

PRAYER ALERT...

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PRAISE REPORTS

■ Thousands of Muslims receive 'Bible Chip'

Bringing the Gospel to the Middle East is a risky enterprise, but the Bible Chip, developed by Bible League International and the Digital Bible Society, reduces this risk significantly. It's a small data card of the size of a stamp that contains several Bible translations, audio files, hundreds of books, and over 200 hours of video on evangelism and discipleship, all in Arabic. It's programmed not to leave any traces on a PC or mobile phone. Wagih Abdelmassih, pastor of the Agape Arabic Christian Centre (AACC) in London, calls the Bible Chip an answer to prayer. He distributed thousands of copies to Arabic speaking visitors to last summer's Olympic Games. While printed Bibles would not be easily accepted, the Bible Chip turned out to be a much wanted gift. During one-on-one conversations a total of 12,600 Arab Muslims received a Bible Chip. Source: Joel news

Praise: [God for the opportunities we have to use digital media to spread His Word. \(2Tim.2:8-9\)](#)

More: <http://digitalbiblesociety.com/DBS2010/english/index.htm>

■ Update on revival spreading throughout Egypt

During the first weekend in Oct, 10,000 young people gathered in the desert 60 miles north of Cairo to sing, pray and worship the Lord. (See Prayer Alert 43-2012) The youth gathering was followed up with an even larger event at the same location - on Oct 25-28 'Count It Right' Christian rally which drew 45,000 people. Included in the numbers reported by a Christian leader are: • 25,000 - estimated number of people who gave their lives to Jesus: • 8,000 - cards filled out by people who requested follow-up visits by churches: • 2-3 million - estimated number of people who followed the rally on two Christian satellite channels: • 1,000 - children participating in a special programme prepared for them: • 5,000 - people attending a one-day parallel festival on Oct. 25 in the Coptic Orthodox Cave Church: • 6,000 - people attending another similar gathering from different churches on Oct 28 in Assiut, a city located six hours south of Cairo. 'Big numbers, but most important of all, a great harvest!' Source: via email. See also 'More' link.

Praise: [God for the work of the Holy Spirit among the Egyptian people. \(2Cor.13:14\)](#)

More: <http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5138667adad5222600bae0e66&id=80671a63ac&e=947657d957#mctoc1>

BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

■ BBC rejecting Christian roots

When the BBC was founded in 1927, its vision statement said, 'nation shall speak peace unto nation', which was inspired by the book of Micah, 'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.' In 1934 a new official motto was adopted for 15 years before reverting to the original. This time the motto was 'Quaecunque', the Latin word for 'whatsoever', inspired by Philipians 4:8 'Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.' Philipians had also been referenced in

dedicating the BBC Broadcasting House in 1931. The dedication reads (in Latin) This Temple of the Arts and Muses is dedicated to Almighty God by the first Governors of Broadcasting in the year 1931.

Pray: that the BBC would return to its Christian roots and tread a path of wisdom and righteousness. (Php.4:8)

More: <http://godandpoliticsuk.org/author/godandpoliticsuk/>

■ Christianity not necessarily for public good

The Charity Commission, Britain's charity watchdog has put the charitable status of the nation's churches in question after it ruled that a congregation in Devon did not exist for public benefit. Under charity law, churches and other organisations must show that their existence has some form of 'public benefit.' But in a letter to the Plymouth Brethren, the Charity Commission explained its refusal to grant charitable status to one of the denomination's churches in Devon. Head of legal services for the Commission, Kenneth Dibble, stated: 'This decision makes it clear that there was no presumption that religion generally, or at any more specific level, is for the public benefit, even in the case of Christianity or the Church of England.' A committee of MPs is currently investigating the Charity Commission. Some of these MPs have expressed concern that the Charity Commission is engaged in a 'politically correct' campaign aimed at suppressing Christianity.

Pray: that the investigation into the Charity Commission will over-rule and the understanding that the role of churches is not of public benefit should be reversed. (Heb.8:3)

More: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/christianity-not-necessarily-for-public-good-says-charity-commission>

■ Divorce causes children harm long into adulthood

Children suffer through to adulthood after their parents divorce, a new study has revealed. The research showed family breakdown during childhood was 'consistently associated with psychological distress in adulthood during people's early 30s'. The report also warned about the consequences of changes to the traditional family structure of one mum and one dad. It said, 'more freedom also means less certainty, and this has led to concerns about the impact of family instability on the health and well-being of both children and adults'. Professor Mel Bartley, who edited the paper, said: 'Children whose parents remain married throughout the early childhood years are less likely to suffer from breathing problems such as asthma, to become overweight, or to be injured in accidents by the time they are five years old than children who have experienced a more unstable family situation.' The report was funded by the Government's Economic and Social Research Council.

Pray: for families in crisis and for greater stability in marriages today. (Eph.4:32)

More: <http://www.christian.org.uk/news/divorce-causes-children-harm-long-into-adulthood-says-study/>

■ 75,000 children without homes at Christmas

More than 75,000 children in Britain will wake up on Christmas Day without a home, warns the housing and homelessness charity Shelter as spending on homelessness falls. Shelter is highlighting the figures to raise awareness of the increasing numbers of homeless families in Britain this Christmas and is particularly concerned about the number of families forced to live in bed and breakfast accommodation, which has increased by 57 per cent in the last 12 months. This can mean parents and children living together in one room, with limited cooking or laundry facilities in conditions that are often appalling. This year more than 3,000 children will spend Christmas Day living in this way, says Shelter. In Dec 2011, Shelter helped more than 1,000 people facing homelessness during the festive period. This Christmas, the number of people with nowhere else to turn is expected to be even higher. The main triggers for homelessness include relationship breakdowns, job losses and landlords ending rental tenancies.

Pray: for all those who will be homeless this Christmas that God through His people will be their Provider. (Tit.3:14)

More: <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/17368>

■ Catastrophic failings in schizophrenia care

A Schizophrenia Commission report said care for people with schizophrenia requires a major overhaul. Patients spend too long in 'demoralised and dysfunctional' hospital wards costing £12bn a year. Schizophrenia affects thinking, feeling and behaviour. There is a need for more early intervention teams to help people before their hallucinations or delusions become severe. Teams are being cut or diluted at the moment and secure care took 19% of the 2011 mental health budget with many people staying too long in expensive units. In inner cities secure units were compared to mental institutions with nurses often overwhelmed. Better use of 'recovery houses' providing an alternative to hospital admission are needed. Schizophrenia affects 1 in every 100 people. Schizophrenia is believed to make people violent, but people with schizophrenia are more likely to be victims of violence by others. