



# PRAYER ALERT...



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

### ■ World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on 24 October 2010. It is the special day each year when, through Mission, Catholics across the world reach out in global solidarity to its younger and struggling members. It is the day when Catholics across England and Wales help the Churches of Africa and Asia in their responsibility of building faith communities, as well as supporting their 16,152 health care facilities, 4,346 orphanages, 2,848 homes for the elderly and disabled, 19,020,871 Primary Schools plus 9,875,709 Secondary and High School pupils. Pope Benedict XVI, in his message for World Mission Sunday 2010, wrote: 'The month of October, with the celebration of World Mission Sunday, offers to the entire People of God an opportunity to renew the commitment to proclaim the Gospel and to give pastoral activities greater missionary perspective.'

**Pray:** for all those who give and work to support mission around the world. (Jos.22:3)

**More:** [http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/media\\_centre/press\\_releases/press\\_releases\\_2010/World-Mission-Sunday-A-definite-service](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/media_centre/press_releases/press_releases_2010/World-Mission-Sunday-A-definite-service)

### ■ Young black generation should not blame Britain

Dr John Sentamu said colonial powers were not solely to blame for 'Africa's ills', and warned the current generation there were too many black people in jail and urged them to turn their backs on violence. He also said the 'worship' of celebrity culture was not a path to success. In interviews which coincided with Black History Month, he said: 'Work hard at your education, stay focused and don't sit around waiting for success to be delivered to you on a plate, because it won't be. Don't blame someone else; for you have the energy, potential and creativity so use it for the good of humankind. Don't waste it. Your future success does not lie in guns, gangs and knives or in the worship of celebrities, but in the pursuit of study and hard work and in valuing who you are under God - wonderfully and fearfully created in his image.'

**Pray:** for God to reach out to those youngsters for whom gang culture is the only way of life they know. (Eze.34:16)

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/8072362/Archbishop-of-York-young-black-generation-should-not-blame-Britain.html>

### ■ Regret over bishop's conversion to Rome

A traditionalist Anglican group has voiced regret after an Anglo-Catholic bishop said he would convert to Rome. The Bishop of Fulham, John Broadhurst, has become the fourth Anglican bishop to make the announcement. He intends joining the Roman Catholic Church because of his opposition to the way the Church of England plans to introduce women bishops. Meanwhile, a Kent Anglican congregation has become the first to take up the Pope's offer to convert to Catholicism. The Catholic Group on the CofE's General Synod said it deeply regretted the decision by Bishop Broadhurst. The Catholic Group said it was determined to stay in the Church of England and fight for a better deal for Anglicans who did not want to serve under women bishops. In a surprise announcement yesterday, Dr Rowan Williams said he wanted to establish a new joint group to oversee the conversion process. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/8076741/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-moves-to-flush-out-Anglicans-plotting-to-defect-to-Rome.html>

**Pray:** for unity led by the Holy Spirit so that we can focus on spreading the Gospel message. (Phl.1:27)

**More:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11559782>

#### ■ Youth need friends not rules

A diet of 'Bible stories and rules to follow' is not preparing youngsters to deal adequately with the dilemmas of the real world and that's why many are leaving the Church. Churches not being outward-looking communities and a general lack of care once they had left the youth group were also cited as reasons for the departures. Instead churches should be looking at being inclusive communities for all, ensuring that all are cared for uniquely and where young people are given space to grow and question without fear of failure. These were some of the key findings of the Baptist Union of Great Britain's Younger Leaders' Forum, which met at King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton last weekend. 'Many people I spoke to said Church had not prepared them for the real world,' said Mr Eddison, YLF member from Yorkshire. 'They needed help in coming to moral choices, rather than being told what the answer is.'

**Pray:** for the good practice by some churches in meeting the needs of young people would extend nationwide. (Ps.144:12)

**More:** <http://www.baptisttimes.co.uk/news1.htm>

#### ■ Wesley, the poor and the cuts

Alison Tomlin, President of the Methodist Conference, addressed a rally organised by the Trade Union Congress at London's Methodist Central Hall saying: 'John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church wrote about a press that stigmatised the poor, he wrote of politicians who did not wish to look at the concerns of the poor, and who continually blamed the poor for their own fate. The past ten to fifteen years of boom have benefited some sections of society but not the poorest. The task the Government has set itself of cutting the deficit in a short space of time while not harming the most vulnerable is a difficult one, some may say an impossible one. We shall wait and see, but the initial signs are not promising. Methodists support a wide range of views about deficit reduction. It is possible to be a Christian and a member of almost any political party.'

