



PRAYER ALERT...

An initiative of the Prayer Forum of the British Isles & Ireland
www.prayer-alert.net editor@prayer-alert.net

Issue 4609

Website

Contact Us

Donations

Friday 13 November 2009

■ British Isles & Ireland

- [The families of those killed on active service.](#)
- [Teachings of Jesus are a 'good guide' to life, says Cameron](#)
- [Pastor exhorts church to look beyond material to eternal](#)
- [Doctors voice concerns over DPP's assisted suicide policy](#)
- [The best parents balance discipline with love: study](#)
- [Mother trailed by policeman and warned by council for telling off son at checkout](#)

■ Europe

- [Germany: Church leaders recall faith and courage on Berlin wall anniversary](#)
- [Russia: Dagestan's 'spiritual conscience'](#)

■ Worldwide

- [China: President Obama's visit](#)
- [Gaza: Children developing drug addiction to endure pain](#)
- [Malaysia: Bibles confiscated](#)
- [Iraq: Kurds killed and minorities intimidated](#)
- [Egypt: Forced conversions of Christian women in Egypt](#)
- [Egypt: Christian arrested for praying at home](#)

■ Praise Reports

- [Praise God for free speech victory](#)
- [Gospel for Asia-supported missionary in India heals the sick](#)
- [STOP PRESS: Filipino gunmen free kidnapped Irish priest](#)

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ The families of those killed on active service.

This is the 81st year of the Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey where a record 60,000 crosses have been planted, each one with a dedication written to a loved one or friend killed in battle. There is a special plot of crosses to mark the losses of those 411 men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, including five crosses planted to mark the death of five British troops who were killed in Afghanistan on Monday 3 November 2009.

Pray: for the casualties of war, their widows, children and their parents. Pray that they will be supported and comforted and that they will seek and know God's loving presence in their time of grief. (Jas.1:26-27)

More: <http://www.poppy.org.uk/>

■ Teachings of Jesus are a 'good guide' to life, says Cameron

David Cameron has admitted his Christian faith may not always be the rock it should be, but is nonetheless a good guide to get through life. In an intimate interview with the Evening Standard, the Tory leader spoke openly about his fluctuating faith. When asked if his faith was important to him, he said: 'If you are asking, do I drop to my knees and pray for guidance, no. But do I have faith and is it important? Yes. My own faith is there, it's not always the rock that perhaps it should be. I've a sort of fairly classic Church of England faith, a faith that grows hotter and colder by moments but I suppose I sort of started life believing that one's individual faith was important, but actually the institutions of the church were less important. I do think the Church of England and the other churches do play a very important role in society.'

Pray: for David Cameron, that his faith would be strengthened and he would be given God's wisdom for his role. (Is.26:3-4)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/teachings.of.jesus.are.a.good.guide.to.life.says.cameron/24555.htm>

■ Pastor exhorts church to look beyond material to eternal

'Heaven is real, Hell is real and it's all going to be over very soon,' said Jonathan Oloyede pastor of City Chapel in east London. 'I want to encourage everyone to get on with the real business of the Kingdom and dragging people back from the precipice of Hell to Heaven. Don't get distracted running after money or fame. Become enraptured in making sure that one more soul does not go to eternal damnation.' Oloyede made the call at RCCG Victory House in south London, where members are in the midst of a 21-day prayer and fast for the capital and nation. He spoke of the shortness of life and reminded the congregation that wise believers were those who prepared for the time when they would be called to give an account of their life on Earth. Oloyede, who also convenes the Global Day of Prayer in London, urged Christians to drop their own agendas and start praying for God's.

Pray: that Jonathan's prayer would be answered that the church would drop its own agenda and start praying for God's. (Mic.4:5)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.co.uk/article/pastor.exhorts.church.to.look.beyond.material.to.eternal/24606.htm>

■ Doctors voice concerns over DPP's assisted suicide policy

Leading doctors fear that fellow practitioners could help someone kill themselves but avoid prosecution under proposed guidance on prosecuting assisted suicide cases. The British Medical Association (BMA) have asked Keir Starmer, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), for 'further clarification' about the role of doctors under proposed guidelines, which are due to be finalised next year. In September Mr Starmer issued interim guidance outlining the public interest factors he will consider before deciding to pursue assisted suicide cases. The DPP made it clear that assisted suicide was still illegal. He will finalise his guidelines next year after a public consultation is completed. But the BMA are particularly concerned about one factor which suggests a prosecution would be less likely if someone helped a victim kill themselves 'as a consequence of his or her usual lawful employment'. (See Prayer Alert 4309 & 4409)

