

# PRAYER ALERT...

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

### ■ Noise abatement 1: 'Worship God quietly' - Lambeth Council orders church

The lunacy against Christianity in the UK continues with the latest news that a London church has been told by Lambeth Council to reduce the volume of its worship, reports Dan Wooding, founder of ASSIST Ministries. In an extraordinary decision, All Nations' Church in Kennington, South London, has been served with a noise abatement notice by Lambeth council after complaints from a couple of local residents about the level of noise coming from the church. This is the first complaint that the church has received since it began meeting at the premises in the 1960s. Church leaders have been ordered not to amplify its music or sermons – something which will make worship very difficult for the 600-strong congregation - some of whom are elderly and hard of hearing. A council Environmental Health enforcement officer informed the church pastor that 'the church had to keep the noise down so as not to offend the Muslims living in the area'.

**Pray:** for God to turn back the slow creep of restrictions upon Christian life and worship. (Ps.100:1-2)

**More:** <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2009/s09100075.htm>

### ■ Noise Abatement 2: Church congregation dwindles after Muslim complains about noise

The Immanuel International Christian Centre, in Walthamstow, East London, has been ordered to cut the amount of music played in its services after a Muslim neighbour complained that worshippers were too noisy. It can now only play music for 20 minutes on Sundays after it was served a noise abatement order. However, the church claims that the move by Waltham Forest Council has left it lacking in soul and driven away almost three quarters of its congregation. 'It has affected the life of the church completely,' Pastor Dunni Odetoyinbo said. 'Most people want to come to church to sing hymns but now they can't do that. It's not such a lively place any more'. The church lodged an appeal, and appeared at Waltham Forest magistrates' court on Tuesday to fight their case. But magistrates rejected their appeal and ordered the church to pay £2,250 costs.

**Pray:** that those who are hostile to the Christian message will not be able to use the laws of the land to silence Christian viewpoints. (2Th.3:1-3)

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/6276099/Church-congregation-dwindles-after-Muslim-complains-about-noise.html>

### ■ Time to turn the tide

Tomorrow Saturday 17th October Christians across the British Isles will be uniting in prayer for our nation at the National Exhibition Centre Birmingham. Prayer Alert invites you to stand alongside these intercessors in spirit so that as one body we ask in humility for God to reveal himself in power throughout His church, the government, and every area of our society. Many sense this is a significant moment in our history. As a nation in many ways we have turned our back on God, and are

suffering the consequences morally and spiritually. From a nation that founded much of its development on biblical truth and values we are facing moral and spiritual bankruptcy. At the same time many believe that this could be the churches finest opportunity to bring transformation.

**Pray:** for a powerful anointing to be poured out as strategic prayer is released for our nations. (Ps.46:9-10)

**More:** <http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/events/the-presence-conference-2010/>

#### ■ Dr Rowan Williams says climate crisis a chance to become human again

People should use the climate change crisis as an opportunity to become human again, setting aside the addictive and self-destructive behaviour that has damaged their souls, the Archbishop of Canterbury said last Tuesday. Dr Rowan Williams, head of the Church of England and leader of the worldwide Anglican communion, told an audience at Southwark Cathedral that people had allowed themselves to become 'addicted to fantasies about prosperity and growth, dreams of wealth without risk and profit without cost'. The consequences of such a lifestyle meant the human soul was 'one of the foremost casualties of environmental degradation'. Small changes, such as setting up carbon reduction action groups, would help them reconnect with the world in addition to repairing some of the damage to the planet, because it was too much to expect the state to provide all the solutions.

**Pray:** for a restoration of the balance of humanity with the environment in the way God originally intended with responsibility for the care of the world and each other. (Ge.1:28-30)

**More:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/13/rowan-williams-climate-crisis>

#### ■ Christians urged to share burden of the poor

Churches are being encouraged to play their part in global efforts to eradicate poverty on Micah Sunday. Resources have been put together by the Micah Challenge anti-poverty movement to help ordinary Christians engage and inspire them to make a difference. The 'Play your part' resource is based on 1 Corinthians 12, where Paul says that the church is like a body, and aims to awaken Christians to the key role they have to play in fighting against poverty. Andy Clasper, Executive Director of Micah Challenge said, 'There is tremendous power in the realisation that we are connected to others across the other side of the world and form part of the same body - all made in God's image. For this year's Micah Sunday, on October 18, churches are being encouraged to create new links or build on existing ones with a community in a low-income country either by way of missionary presence or a formal twinning arrangement.