**Pray:** that the Government's Spending Review will enable communities to support their deserving poor. (Mt.19:21)

**More:** <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/13367>

#### ■ Flying the flag for Islam and Hinduism

Local councils are flying the flag for Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism to mark days in those faiths' calendars, but church groups have faced opposition simply for placing posters in public libraries. The plethora of causes supported by local councils was revealed in a new survey for The Sunday Telegraph. See this must read report: <http://www.christian.org.uk/wp-content/downloads/marginchristians.pdf> It shows that as well as flying the homosexual rainbow flag at least once a year, Brighton and Hove Council also hoist the Transgender Pride flag on Transgender Day in November. In Brighton last year a Sunday school teacher was told she couldn't put up a poster at her local library to advertise a church children's event because it 'promoted religion'. The survey also revealed that councils are showing endorsement for such diverse occasions as Rastafarian days, the Tibetan Independence Day and the winter and summer solstices, while a Druid flag is hoisted by a Leicestershire council.

**Pray:** that as Christians we are given divine strength and guidance to fight back against marginalisation. (Ro.10:14)

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/councils-happy-to-fly-the-flag-for-islam-and-hinduism/>

#### ■ Outrage over BBC's new lesbian show

A controversial new BBC lesbian drama which showed two women having sex next to a corpse has left TV viewers appalled. BBC 3's Lip Service, aimed at viewers as young as 16, began airing this week and has attracted complaints from scores of viewers. Actress Laura Fraser, who plays a character called Cat, said: 'I started to feel like I was making a porno film. At the end of a day I was thinking 'what am I doing for a living?' The BBC describes Lip Service as being a 'bold' drama 'about the sex lives and love affairs of twenty-something lesbians living in contemporary Glasgow'. The show has attracted a number of complaints, one viewer describing the funeral parlour sex scene as 'stomach churning'. Harriet Braun, the show's creator, claims that the show is as realistic as possible. She said: 'It was important, I wanted it to reflect real life.'

**Pray:** that the BBC comes to recognise that it should set standards rather than follow minority foibles. (1Ti.6:20)

**More:** <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/viewers-outraged-over-bbcs-new-lesbian-show/>

## EUROPE

#### ■ 'Multikulti' has failed in Germany

Germany's attempts to build a post-war multicultural society have 'utterly failed', the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, has said. She broke a long standing taboo in Germany to address the immigration issue in a speech at Potsdam near Berlin. Mrs Merkel told a meeting of the youth wing of her party at the weekend: 'Multikulti, the concept that we are now living side by side and are happy about it, this approach has failed, utterly.' She spoke days after a poll showed that a third of all Germans viewed immigrants as welfare cheats. Mrs Merkel said: 'We feel bound to the Christian image of humanity. That is what defines us. Those who do not accept this are in the wrong place here.' Mindful of the legacy of the Second World War and racial policies that cost millions their lives, German politicians have tended only to speak in broad positive terms of the 'multikulti' society.

**Pray:** that Germany continues to emphasise its Christian heritage to all. (Ro.15:16)

**More:** <http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Multikulti+failed+Germany+says+chancellor+Angela+Merkel/3684846/story.html#ixzz12mKfCX7>

### ■ Pope's effort to revive Christianity

Pope Benedict XVI has formally created a new Vatican office to revive Christianity in Europe, his latest attempt to counter secular trends in traditionally Christian countries. In a decree, Pope Benedict said the new office would promote Church doctrine, use the media to get the Church's message out and mobilize missionary-type activities. But even on its first day of existence, the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization ran into a snag: The four-page decree instituting the office was issued in only Latin and Italian. The head of the new office, Monsignor Rino Fisichella, stressed that he planned to have language sections in his department to deal with the faithful in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, German and Slavic languages. He denied the creation of the office was a mere bureaucratic attempt to fix a complex cultural phenomenon, saying the Pope had made an astute, pastoral decision to focus attention on a growing problem that had preoccupied popes for decades.

