



PRAYER ALERT...

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Donations

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■ British Isles & Ireland

- [Catholic adoption agency faces closure](#)
- [Anger at 'Bibles for the courts' campaign](#)
- [Two registrars subjected to investigation over beliefs](#)
- [Charity begins at home?](#)
- [British brothels have 12,000 foreign 'sex slaves'](#)
- [Legacies as part of Christian's discipleship](#)
- [Church bells to highlight toll of biodiversity](#)

■ Europe

- [Cross is point of contention in Poland](#)
- [Muslims lobbying to worship in Spanish Cathedral](#)

■ Worldwide

- [Burma: International action needed](#)
- [World: Thirty Days movement](#)
- [Maldives: Poor religious freedom](#)
- [INSIGHT ARTICLE: Afghanistan hazards for Christian workers](#)
- [Pakistan: Rapes of Christian girls escalating](#)
- [Global: Persecution increases during Ramadan](#)
- [Pakistan: Humanitarian crisis](#)

■ Praise Reports

- [Armenia: The POWER OF GOD manifest](#)
- [Skateboarding priest in Hungary](#)

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ Catholic adoption agency faces closure

The last remaining Roman Catholic adoption agency to resist Labour's equality laws is facing closure, after the charity watchdog ruled that it could not avoid considering same-sex couples as potential parents. Catholic Care had been given hope earlier this year that it could get around the controversial anti-discrimination rules that forced other agencies either to close down or sever their links with the church. In March a High Court judge had ordered that the Charity Commission consider whether to allow the agency's request to continue refusing to consider same-sex parents, thanks to a loophole intended to protect homosexual charities. Catholic Care had argued that a clause inserted to ensure gay organisations could not be sued for discrimination, entitled it to change its 'charitable objects'. But in a judgement published on Thursday, the quango has ruled that it will still not allow Catholic Care to restrict its services to heterosexuals only. (See also Prayer Alert 1110 & 2010)

Pray: [that even at this late stage the authorities would reconsider. \(Pr.21:30\)](#)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/religion/7952526/Last-Catholic-adoption-agency-faces-closure-after-Charity-Commission-ruling.html>

■ Anger at 'Bibles for the courts' campaign

The Scottish Bible Society (SBS) has come under fire from the National Secular Society for sending thousands of Bibles to Scottish law courts and judges. The campaign was launched in July by the organisation's honorary president, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, to make the Bible readily available to judges as a reference book. Terry Sanderson of the National Secular Society said the campaign 'could put the Sharia laws of the Middle East to shame.' SBS is sending Bibles to judges in the Court of Session and each of the Sheriff Courts in Scotland, the Faculty of Advocates Library, the Crown Office, and countrywide offices of the Procurator Fiscal Service. SBS has produced a pamphlet, entitled The Bible in Scots Law: A Guide for Legal Practitioners, to accompany the Bibles. In it, Lord Mackay, a former Conservative Cabinet member, speaks of how 'vitally important' the Bible is in giving guidance for daily living.

Pray: [that this initiative will help Judges understand the Biblical foundations of Scottish law and its relevance today. \(Heb.4:12\)](#)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/secularists.angry.with.groups.bibles.for.the.courts.campaign/26523.htm>

■ Two registrars subjected to investigation over beliefs

Two registrars at Lambeth Council are under investigation because they swapped shifts in order to accommodate their religious beliefs over homosexual civil partnerships. The informal arrangement came to light when it was praised as an example of good practice during a diversity training seminar. But a homosexual colleague complained, and the pair are now being formerly investigated by council bosses. Other councils have chosen to accommodate the religious beliefs of registrar staff by not forcing them to conduct civil partnership registrations against their will. But some, such as Islington Council, have chosen to discipline registrars who don't fall in line. The complaint against the Lambeth registrars was taken up by Brian Palmer, a homosexual Liberal Democrat councillor, who described their actions as 'grossly offensive' and 'wholly

unacceptable'. Steve Reed, the Labour leader of the Council, responded by saying that the Council 'does not tolerate bigotry for any reason'.

Pray: for the council to avoid bigotry themselves and accept this arrangement as 'good practice'. (1Pe.3:15)

More: http://www.christian.org.uk/news/two-registrars-subjected-to-investigation-over-beliefs/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+christianinstitute+%28The+Christian+Institute%29

■ Charity begins at home?