Pray: that these concerns would be carefully considered by government before finalising details. (Pro.8:1)

More: <http://www.anglican-mainstream.net/?p=17699#more-17699>

■ The best parents balance discipline with love: study

A major study has concluded that children who receive 'tough love' – a combination of warmth and discipline – from their parents have the best chance of doing well in life. The study found that parenting style, not economic background, is the most important factor determining a child's development of positive qualities such as self-control, empathy and determination. It also discovered that children with married parents were twice as likely to show these key traits than children living with step-families or single parents. The left-leaning think-tank Demos analysed data from 9,000 households for the study, entitled Building Character. The researchers identified the three most important traits determining a child's chances of becoming a well-rounded adult. These were application (the ability to concentrate and stick with tasks), self-regulation (control of emotions and ability to cope with disappointment) and empathy (sensitivity to other people). The type of parenting most likely to instil these characteristics was defined by the authors as 'tough love', combining affection with discipline.

Pray: that the realisation that a balanced way of discipline is essential for the wellbeing of children. (Dt.11:19)

More: <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/the-best-parents-balance-discipline-with-love-study/>

■ Mother trailed by policeman and warned by council for telling off son at checkout

A mother fears she has been 'criminalised' for giving her children a ticking-off in a supermarket. She was secretly followed home by an off-duty policeman who overheard her threatening to smack them unless they behaved. Six weeks later two officers came to her home and questioned her about disciplining the youngsters. To her horror she then received a letter from the local council saying her 'chastisement' of the children had been 'put on record' for at least the next 14 years. The shocked mother said, 'I was doing what parents should do, and what thousands do every week - setting moral boundaries for how children should behave.' The mother does not want to be named, to protect the identity of her children. But she is speaking out to avoid the same thing happening to another parent. She said: 'If no one stands up to this political correctness, parents will lose responsibility for their kids and the state will take over'.

Pray: against these ongoing attacks by the 'PC police' that so often go 'over the top'. (Dt.8:5)

More: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1226056/Mother-trailed-policeman-warned-council-telling-son-checkout.html>

EUROPE

■ Germany: Church leaders recall faith and courage on Berlin wall anniversary

Church leaders have paid tribute to the faith and courage of ordinary men and women who helped unify Germany and end the Cold War on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall today. The newly elected head of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), Bishop Margot Kaessmann, said 'dream became reality when the wall came down on 9 November 1989'. 'Brave women and men from the civil rights movement in the former German Democratic Republic laid the foundation for this day by opposing the regime and inspired many more people to do the same through their example,' she said. Bishop Kaessmann also said she was grateful for the decisive role played by the EKD in the GDR at this time. 'The prayers for peace in overflowing churches will remain in the consciousness as a symbol of a movement that truly earned the name 'peaceful revolution'.'

Pray: that the many thousands of prayers offered in the 'peaceful revolution' would never be forgotten but remain central for those that follow. (2Ch.7:14-15)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/church.leaders.recall.faith.and.courage.on.berlin.wall.anniversary/24579.htm>

■ Russia: Dagestan's 'spiritual conscience'

Dagestan, a province in Russia's volatile North Caucasus, has been the scene of a low-level insurgency, ethnic tensions and deadly attacks since the 1990s. According to the International Crisis Group, Shariat Jamaat, is responsible for much of the violence. This group is an armed Islamist organisation, a wing of a united organisation called the Caucasian Front established in 2005 and fighting to create an emirate throughout the North Caucasus. In Dagestan, violence and lawlessness abound. Oil and caviar mafias reportedly flourish. Firearms are ubiquitous and assassinations are a regular

occurrence. The province is also plagued by inter-ethnic disputes. The region is made up of seven main ethnic groupings under the leadership of Mukhu Aliyev, Dagestan's president. In the eyes of the Kremlin, separatist movements stemming from Chechnya, Dagestan's neighbour and the scene of two brutal wars starting in the 1990s, is the root of the instability.