**Pray:** for the Pope's initiative to be successful, leading nations to follow Christian precepts. (Eph.3:8)

**More:** <http://detnews.com/article/20101012/LIFESTYLE04/10120399/Pope-outlines-latest-effort-revive-to-Christianity>

## WORLDWIDE

### ■ Bhutan: Christian imprisoned for film show

A court in predominantly Buddhist Bhutan sentenced Prem Singh Gurung, a 40-year-old ethnic Nepalese Christian, to three years in prison for 'attempting to promote civil unrest' by screening films on Christianity. Gurung was arrested after neighbours complained he was inviting villagers to watch Nepali movies, then between each feature he showed films on Christianity. Government attorneys could not prove that Gurung promoted civil unrest so he was charged with an attempt to promote civil unrest, and violation of a Bhutan law requiring authorities to examine all films before public screening. While Gurung has the right to appeal it is unclear if he had the resources to take that course. Over 75 per-cent of the people in Bhutan are Buddhist. In the south of Bhutan there are 6,000 Bhutanese Christians. In this landlocked nation between India and China Christians are not officially acknowledged. No Christian institution is officially registered and believers practice their faith in their homes.

**Pray:** for Christians and house churches to be strengthened and for Christian material to be available through the media networks. (Ps.18:6)

**More:** <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/12469/27133/>

### ■ Afghanistan: Many election votes invalid

Election officials will throw out 1.3 million ballots from last month's parliamentary election due to fraud; and investigators still need to rule on over 2,000 serious complaints affecting results before they can be finalized at the end of October, at the earliest. The Afghan election commission has also told investigators to look into allegations that 220 candidates have cheated or been responsible for misconduct on election day. Throwing out so many votes could inflame tensions in provinces where different ethnic groups already have an uneasy relationship. The insecure Pashtun areas had a very low turnout. The credibility of the latest vote in the Afghan parliament may colour President Barack Obama's review of Washington's Afghanistan war strategy in December.

**Pray:** for God's mercy to fall on Afghanistan, for a united people under Christ's banner, for leaders who minister justice. (Is.59:1)

**More:** [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h1bTvxfDd7Us8-\\_h44VwbO7m8KVw?docId=b56a43e842a3494a9aaf10bcd2fa33b4](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h1bTvxfDd7Us8-_h44VwbO7m8KVw?docId=b56a43e842a3494a9aaf10bcd2fa33b4)

### ■ Iraq: Refugees regret returning

'Most refugees who have returned to Iraq have since regretted their move after finding that they faced persistent threats to their security' a UN refugee agency said on Tuesday. The survey found 34% said they were uncertain whether they would stay permanently in Iraq and would consider seeking asylum in neighbouring countries once again if conditions do not improve. Returnees highlighted instances of 'explosions, harassment, military operations and kidnapping' as evidence of the insecurity. But many also said they had been forced to return to Iraq because they could no longer afford the high cost of living in asylum countries. More than three-quarters of returnees did not go back to their original place of residence but sought shelter with their relatives, friends or rented other accommodation.

**Pray:** that Christians in Iraq have opportunities to come alongside those searching for security and hope. (Jer.31:17)

**More:** <http://www.alarabonline.org/english/display.asp?fname=\2010\10\10-19\zalsoz\912.htm&dismode=x&ts=19-10-201012:53:37>

### ■ Brazil: Drought

Brazil has extended emergency drought measures across the Amazon State as key waterways and rivers are completely parched in the worst drought in decades. The seven months drought has affected 40,000 people in communities depending on the rainforest for sustenance and the government has airlifted six tonnes of food and 200 tonnes of donations to 25 stricken villages. Aid delivery has been slow due to the low water levels in rivers preventing large vessels from navigating them, consequently transportation can only be done by canoe. In some places, people are running out of food and many people are suffering intestinal problems caused by poor water quality. The drought is an extreme weather event resulting from El Nino in late 2009 with its fallout being felt this year.