Marolin Watson of Hope UK has expressed concern that we are quick to support international outreach, but may be neglecting the needs on our own doorstep? Children and young people in Great Britain are losing their way for want of spiritual guidance and direction. Many children and young people have little more than a rudimentary understanding of the Bible. A recent article in the Telegraph (Prayer Alert 2410) reported an Ofsted finding that 'Schools are neglecting to teach children the core beliefs of Christianity in religious education lessons'. This is illustrated in the article by a recent survey of more than 500 12-year-olds which revealed that only 54% knew that Christians celebrated the Resurrection at Easter. Is it any wonder, then, that practically a whole generation have no core values by which to order their lives and their behaviour? Marolin writes 'The Church must do more to help save this generation.'

Pray: for our young people and for the many initiatives that are beginning to address these concerns. (Jdg.2:10)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/charity.begins.at.home/26496.htm>

■ British brothels have 12,000 foreign 'sex slaves'

A new report commissioned by the Association of Chief Police Officers revealed for the first time the true scale of immigration prostitution and trafficking. At least 2,600 women were confirmed as being trafficked into England and Wales and forced to work as prostitutes, it found. A further 9,200 sex workers at brothels and other premises were considered to be 'vulnerable migrants' working unwillingly in the sex trade, but whom researchers could not be certain had been trafficked. Half of the women are Chinese, police said, with the majority of others from Eastern European and other south east Asian nations. Mohib Rahman, a Home Office official, said: 'We need to step up our efforts and to do more to get a handle on why so many people are trafficked from China.'

Pray: for the authorities as they seek way to combat this evil trade. (Lev.19:29)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/7952200/Up-to-12000-foreign-sex-slaves-work-in-British-brothels.html>

■ Legacies as part of Christian's discipleship

Christian relief and development agency Tearfund is asking Christians to consider leaving a legacy in their will as part of their discipleship. Tearfund made the call following its decision to join the Christian Legacy consortium, a group of Christian charities which encourages people to leave a gift to their favourite Christian charities when writing their will. Paul Bringham, Tearfund's UK Director, says: 'Because so many Christians have not yet considered leaving a legacy to a Christian charity as part of their lifetime's discipleship, Tearfund is passionate about joining with other charities to encourage people to consider prayerfully this important area of ministry. Partnerships are key to everything Tearfund sets out to achieve, and we're pleased and privileged to be working alongside other Christian organisations as part of this consortium.'

Pray: that the Spirit will continue to remind us that everything we have belongs to the Lord. (Lk.16:11)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/legacies.should.be.part.of.a.christians.discipleship.tearfund/26522.htm>

■ Church bells to highlight toll of biodiversity

Church bells across the country will ring in tune with the United Nations next month to mark crucial international talks on biodiversity. As the bells toll at the UN headquarters in both New York and Nairobi, bell ringers from small parish churches to large cathedrals and minsters are being encouraged to ring on September 22, the day the UN General Assembly will discuss for the first time ever the crisis affecting the world's biodiversity. This year was declared the UN 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) and the Church of England is one of the official partners in the UK. With a Christian presence in every community, around 6,000 of the CofE's 16,000 churches have a peal of bells (not including those with a single bell). IYB in the UK is encouraging bell ringing by faith groups, schools and organisations from 12-2pm.

Pray: that this sign of unity and its message will be recognised by the wider community. (Gen.1:24-28)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/church.bells.ring.to.highlight.toll.of.biodiversity/26480.htm>

EUROPE

■ Cross is point of contention in Poland

Supporters of the late president Lech Kaczynski of Poland are refusing to take down a cross they placed outside the presidential palace in Warsaw, a move that is igniting political tensions between secularists and nationalists. The 13 feet high cross was put up soon after the crash on April 10 of the presidential plane killing the president, his wife and 94 others. Calling themselves Defenders of the Cross, many who have gathered around the cross belong to the nationalist Law and Justice party. The party is led by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the twin brother of the late president. With important local government elections due in the autumn, analysts say, Law and Justice is trying to recover its popularity. The church has refused to be dragged into the controversy. On Thursday, it took the unusual step of calling on all sides to find a compromise in a dispute it claimed was being exploited for political reasons.

Pray: that the Cross might unify rather than divide. (Mt.5:9)

More: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/14/world/europe/14poland.html?_r=1&ref=europe

■ Muslims lobbying to worship in Spanish Cathedral

While the dispute over the proposed Cordoba House near New York City's Ground Zero has been highly publicised over the past few months, less known is the debate over Spain's Cordoba Cathedral, which was formerly the Great Mosque of Cordoba. For some time now, Muslim groups have been trying to convince leaders of the Cathedral of Cordoba in southern Spain to allow the Catholic Church to be used for both Muslim and Christian worship as the site still remains significant for many Muslims. The Bishop of Cordoba, Demetrio Fernandez, says sharing the space with Muslims would be like a man sharing his wife with another man. Built in the 8th century after the Moorish invasion of Spain, the Cordoba house of worship was transformed from a mosque into a cathedral in 1236 when King Ferdinand III captured the city of Cordoba from the Moors.

