



PRAYER ALERT...



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Contact Us

Donations

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■ British Isles & Ireland

- [Faith can restore values to British marketplace says Alpha chief](#)
- [Government has launched state-sponsored attack on religion, says Baroness Warsi](#)
- [Ex-Army chief denies Tory 'plot'](#)
- [TV appeal for Asia quake victims](#)
- [Christian preacher refused entry to Britain under rules intended to fight extremism](#)
- [Why should children study religion?](#)
- [Christian office worker sues Lewisham Council for unfair dismissal](#)

■ Europe

- [Russia: Baptist leaders fined for street evangelism](#)
- ['New Danes' and ethnic Churches](#)

■ Worldwide

- [INSIGHT ARTICLE: Prayer for the United Nations](#)
- [USA: New UN head says homosexuality 'totally unacceptable'](#)
- [India: Missionaries bring hope to flood victims](#)
- [Colombia: Christian Solidarity Worldwide appeal](#)
- [Sudan: Christians crucified](#)
- [Guinea: Tensions as isolation grows](#)
- [Egypt: Christian persecution](#)

■ Praise Reports

- [Israel: Thousands of Christians march in Jerusalem](#)
- [USA: Victory for praying in Jesus' name in California](#)

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ Faith can restore values to British marketplace says Alpha chief

People of faith have a role to play in restoring the very values to the marketplace that can make globalisation work, says the chairman of Alpha International. Speaking at a seminar on faith in the marketplace last night, Ken Costa said the single most important factor in the economic crisis was a breakdown in trust between the public, corporations and their shareholders, regulators and the government. Any recovery of the global economy, he said, would require the rebuilding of trust. 'Our values have shifted from a culture of trust to a culture of self first,' he said. 'Religious faith can help us articulate values and provide a motivating spirit to generate and to sustain a culture of trust that needs to be recovered in the marketplace if it is to be effective. Thus faith is not only compatible with globalisation. It has a vital role to play in ensuring the very possibility of globalisation.'

Pray: that our faith and values would influence the marketplace and generate a culture of trust. (Ti.3:8)

More: http://www.theway.co.uk/news/shownews.php?news_id=7883

■ Government has launched state-sponsored attack on religion, says Baroness Warsi

The shadow community cohesion minister said in a speech to the Conservative Party conference it was time to 'mend the broken ties that should bind us'. Lady Warsi said: 'Under Labour, the state has become increasingly sceptical of an individual's religious belief. We've all seen the stories, how appalling that in Labour's Britain a community nurse can be suspended for offering to pray for a patient's good health. How awful that a school receptionist could face disciplinary action for sending an email to her friends simply asking them to pray for her daughter. At the heart of these cases lies a growing intolerance and illiberal attitude towards those who believe in God.' She added: 'It's an agenda driven by the political elite, who have hijacked the pursuit of equality by demanding a dumbing down of faith. It's no wonder that this leads to accusations in the media that our country's Christian culture is being downgraded.'

Pray: for policy makers at all levels of government that they will realise the benefits of promoting faith issues rather than dumbing them down. (Ro.1:17)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/conservative/6263527/Government-has-launched-state-sponsored-attack-on-religion-says-Baroness-Warsai.html>

■ Ex-Army chief denies Tory 'plot'

The former head of the Army has said he did not accept an advisory role for the Tories as part of a 'long-term plot'. Gen Sir Richard Dannatt, an active Christian, has been criticised for taking up a role with the Tories so soon after stepping down. But in a lecture he said Afghanistan was 'critical' and if he had waited another year it could be 'too long'. He said what motivated him was getting 'these issues right in the interests of the nation, the armed forces and the safety of our citizens'. Tory leader David Cameron officially announced during his conference speech on Thursday that Gen Dannatt would be advising his defence team and 'will join our benches in the House of Lords and if we win the election could serve in a future Conservative government'.

Pray: for Gen Dannatt that he will be led by the Spirit and bring God's wisdom to his new role. (Pr.20:18)

More: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8298222.stm

■ TV appeal for Asia quake victims

A major TV appeal has been launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to help victims of the earthquake and typhoons in south-east Asia. Four million people have been affected as their homes have been destroyed, crops ruined and services wiped out. More than 1,000 people died in Indonesia after the quake struck on 30 September. Hundreds more died in two typhoons, mostly in the Philippines. DEC chief executive Brendan Gormley said: 'Millions have seen the world they know ripped apart around them.' He said although DEC member agencies were already responding, they urgently needed the public's help to fund their work. 'We recognise that these are difficult and uncertain times for many people in the UK too but we have no doubt that there will still be a strong desire to help.' The DEC is also asking for donations for victims of two typhoons that ripped through parts of the Philippines and Vietnam.

