted for and may well have been washed out to sea or buried under tonnes of debris, says the BBC's Phil Mercer in the Samoan capital Apia.

Pray: for God's anointing over all the rescue efforts and for his releasing of all the necessary finance for rebuilding all that has been destroyed. (Ps.71:1-3)

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8284060.stm>

■ **Pakistan: Police shoot mourners at Christian funeral**

A young Christian man was reported to have been tortured and killed while in custody on a contrived charge of Quran desecration, causing controversy with Christians refusing to accept police claims that he committed suicide. Results of forensic tests are expected within a week. At his funeral police fired on mourners. The local mosque called for Christians to be punished for the Quran desecration and a mob attacked the church and beat the Christians. Several of the families fled their homes. Christians living in the area are concerned for their safety and wellbeing and Prayer-Alert office has received the following request from a watchman in Pakistan, 'Please pray for the family of Fanish Masih, pray that God's hand would be upon His people and that judicial enquiry by the government would take place so that the people responsible for his death would be brought to justice. Also pray that the demonic strong holds behind this new wave of violence against Christians in Pakistan would be bound and destroyed.'

Pray: for the unity and spiritual revival of the church in Pakistan as they act responsibly, hear God's voice and together in unity see this as a spiritual battle (Eph.6:12)

More: <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/pakistan/9439/>

■ **Sudan: Violence escalating in the south**

Violence in southern Sudan is rife, with many women, children and the elderly among the victims, the new head of the Sudan Council of Churches the Rev. Ramadan Chan Liol, has warned. After 21 years of civil war the southern region of Sudan had enjoyed relative peace following a 2005 accord signed in Nairobi between the northern-based government and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement. Some analysts say the recent attacks are intended to derail the peace pact. About 100 people were killed by fighters from the Lou Nuer ethnic group who have clashed with members of the Murle group. Chan said church leaders in the south believed members of the central government from the north were arming militias in the region, as some political leaders in the north want to destabilise the southern region so that it will be unable to take part in scheduled April 2010 general elections, as well as in a 2012 referendum. The referendum will determine whether the mainly Christian and animist south would break away from the mainly Arab and Islamic north.

Pray: that God would eradicate disputes through an anointed use of African nations and the international community to cement the peace process. (Is.2:4)

More: <http://www.eni.ch/featured/article.php?id=3386>

■ **INSIGHT: Babies with Down Syndrome**

Medical technology presents moral issues around diagnosing Down syndrome(DS). Over several years there has been a decrease in babies born with DS resulting from decisions to abort after prenatal diagnosis. A looming moral crisis is not limited to DS. Dr. Brian Skotko a clinical genetics fellow at Children's Hospital Boston says that new tests based on a simple blood sample to be introduced next year could usher in a culture of death that is gaining momentum before our eyes. Saying, 'Who will be next in line considered unworthy of life? Should foetuses with genes that predispose them to adult breast cancer be prenatally identified? Should couples in the future be supported to terminate foetuses with genes correlated with sexual preferences?' Ninety-two percent of women who are told that their unborn child carries DS risk choose to abort. This Sunday, Oct 4th is Disability Sunday. For more insights into how God uses and works through people with learning disabilities go to: http://www.prospects.org.uk/index.php/operational_prospects/1/2/98

Pray: against this spirit of death that would rob us of the incredible gift of life. (Ps.139:13)

Info: <http://www.prayer-alert.net/info/4009-Downsyndrome2.pdf>

PRAISE REPORTS

■ **Muslim prayer rally far below expectations**

Muslim leaders held a highly-anticipated prayer rally in Washington, D.C., Friday, but the attendance was far below expectations. Organizers called the event 'A Day of Islamic Unity' and they anticipated some 50,000 Muslim worshippers to gather at the U.S. Capitol. Their Web site even read 'our time has come.' The reality, though, was far less impressive. An estimated crowd of about 3,000 people showed up to pray and listen to a speech from the rally's organizer, Hassan Abdallah (See Insight in Prayer Alert 3909)

Praise: God for this answer to prayer and dramatic reduction in numbers gathering. (Is.40:5)

More: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2009/September/Muslims-Prayer-Rally-Far-Below-Expectations/>

■ **Peru: Missionaries give JESUS film to their captors with amazing results**

Bruce and Jan, two missionaries to Peru (names withheld to protect their identity), have shared an amazing testimony. On their way back to their base after sharing the JESUS film with villagers high in the Andes Mountains, the couple was accosted by 45 heavily-armed terrorists. Although Bruce and Jan were not harmed, they were led to give the bandits their copy of the JESUS film when they realized they would have all of their projection equipment taken from them anyway. Their hope was that the terrorists would watch the film. When the couple returned to the same region a year later, one of their attackers, Jose, apologized for the incident and told them that they had actually planned on killing them that day, but 'something' stopped them. Not only that, but the terrorists had shown the JESUS film in their camp where 700 people watched it. Many were saved and are no longer terrorists. Jose was saved as well and is now a pastor and director of a large Bible school. Source: Mission Network

Praise: God for this wonderful testimony of His love. (Ps.136:2)

More: http://ausprayernet.org.au/newsletter/DisplayNewsletter.php?e_id=00000001812#st5

PRAYER FORUM OF THE BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

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