**Pray:** that many people will engage with Micah Sunday events in a way that will make a real difference. (Mi.4:4)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christians.urged.to.share.burden.of.the.poor/24373.htm>

#### ■ Sentamu slams TV shows glamorising prostitution

The Archbishop of York has hit out at the glamorisation of prostitution as a 'middle class trade' through its fictional portrayal on television. Dr John Sentamu blamed books and television dramas such as ITV's Secret Diary of a Call Girl, which follows the life of its main character, Belle de Jour, a high-end prostitute. He criticised the drama for giving the public a misleading perception of prostitution. Archbishop Sentamu said the lifestyle acted out in the drama was far from the reality of the suffering endured by the majority of women involved in prostitution. 'There is a myth that has been perpetuated in recent years, especially by sections within the liberal media, that many people who prostitute themselves do so not because they are oppressed or desperate for money, but because they see it as an easy way to make money through a relatively 'safe' and lucrative career', Dr Sentamu wrote in The Sunday Times.

**Pray:** for those involved in prostitution who are often victims of violence and organised crime. (Jn.8:11)

**More:** <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/article6869550.ece>

#### ■ Halloween carnival 'curses city'

Northern Ireland's Derry City Council's, Halloween carnival encourages Satanism and has brought a curse on the city, according to a Methodist minister. Rev Jonathan Campbell, from Newbuildings Independent Methodist Church, has launched an online petition to stop this year's event. He said 'Halloween celebrations make evil look innocent' and has appealed for families to boycott the festival. The Halloween Carnival will take place on the Foyle on 30 and 31 October. Rev Campbell said his church was opposed to Halloween because it was 'one of the two major days for Satanists'. One of the main reasons he as a church are opposed to the carnival is that children are being disturbed. 'People are being deceived - they look on it as harmless fun, but it isn't. We are doing this because we care for the people of Londonderry and this is harming parents, children, families in Londonderry,' he said.

**Pray:** for the church as it tries to raise awareness to the hidden dangers of Halloween, the occult and Satanism. (Dt.18:9-13)

**More:** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern\\_ireland/foyle\\_and\\_west/8306222.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/foyle_and_west/8306222.stm)

## EUROPE

#### ■ Copenhagen: World climate summit

In 2012 the Kyoto Protocol on global warming runs out. To keep the process on line much prayer is needed for all the 170 delegates as they prepare for a conference in six weeks' time in Copenhagen. This conference will be the last one before the Kyoto agreement needs to be renewed. All countries need to make radical courageous decisions as they develop tougher approaches to climate change. The US Energy Secretary is hopeful President Obama will be able to sign a tougher domestic carbon-cutting bill before Copenhagen. 'Caritas' a Christian relief and development agency in a report titled 'Climate Justice' is calling for fresh approaches to tackling climate change. An ongoing study on the Arctic ice since the

1960s launched its findings Thursday stating 'The Arctic Ocean could be largely ice-free and open to shipping during the summer in as little as ten years' time. Copenhagen decisions will effect poor and rich communities globally.

**Pray:** that the spiritual blindness preventing leaders from hearing God's directives on climate change will be removed and God's balance of atmosphere and global temperature will be restored. (Ps.135:6, 7)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/caritas.report.calls.for.new.global.ethic.on.climate.change/24367.htm>

#### ■ **Armenia/Turkey: Landmark accord signed despite tensions**

The former Soviet republic of Armenia and Turkey have signed a historic accord on normalizing relations after a century of hostility. The signing on Saturday, October 10, in Zurich, Switzerland came after a last minute delay caused by a dispute over the final statements the two nations would make. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton helped get the signing back on course. But the agreement has been met by protests in Armenia, where many people say it does not fully address the 1915 killing of over a million people, including many Christians. Some 10,000 people marched through the Armenian capital Yerevan to protest against the planned normalization of diplomatic relations with Turkey. Despite these remaining disagreements, the governments of predominantly Christian Armenia and mainly Islamic Turkey agreed to sign a peace accord to normalize relations.