**Pray:** for God to show entrepreneurs, farmers and governments His way forward as they work with the earth's resources. (Ps.65:9)

**More:** <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/americas/2010/10/2010101704539981971.html>

### ■ Philippines: Super typhoon leaves 200,000 homeless

Typhoon Megi left a trail of destruction in the northern Philippines before gathering strength and heading towards China. Officials there said at least 200,000 people remained homeless with the cost to infrastructure estimated to have caused more than US\$100 million in damages. The storm is described as the worst for many years. Taiwan's central government has mobilized 31,610 soldiers nationwide to be on alert as Typhoon Megi moves near the island on its way to China. In Southeast China hundreds of thousands of people have been evacuated from coastal areas, disaster relief authorities said on Thursday. Megi is forecast to make landfall on the east coast in Guangdong Province around Saturday, according to the Fujian Provincial Meteorological Department.

**Pray:** that the thousands made homeless and injured by this typhoon would quickly receive exactly what is needed. (Ps.10:14)

**More:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11581196>

### ■ Urgent Prayer Request: From YWAM Haiti

An urgent prayer request from Terry Snow, founder and national director of YWAM Haiti. We'd like to call people to prayer for our city and the countryside surrounding it. There seems to be an outbreak of some kind of a water-borne disease where people who contract it come down with severe diarrhea resulting in death within 24-48 hours. We do not have concrete numbers of how many have actually died to date, only scattered reports from Haitians seeking aid and purified water saying; 'Many, Many, Many people are dead or sick!' The hospital in St Marc is filling up with cases and our clinic down the road has been made ready for overflow.

**Pray:** that God would hear our prayers and for a breakthrough by the health professionals to combat this outbreak.

**More:** [http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display\\_art.html?ID=8326](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=8326)

### ■ World: Ecumenical leader reaches out to global Evangelicals

The head of the World Council of Churches has reached out to a global gathering of Evangelicals, saying Christians of different traditions need to learn from each other to participate together in God's mission. Rev Olav Fykse Tveit said 'We are called to be one, to be reconciled, so that the world may believe that God reconciles the world to himself in Christ. This historic invitation is a sign that God has called all of us to the ministry of reconciliation and to evangelism.' The WCC and the Lausanne Movement have often been seen as representing different strands of Christianity - the WCC being seen as focusing more on social action, and the Lausanne movement known for its promotion of evangelism.

**Pray:** that the prayer of Jesus for His people to be united will be fulfilled at this time globally. (Jn.17:21-22)

**More:** <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/13368>

## PRAISE REPORTS

### ■ African Christians pray for US revival

Tens of thousands of African Christians gathered to pray for a spiritual awakening in the U.S. The Africa Prays for America event drew an estimated 50,000 believers to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and was hosted by the African Strategic Leadership Prayer Network (ASLPN), a coalition of African church leaders in the U.S. and abroad. ASLPN leaders say, the United States has been sending missionaries to Africa for a long time and now African Christians have returned the favour. 'We recognize that America desperately needs revival, and if there's one thing Africa can give and do for America, it's to pray,' says Bishop Darlington Johnson from Liberia.

**Praise:** God for the thousands of African believers sent to America on a missionary journey and join them in the cry for a spiritual shift and new awakening in America. (Eph.5:14)

**More:** <http://www.charismamag.com/index.php/news/29393-african-christians-to-pray-for-us-revival->

### ■ Prosecution of Pro-Life protesters dropped

Two pro-life protesters are celebrating after hearing that they will not be facing a criminal prosecution for a silent vigil outside an abortion clinic. The two Christian protesters, Andy Stephenson, 35, and Katherine Sloane, 19, were arrested twice by police in Brighton this summer for standing outside the BPAS clinic in silent protest with a banner showing an early aborted child. The police asked them to take down their banner but on both occasions they were arrested after they refused. Mr Stephenson tried to explain to the police that they had a lawful right to protest. On the second occasion they were held for fourteen hours at Brighton police station and questioned under caution. Today they heard that the threatened criminal prosecution against them had been dropped. Mr Stephenson said: 'We are very pleased that the right decision has been made. We have to ask why we were held in a police station for fourteen hours and why our banners were confiscated. We will continue to campaign to highlight the dangers of abortion and the killings that happen at these clinics.'

**Praise:** God and ask Him to show His people many other peaceful ways to demonstrate against ungodly laws. (Ps.139:13)

**More:** <http://www.ccfon.org/view.php?id=1197>

## PRAYER FORUM OF BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

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