Pray: for the people of Dagestan who battle daily the problems that plague their nation. Pray that God would intervene and bring peace. (Rom.14:18)

More: <http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/2009/10/20091028134232476.html>

WORLDWIDE

■ China: President Obama's visit

President Obama will be making his first visit to China next week and will be involved in talks with President Jintao Hu (China's General Secretary) on Tuesday and Wednesday. International human rights groups are urging him to make the central purpose of his visit 'promoting fundamental human values'. 'In the nine months since you took office, the trend on human rights in China has been distinctly negative,' Human Rights Watch said in its open letter. US officials said Obama planned to cover a 'very broad agenda' in talks with President Hu, including several human rights issues and was likely to discuss 'freedom of expression, access to information, freedom of religion, rule of law and, certainly, Tibet.' Human Rights Watch listed problems that included the government disbarring human rights lawyers, stalling on key legal reforms, imprisoning dissidents, and tightening controls over state media and the internet.

Pray: that God would give President Obama His perfect dialogue and approach in a culturally challenging situation. (Ps.9:4)

More: http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1512640.php/Rights-groups-urge-Obama-to-press-China

■ Gaza: Children developing drug addiction to endure pain

The Gaza siege and shortages of food, medicines, building materials and other supplies has resulted in the children of Gaza working inside the tunnels between Gaza and Egypt through which commodities are being smuggled. Children do other chores besides smuggling goods, digging, connecting lighting systems and laying pipelines to withdraw fuel from Egypt. A recent report calls for international community's help and support to end the children's misery. Children take one break during the 12 hours' shift and are exhausted, which leads many to take a stimulant called 'Tramal' which helps them forget the pain and revitalizes their bodies, keeping them working without complaints. But at the same time this drug abuse involves serious health complications and side effects. Because of rising poverty after the siege many children stopped going to school. A small number manage to coordinate their times and work while studying. The majority of the children started working almost 1-2 years ago.

Pray: for God to remember the children of Gaza, end their misery and bring a conclusion to the siege. (La.3:33 & Ps.72:4)

More: www.blogfrommiddleeast.com?new=59880

■ Malaysia: Bibles confiscated

The Christians in Malaysia are calling for the immediate release of the more than 15,000 Bibles seized by Malaysian authorities arguing that the confiscation is an infringement of their constitutional rights. Christians in Malaysia need access to Bibles in a language with which they are familiar. Bibles in Bahasa Malaysia (Malaysian language) are withheld on the grounds of being 'prejudicial to public order.' According to reports, about 5,100 Bibles were seized in March and 10,000 Bibles confiscated in September. The Bibles written in the country's official language Malay, were reportedly seized because they refer to God as 'Allah' - a word that Malaysia has banned non-Muslims from using claiming that the word is Islamic and may confuse Muslims when used to refer to the God of Christians. Church leaders argue that 'Allah' has been used for centuries to mean 'God' in Malay.

Pray: that the Lord would mightily break the opposition to his word being released to the nations. (Is.42:16)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/malaysian.church.body.calls.for.immediate.release.of.bibles/24566.htm>

■ Iraq: Kurds killed and minorities intimidated

Iraq's Kurdish-Arab tensions in the disputed Nineveh province may create a human rights catastrophe for minority groups that have faced rising attacks since the 2003 U.S. invasion. Baghdad's Arab-led government and ethnic Kurds controlling a semi-autonomous northern enclave are battling over issues of wealth and power as the nation thrashes out constitutional issues after the fall of Saddam Hussein. An Assyrian Christian elder was quoted as saying, 'Before we had a totalitarian government and therefore abuses happened, but now we are supposed to be free and democratic. This democracy is killing us.' Violence in the world's 11th largest crude oil producer has fallen over the last two years, but in the religiously divided north bombings, drive-by shootings and other attacks are still common. Minorities such as Chaldean Christians, Yazidis, Shabaks and others remain vulnerable to attacks by Sunni Arab extremists and Kurdish forces in Nineveh.

Pray: for God to provide his protection and care for all who trust in him in these troubled times. (Na.1:7)

More: http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/11/10/world/international-us-iraq-rights.html?_r=1

■ Egypt: Forced conversions of Christian women in Egypt

A report by Christian Solidarity International and the Coptic Foundation for Human Rights sheds light on the often ignored problem of Egyptian Christian women being abducted, forced into Muslim marriages and coerced into converting to Islam. The report documents dozens of real cases of Christian women who were lured and then violently forced into marriage, often after being raped. The research contends that the violence against Egypt's Christian women corresponds to the internationally recognized definitions of human trafficking. One case of a girl befriended by a Muslim girl whose brother later

raped her was too ashamed to tell her family. She remained with the Muslim family and the man's mother convinced her to convert to Islam and marry her son. She was locked in an apartment every day and only allowed to leave if accompanied by her in-laws. She was denied access to the telephone and forced to cover herself when she left the house.