**Pray:** that this accord will be honoured by all and lead to lasting reconciliation. (Ps.34:14)

**More:** <http://www.bosnewslife.com/9411-armenia-turkey-sign-landmark-accord-despite-tensions>

## WORLDWIDE

#### ■ **India: Deception and theft of tsunami aid fund**

A lady doctor and her nephew were arrested Saturday by Chennai police for allegedly swindling Rs 7.5 crore, which was disbursed by a US-based funding agency to a CSI church in Royapettah for tsunami rehabilitation work. Police have also confiscated two luxury cars, which the accused is believed to have purchased through the funds. A hunt is on for the doctor's parents, who were office-bearers of the CSI church, for their complicity in the fraud. This is the first major case of tsunami-rehabilitation related fraud, it needs to be noted that in the aftermath of the tsunami, hundreds of NGOs had set up shop in Tamil Nadu thriving on the liberal funds that came from abroad, making it the state with the highest number of NGOs. However, there was little monitoring of how the funds were used. Chennai is the capital city of Tamil Nadu, also India's fourth largest metropolitan city.

**Pray:** Lead us not into temptation Lord, as funding for relief in India and other disaster areas is distributed. (Dt.15:11 & Lev.19:11)

**More:** <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Lady-doc-held-for-swindling-Rs-75cr-tsunami-aid-fund/articleshow/5113896.cms>

#### ■ **Philippines: Twin typhoon disaster toll escalating**

Officials fear the death toll from the two typhoons that devastated Metro Manila and nearby provinces on September 26 and in northern Luzon early October is about to breach 900 as they consider action against dam management for water discharge. The United Nations' humanitarian chief said at least \$44 million dollars in aid has been committed to help the Philippines cope with the natural calamity. An estimated 6 million have been affected by the storms. In northern Luzon using picks, shovels and bare hands, rescuers and volunteers searched for bodies buried by dozens of landslides, other rescuers searched mountainous and interior areas in the north. 'Dozens of people are still missing,' said the spokesman for the National Disaster Coordinating Council 'We have heavy equipment there, but our rescuers are very cautious because they are also at risk. As of now, food and relief materials can only be delivered by helicopters because it would take two to five days to clear up roads and bridges washed out by floods and landslides.'

**Pray:** for the relief to get through to those isolated, and for all those who have lost loved ones. (Ps.10:11-12)

**More:** <http://gulffnews.com/news/world/philippines/twin-typhoon-disaster-toll-in-philippines-gets-close-to-800-1.514186>

#### ■ **Somalia: Militants kill Christian woman**

Open Doors reported Mariam Muhina Hussein answered her door to a stranger asking about Bibles and wanting to discuss Christianity. But the woman was the wife of Sheikh Arbow and was sent to confirm the presence of Bibles at the Hussein residence and to find 'Christians who have defiled the Islamic religion.' The next day Mariam again answered the door to the woman's husband, Sheikh Arbow, who casually asked to check something in the Bible. Mariam innocently complied with his request but upon retrieving the Bible Arbow declared his true mission and demanded that she get the other six Bibles out. Arbow then fired three bullets at Hussein and she died instantly.

**Pray:** that her family and fellow church members would remain strong in their faith and may this incident ignite church growth in Somalia. (Acts4:29-30)

**More:** [http://members.opendoorsusa.org/site/MessageViewer?em\\_id=40021.0&dlv\\_id=0](http://members.opendoorsusa.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=40021.0&dlv_id=0)

#### ■ **Pakistan: Anti-Christian violence**

On Monday, a Pakistani court granted bail to six more Muslims accused of inciting and carrying out attacks against Christians in Gojra where 11 Christians were killed and over 60 Christian homes burned down. This latest release came after 13 Muslims were granted bail by a Lahore high court on 7 September including radical clerics. In both the cases they were tried for violence against Christians. The court ruling has surprised the minority Christians who makes up less than 3 percent of the 180 million population of Pakistan. 'I am sure that soon after securing their release they will resume their anti-Christianity activities again,' said All Pakistani Minorities Alliance, a major Christian political party in Pakistan. On Saturday speaking in London, Pakistan's Minorities Minister vowed to end persecution of Christians saying the Pakistani government was ready to review the notorious blasphemy law that is routinely misused by Islamic extremists to attack and imprison

Christians. He asked Christians in the UK to spare one minute a day to pray for him as he works for religious freedom in the country.