Pray: for a huge response to the appeal, for the relief workers and for all those affected by these disasters. (Ps.37:19)

More: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8293615.stm>

■ Christian preacher refused entry to Britain under rules intended to fight extremism

Christian evangelist Benny Hinn, from Texas, has been refused entry to Britain after falling foul of new rules drawn up to combat hate crimes and extremism. Thousands who travelled to see Mr Hinn perform at a London rally were left disappointed after officials at Stansted airport would not let him into the country. Border Agency officials turned back Mr Hinn, who landed by private jet, because he had failed to bring a valid sponsorship certificate from his church, required under rules introduced last November. The Pentecostal preacher was due to perform at a three day rally in a Docklands exhibition centre last weekend. Thousands of evangelical Christians who had booked long weekend breaks to see the mission at the ExCeL Centre were left waiting for Mr Hinn to appear at the free preaching event, not knowing why he failed to appear. Instead another pastor took his place.

Pray: that nothing may prevent the Word of God being proclaimed. (Col.4:3)

More: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article6859240.ece>

■ Why should children study religion?

According to figures published at the end of August 2009, there was a 1.8% rise on the 2008 statistics in the number of students taking full course Religious Education at GCSE. It was the eleventh annual rise in entrants. 182,000 took the subject. The proportion of young people taking the subject increased also. In terms of grades, 73.4% of RE students achieved a grade between A* and C in August (compared with 72.5% last year). Among subjects with more than 75,000 entrants, RE remained in the top five for increasing entrants in 2009, building on a 4.7% increase between 2007 and 2008, and a 7.2% increase between 2006 and 2007. The fact that more and more children are studying religion itself points to a growing interest in – and awareness of – religion in the world today. But what are the benefits of studying the subject? Let me suggest five. - click on 'More' link.

Pray: that this growing trend will lead to more young people gaining awareness of Christ. (Col.1:9)

More: http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/Why_should_children_study_religion.aspx?ArticleID=3453&PageID=11&RefPageID=5

■ Christian office worker sues Lewisham Council for unfair dismissal

A Christian office worker, who was sacked for posting her personal views on homosexuality on a homosexual website, is suing her former employer for unfair dismissal. Denise Haye, 25, from South London, is bringing a legal action against her former employer, Lewisham Council, which dismissed her from her job because she left comments on the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM) website about homosexual practice being contrary to biblical teaching quoting passages from the Bible. Denise Haye came across the LGCM website whilst looking for information about churches on-line. The case of Miss Haye is supported by the Christian Legal Centre. Andrea Minichiello Williams, Director of the Centre, said: 'It is wholly disproportionate to end someone's working career for the mere expression of orthodox Christian belief. It is an extraordinary state of affairs that a personal comment given in a confidential context to a website should lead to a person's dismissal.'

Pray: that Miss Haye's appeal will result in a change of mind by the Council to allow freedom of speech.

More: http://www.ccfon.org/docs/Denise_Haye_in_The_Voice.pdf

EUROPE

■ Russia: Baptist leaders fined for street evangelism

Two Baptist preachers in Russia's Baltic Sea exclave of Kaliningrad have been fined after their community 'sang psalms and spoke about Christ' in the street, they have told Forum 18 News Service. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a source in the Kaliningrad police told Forum 18 that all public gatherings – whether political or religious – must be sanctioned by the municipal authorities in advance. 'But they didn't have permission and they had no intention of getting it!' he remarked, clearly irritated by the Baptists' actions. Asked why permission is necessary, the source replied, 'That's the law in Russia!' Aleksandr Legotin, one of the two Baptists, insisted that, as the Baptists held a religious service and not a demonstration, the legal requirement to notify the authorities in advance should not have applied.

Pray: for the Church in Russia as it faces up to challenges from authorities and unbelievers. (Ps.59:1)

More: http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1358

■ 'New Danes' and ethnic Churches

It is estimated that of Denmark's population of five and a half million, almost seven and half percent are of non-Nordic descent. Denmark has received immigrants from all over the world. The peak of immigration was reached in 1995 when

40,000 immigrants came to Denmark. The largest ethnic group, and also the second largest faith after the Danish Lutheran Folkekirke, is Islam with its more than 150,000 adherents. Once an open door country, Denmark now has the strictest immigration policies in Europe. Among 'New Dane' immigrants are those with a strong Christian faith and commitment. It is noteworthy that the more spirited and sometimes exuberant worship of various ethnic churches has been eye-opening for Danes. If Denmark is to be re-evangelized, as in the early history of the Church, Christianity has to move from being merely an institution with ecclesiastical trappings and traditions to a genuine, heart-gripping movement of the Holy Spirit. Ethnic churches in Denmark may be leading the way.