Pray: for Christians everywhere that they will hold fast to the ground that God has given and be wise in their deliberations. (Ps.107:43)

More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/muslims.lobbying.to.worship.in.spains.cordoba.cathedral/26533.htm>

WORLDWIDE

■ Burma: International action needed

A CSW report included a Burmese man's cry, 'We are so forgotten. Our suffering continues. We have never experienced freedom. No one cares for us. Inside Burma it is getting worse and worse. We want the world to know we are still suffering.' With democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi imprisoned CSW said free and fair elections in November was impossible and called the EU, USA, the Association of South East Asian Nations and the UN to unite and send Burma the strongest possible message that its continuing crimes against humanity are not acceptable and will no longer be tolerated. They are calling for a universal arms embargo and the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate crimes against humanity and war crimes. They are also calling for more humanitarian aid and protection for the displaced peoples receiving sanctuary in Thailand.

Pray: the world would no longer ignore the suffering in Burma, and for God to release the country into physical and spiritual freedom. (2Sam.22:7)

More: <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=report&id=125&rnd=0.0109064>

■ World: Thirty Days movement

Millions of Christians around the world are participating in the largest ongoing intercession for the Muslim world as they pray for Muslims for 30 days. This prayer movement began in the Middle East in 1992 when believers heard God's call to intercede for Muslims during the Islamic season of Ramadan. Today globally, Christians are setting aside the 30 days of Ramadan to pray specifically for Muslims and see precious souls set free from the bondage of Islam and introduced to the Saviour of all mankind. The '30 Days' movement emphasises God's love for Muslims, encouraging all believers to cultivate a spirit of humility, love, respect and service toward Muslims. For more information and to download the 30 Day Prayer Guide click the more button, for Prayer Alert Ramadan INSIGHT go to: <http://www.prayer-alert.net/info/Ramadan2910-1.pdf>

Pray: that Ramadan 2010 will become a window of opportunity for the Holy Spirit to speak to Muslims and open their eyes to the salvation available only in Jesus Christ. (Eph.1:17-18)

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

■ Maldives: Poor religious freedom

After Saudi Arabia, the Maldives is the only nation that claims a 100-percent Muslim population. The Indian Ocean archipelago has more than 70,000 expatriate workers representing several non-Islamic religions, including Christianity, but those who intermingle must exercise caution. 'If you engage any Maldivian in a discussion on Christianity and the person reports it to authorities you can be in trouble,' said a source who requested anonymity. 'A Maldivian youth studying in Sri Lanka became a Christian recently but when his parents came to know about it they took him away. We have not heard from him since then.' According to President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom no religion other than Islam should be allowed in the Maldives. Public practise of the Christian religion is prohibited. In 1998 all known Christian foreigners who were suspected of missionary work were expelled and some indigenous Christians were arrested. Christian missionaries are not allowed. The collective identity of the people of the Maldives is Islam.

Pray: for Christians to be wise and more intentional in sharing God's love with their Muslim neighbours and fellow workers. (Jas.2:24)

More: <http://www.persecution.com.au/news.asp?pid=1&id=609>

■ INSIGHT ARTICLE: Afghanistan hazards for Christian workers

The Asia Evangelical Alliance has condemned Taliban's slaying of ten aid workers in Afghanistan. See:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/asia.evangelical.alliance.condemns.slaying.of.aid.workers.in.afghanistan/26458.htm>

The bodies of a Briton, six Americans, a German, and two Afghan interpreters were discovered in northern Afghanistan. Media reported that the aid workers were associated with the International Assistance Mission (IAM), a non-profit Christian NGO working in Afghanistan since 1966. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the killings saying the medical workers were 'foreign spies' and were spreading Christianity. Executive Director of IAM spoke of the 'senseless killing of people who have done nothing but serve the poor.' This week's INSIGHT ARTICLE comes from a Christian NGO in Afghanistan.