**Pray:** that many of us will hear God's call to intercede for the persecuted minorities in Pakistan.

**More:** [http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display\\_art.html?ID=7231](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=7231)

#### ■ Iran: Christian women refuse order to deny Christ

Two women are still held in Iran's notorious Evin Prison after refusing to deny Jesus Christ and return to Islam. Maryam Rostampour 27 and Marzieh Amirizadeh 30 were detained by Iranian security officers in March ( see P.A.1609) on grounds of being 'anti-government' and 'a threat to national security' At an Aug. 9 hearing in Tehran's Revolutionary Court they learned the sole charge against them is apostasy-leaving Islam. When the judge said they would be executed if they did not recant their faith the two told him to expedite the sentence. The pair subsequently were returned to the prison. Their health is deteriorating because of unsanitary conditions and lack of medical care. Authorities set bail at \$400,000 and their families offered the deeds to their homes but no judge is willing to review the case. In mid-September women dressed in white gathered outside Iran's embassy in London for a prayer vigil supported by the advocacy group Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

**Pray:** that God in his mercy would answer the many prayers for their release and that the apostasy law would perish under righteous opposition. (Lk.12:8)

**More:** <http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue7269.html>

#### ■ Syria: Supplying long-range missiles to Hezbollah

A Kuwaiti newspaper, Al Jarida reported 'Syria has supplied the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah with about a quarter of its arsenal of middle- and long-range missiles.' According to the report, Syria does not wish to enter into a direct conflict with Israel so it is using Hezbollah and the Palestinian militant group Hamas as proxies to harass it. The report came after the Israel Defence Forces on Tuesday released footage of people, possibly Hezbollah operatives, removing something resembling a 4-meter-long missile from a building where a Hezbollah arms depot exploded on Monday. A senior military source said on Tuesday that Syria has made a clear strategic decision to make available to Hezbollah every type of military hardware in its arsenal. According to Thursday's report Iranian and Syrian officers are training Hezbollah guerrillas in firing the new missiles and operating Russian and Chinese-made early warning radar stations in Lebanon. The system has reportedly also undergone Iranian development.

**Pray:** for the protection of Israel's borders and for a new spirit of peaceful community relations to settle in the region. (Ps.140:1-2)

**More:** <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1121298.html>

## PRAISE REPORTS

#### ■ Sponsor a bus shelter this Christmas

Churches are being handed a unique opportunity to take the Gospel to the streets this Christmas thanks to the Church Advertising Network's Christmas campaign. The group is asking churches to pay £105 to display a modern nativity painting on the side of a bus shelter of their choice. The painting by Andrew Gadd itself portrays the Holy Family taking refuge in a bus shelter and was first used last year. This Christmas, the agency suggests that churches might treat shivering commuters to a carol singing session at their local stop. The campaign officially launches next week and will be supported by local radio advertising which groups of churches can also sponsor.

**Praise:** as Christmas approaches the church will take up the challenge to share the blessings and message of Christmas. (Is.52:7)

**More:** <http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/content.asp?id=83090>

#### ■ North Korea: Evangelist meets high-level official

Rev. Franklin Graham, the son of veteran evangelist Billy Graham, who heads the international relief agency Samaritan's Purse, arrived in Pyongyang on Tuesday in an effort 'to help improve relations and to have better understanding' between the United States and North Korea. 'I'm going as a minister of Jesus Christ with a message of peace and that God loves each one of us regardless of our borders or politics,' the evangelist said before departing. Graham held talks with North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun on Wednesday and offered a gift to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il of a black sculpture of a man riding a horse. Also his organisation installed a power generator in a provincial hospital in an area where no power previously existed. Though North Korea has chronic food shortages and a destroyed economy they have refused American food shipments and expelled all US aid groups operating in the country without offering any reason.

**Praise:** God for this Christian witness and ask Him to release His sovereignty into the country through a variety of channels. (Job 37:5)

**More:** <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/evangelist.meets.highlevel.north.korean.official/24387.htm>

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