Pray: for evangelical and evangelistic ethnic churches that are showing Danes that worship can be heart-stirring and exciting while firmly anchored in the truths of God's Word. (Lk.4:18)

More: <http://www.prayfordenmark.com/>

WORLDWIDE

■ **INSIGHT ARTICLE: Prayer for the United Nations**

Now in the present global crisis of finance, terror, water shortage, natural disasters and human error there is a crucial need for open dialogue between nations as they make decisions regarding the above. We are at a critical juncture where all the above are approaching crisis point together, and the body of the United Nations will be making powerful decisions. The ambassadors need our prayers as they put together the exact wording in documents. So easily, a loophole in phrasing and diction could create a gateway for Satan to control choices and future decisions. Areas of concern include:- poor rainfall in central Africa and India with a prospect of famine; opportunities and resource needs for relief aid in human and natural disasters; 'Donor Fatigue' is hampering finances being released; NGO's are attacked as they bring aid. Last month a body of international intercessors met with ambassadors and representatives at the United Nations to worship and pray. For an inspiring report press the more button below.

Pray: for God to break all ungodly strongholds and mindsets within the UN General Assembly. (Is.64:1-2)

Info: <http://www.prayer-alert.net/info/4109unitednations2.pdf>

■ **USA: New UN head says homosexuality 'totally unacceptable'**

A Libyan diplomat spoke regarding his position on the UN's 'Declaration for Universal Decriminalisation of Homosexuality' saying, 'It is a very thorny argument, as a Muslim I do not agree with it. I am not in favour of this matter at all, it is not acceptable for most of the world and is totally unacceptable for our tradition and religion. There are some countries that allow that, thinking it is a kind of democracy - I think it is not.' The response of the international homosexuality movement was swift with one group saying his comment was contrary to the principles of the founding Charter of the United Nations. The International Lesbian & Gay Association issued a statement demanding an explanation from the Ambassador for his 'failure to consider the protection of the life and safety of lesbians, gay men, trans, intersex and bisexual people all over the world.' The UN declaration was signed only by a total of 66 of the UN's 192 member states.

Pray: for God to break all ungodly strongholds and mindsets within the UN General Assembly. (Is.64:1-2)

More: <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2009/sep/09092802.html>

■ **India: Missionaries bring hope to flood victims**

Even as massive flooding in the Indian states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh has left at least 230 people dead and more than 10 million survivors homeless, Gospel for Asia-supported missionaries and the Christians they serve are reaching out to the victims with both physical aid and emotional comfort, in fact they see it as a great privilege to share the love of Christ with those who are suffering so much. Most of these Christian families like others around them need immediate food, clean water and shelter having lost literally everything yet they are working to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the victims. News reports indicated that at least 350 villages have been totally cut off from the outside world by the flood caused by a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal. These are the worst floods in Karnataka's modern history.

Pray: for the Indian Air Force as they drop supplies, for the Army trying to reach survivors by boat, the release of resources to enable the infrastructure to be re-established. (Ps.20:1-2)

More: <http://www.gfa.org/flood/>

■ **Colombia: Christian Solidarity Worldwide appeal**

CSW is making an urgent appeal to the Colombian government to guarantee the safety of Church leaders in Cordoba region who are still facing death threats after one of them was murdered last month. A delegation recently returned from a fact-finding visit to the region met the widow of the murdered Pastor Rafael Velasquez and their report said the Paramilitary groups vying for power in the region are thought to be responsible for the pastor's murder. At least fifteen pastors in Cordoba have come under threat over the last six months. A number have been forcibly displaced as a result of the threats against them and their families. The situation is part of a larger pattern of severe violations of religious liberty. There is deep concern for the civilian population and particularly church leaders who appear to be a primary target for armed paramilitary groups. The Southern Cordoba region is on the brink of a humanitarian crisis.