Pray: for humanitarian workers protection in Afghanistan and other countries under Taliban influence. (Dt.5:32-33)

Info: <http://www.prayer-alert.net/info/Afghanistanconcerns2.pdf>

■ **Pakistan: Rapes of Christian girls escalating**

Three Muslim men raped a 16-year-old girl at gunpoint on July 21 and her father was later kidnapped and tortured. He was working the fields when three men who work for his Muslim employer overpowered his daughter at their home, dragged her into one of the rooms at gunpoint and raped her. The following evening in a different district more than a half dozen madrassa students gang-raped a 12-year-old schoolgirl. Her teacher overheard one student saying, 'We will teach these Christians a lesson they will never forget.' Seven or eight of them then raped the girl while the others looked on. Local police admitted to Compass Direct they were under pressure from Muslim leaders and extremists to refrain from filing a report. The Centre for Legal Aid said Muslim landowners and their relatives see Christian girls or women as their chattel. Day by day the rate of rapes of Christian girls is escalating instead of plunging.

Pray: that God would comfort and strengthen Christians at the times of persecution, and enable them to forgive as they face hatred. (Mat.24:13-14)

More: <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2010/s10080075.htm>

■ **Global: Persecution increases during Ramadan**

For some Christians around the world, Ramadan represents an opportunity to talk about Christ while Muslims are seeking truth, but for believers in mostly Muslim nations, this Islamic holy month is a time to lay low. Open Doors reported there was an upsurge against Christians in the Muslim world during Ramadan last year. Egypt being one of the worst with a church burned to the ground and at least 155 Egyptian Christians arrested for not participating in Ramadan. This year tension rises after Muslims attacked Christians in Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan and other nations just before Ramadan. The potential for a increase in persecution in the next 28 days is high. For Muslim-background believers who have come to Christ from their Islam background, there's extra pressure on them to return to Islam. These new converts have tremendous pressure from their families, including death threats and many have to leave their homes and families.

Pray: for believers protection and ability to recognise opportunities to share Christ - particularly when Muslims have dreams or visions of Jesus. (Joel 2:28)

More: <http://www.mnnonline.org/article/14591>

■ **Pakistan: Humanitarian crisis**

Tens of thousands of villages are still underwater with 17 million acres of desperately needed crops wiped out. This will mean food shortages in the near future for a country so poor that it is dependent on foreign aid to get by even in the good years. Eight million of the 20 million affected have yet to see any aid, and angry citizens complain their government is failing them by not getting them food or transportation. Private boat owners are taking people through the floodwaters, but charging so much that few Pakistanis can pay.

Pray: that neither greed nor compromise thrives in Pakistan, but rather a spirit of humble service would be birthed and permeate throughout disaster relief. (Mt.5:7)

More: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2010/August/Food-Shortages-Next-for-Pakistan-Flood-Victims/>

PRAISE REPORTS

■ **Armenia: The POWER OF GOD manifest**

Despite opposition David Hathaway spoke to encourage the believers and to pray for victory over all opposition in an Armenian evangelistic outreach. Four thousand people prayed Our Father Your Kingdom come Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. And God's will was done with people saved and signs and wonders following.- A 10 year old tumour the size of ping-pong ball on a ladies left jaw vanished! A cancer tumour on a child's back completely disappeared A grandmother testified for her 4 year old crippled granddaughter who couldn't walk and was healed! An 18 year old pain in a mans head disappeared. Five tumours on a young mans head completely gone! A broken left arm healed! A skin disease of open wounds on a ladies hands and feet now perfect flesh. - These are just a few of the recorded miracles; for more faith building encouragement click the more button below.

Praise: God for doing great things in Armenia, and pray that His fire will fall on all who step out in the ministry of evangelism and prayer. (Ac.2:21)

More: <http://www.propheticvision.org.uk/MediaResources/121/PV57UK.pdf>

■ **Skateboarding priest in Hungary**

A Hungarian Catholic priest has become an internet sensation for spreading the word of God - from his skateboard. A video of Reverend Zoltan Lendavi has become a YouTube hit. The video shows 45-year-old Lendavi, in full clerical dress outside his church in Gaborjanhaza, a small village on Hungary's border with Slovenia. Father Lendavi, whose first skateboard is said to have featured the Papal coat of arms, said he believed his skateboarding could help encourage more youngsters to go to church. He learnt his skateboarding skills when he was a teenager, but it wasn't until he became a priest, he realised he could use his skills to help youngsters find God by spreading the word from his wheels. He said he got the idea from Saint John Bosco, an Italian priest and educator in the 19th century who dedicated his life to improving the lives of youngsters and used games as part of their education.

Praise: that the Spirit continues to work in mysterious ways. (Col.4:3)

More: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1303996/Zoltan-Lendavi-YouTube-hit-Skateboarding-priest-Hungary.html>

PRAYER FORUM OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

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