Pray: for an end to the unawareness and blindness surrounding the various forms of human trafficking. (Ps.72:12)

More: <http://www.christianpost.com/article/20091110/report-exposes-forced-conversions-of-christian-women-in-egypt/>

■ **Egypt: Christian arrested for praying at home**

An incident in October when Egyptian State Security arrested a Christian Copt for praying 'without a license,' has been highlighted in 'Christian Telegraph' and is representative of the growing recent security clampdown on Christians praying in places outside their licensed churches. Maurice Salama Sharkawy had invited his Pastor to conduct the sacrament of the 'Anointing of the Sick' for his father who had suffered a stroke. State Security broke into his house while the prayers were ongoing' handcuffed Sharkawy, put him in a police car and took him to a police station for interrogation. While authorities turn a blind eye to Constitutional provisions of equality and freedom of belief they terrorise worshipers who dare conduct services outside a licensed church, treating them as law violators, despite the fact that the root problem lies in the authorities' reluctance to permit the erection of new churches or restore existing ones. Youssef Sidhom, editor-in-chief of the Coptic Watani newspaper blames the State of standing in the way of building places of worship which would put an end to human rights violations.

Pray: for God to arise and remove spiritual oppression over the region. (Ps.12:5)

More: <http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue7619.html>

PRAISE REPORTS

■ **Praise God for free speech victory**

Last night (11th November), the Government failed to remove Lord Waddington's free speech shield from the face of the laws of this land. In a remarkable debate the House of Lord's stood firm against the Government's fourth attempt to impose its will upon them. Thanks to their steadfastness the vital democratic right to free speech was upheld, the police will have clarity about cases they do not need to investigate and ordinary, peaceful Christians and others who wish to be free to express orthodox Christian views on sexual ethics will not have their freedom so to do unreasonably interfered with. A short time ago Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor Jack Straw MP, announced that the Commons will not attempt to send this particular question back to the Lords yet again under this Bill. Thank you all for your prayers on this vital issue. We believe they have availed much.

Praise: God for this answer to our prayers and victory for Christian views.

More: <http://www.ccf.org/view.php?id=899>

■ **Gospel for Asia-supported missionary in India heals the sick**

Gospel for Asia-supported national missionary Lalita knew exactly what to do when she met two sick little girls who were running high fevers. She didn't call a doctor or get them medicine or bring them chicken soup. She simply knelt down and prayed for them. The Great Physician heard her prayers and healed them both. Seeing God's touch in these girls' lives brought special memories for Lalita because it was through such a sickness that she ultimately became a missionary. A high fever had almost taken her life when she was young - but the Lord spared her in an answer to her Christian brother's prayers. It was this simple prayer that opened her heart to follow Jesus. Experiencing this miracle inspired Lalita to dedicate her life to sharing the Good News. After studying in a Bible college she began serving in full-time ministry. Now Lalita keeps up a rigorous schedule so she can reach out to as many people as possible.

Praise: God for Lalita, who asks for prayer that the Lord will continue to work powerfully through her and that many people will know the loving power of the God who healed her and who stands ready to heal them. (Col.1:9-11)

More: <http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue7558.html>

■ **STOP PRESS: Filipino gunmen free kidnapped Irish priest**

An Irish priest has been released a month after he was kidnapped outside a church on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, military officials have said. Michael Sinnott, 79, was handed over to police and government officials in Zamboanga city just before dawn on Thursday. He was later given a medical check-up at an army base before being flown to the capital, Manila. It is not clear which group was behind the October 11 abduction, when six armed men snatched Sinnott from his missionary home on Mindanao, escaped by speedboat and took him into the jungle. The priest's release came hours before Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state, was scheduled to visit the Philippines (See last week's Prayer Alert).

Praise: God for this speedy answer to prayer. - HALLELUJAH!

More: <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia-pacific/2009/11/2009111244613393456.html>

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