Pray: that the Colombian government would guarantee the safety of communities and fully investigate the murders and threats against church leaders. (Dt.16:19)

More: <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20091006/csw-calls-on-colombia-to-protect-threatened-church-leaders-after-murder/index.html>

■ **Sudan: Christians crucified**

Sudan's Christians are now urging for international help after seven believers were crucified by a rebel group close to the Ugandan border. Villagers found the bodies of the Christians near the town of Nzara in south Sudan. The Catholic Herald reported the prime suspects in the brutal murders are marauding soldiers from the Lord's Resistance Army. The guerrillas

reportedly also stormed two churches, desecrating the buildings and kidnapping several young people. In response, a local bishop called for a three-day prayer event for Christians of all denominations in the region. It culminated in a silent protest by more than 20,000 people who walked two miles barefoot in sack cloth and ashes to ask the government for more protection.

Pray: and ask God to do what is impossible in the natural, but possible in his kingdom purposes. (Job.42:2)

More: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/shows/cwn/2009/October/Christians-Crucified-in-South-Sudan/>

■ **Guinea: Tensions as isolation grows**

A dispute broke out at the head of Guinea's military government on Wednesday after a junta leader sought to arrest a military officer for his part in the mass killings of anti-government protesters last month. The incident is the latest sign of rifts within the leadership. Window International Network's report on the incident said protesters demanding military ruler Captain Moussa Dadis Camara relinquish power were gunned down by government troops. More than 157 are believed dead with 350 injured. Soldiers raped women in the streets in the most violent wave of repression since Camara seized control of Guinea. Initially Camara promised to step down when elections were held. However he has since implied that he will retain power and may run in the presidential elections. He blamed the violence on his enemies saying the demonstration was against the law. Human-rights groups have condemned the massacre and the African Union is preparing sanctions against Capt. Camara.'

Pray: for God to bind and remove bloodshed, murder, mayhem, and control and for His peace to be released in Guinea. (Ps.46:6)

More: <http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed1/idUSL749809>

■ **Egypt: Christian persecution**

A group of Coptic Christians in Alexandria were recently assaulted and arrested by Egyptian officials following an attempted rescue of a young Christian woman kidnapped by Muslims according to an October 5 report from Assyrian International News Agency. Ten months ago, 19-year-old Myrna Hanna was kidnapped and forced to marry a Muslim man. On September 30, she asked her father to rescue her, which he did. Her father-in-law filed a report with authorities and her uncles and father were charged with abduction detained and physically assaulted by authorities. Her family's home was broken into by police and the family's shop was demolished. She was handed back to her father-in-law. Her father was released from custody on October 2. The next day authorities arrested more relatives and assaulted their wives.

Pray: that Myrna will be released from her captors. Ask God to sustain her and give her an added measure of strength, as she is six months pregnant. Pray also for her Christian family members. (Lk.18:7)

More: <http://www.persecution.net/pnp.htm#0910076>

PRAISE REPORTS

■ **Israel: Thousands of Christians march in Jerusalem**

Thousands of Christian pilgrims from around the world marched through the streets of Jerusalem on Tuesday, chanting their support for Israel and praying for peace in the Holy Land. 'People must understand the Holy Land was given by God to the Jews,' said Rosie Smith, one of a group of English women clad from head to toe in the Israeli flag. 'We are Christians who stand with Israel,' she said. Her views echo those of many of the pilgrims who turned up at the march. Marching under dozens of national banners, the pilgrims made their way from a park near parliament to the gates of the Old City. Many said the annual pilgrimage, organised by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem represented a fulfilment of a Biblical prophesy that all nations would gather in Jerusalem for Sukkot - the Feast of Tabernacles - which the Jewish faithful celebrate this week.

Praise: God for this witness and pray that the prayers offered for Jerusalem would lead to reconciliation and peace. (Is.52:7)

More: http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gZ1oBt1CvYeCVWN0VenoubGtG_pg

■ **USA: Victory for praying in Jesus' name in California**

The Lodi City Council voted 5-0 this week to allow pastors to speak the previously forbidden words 'in Jesus name' at the end of public prayers. The victory vote came after months of lobbying, petitioning, protesting, and pro-Jesus rallies, both in Lodi and nationwide, organized by the Pray In Jesus Name Project. An atheist group from Wisconsin has threatened a lawsuit if the city allows Jesus prayers, but the Mayor and four other councillors found their back-bone, and handed the atheists a resounding defeat. This month four California cities, Tehachapi, Tracy, Turlock, and now Lodi have all heroically voted unanimously to allow free speech and public prayers 'in Jesus name,' even under threat of lawsuit. 'This victory should inspire legislators across America, that 85% of polled voters want you to allow public prayers 'in Jesus name,' even in public venues,' said Chaplain Klingenschmitt.

Praise: God for this answer to prayer that Jesus' name will be glorified across America and the world. (Ps.34:3)

More: http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=7190

PRAYER FORUM OF THE BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

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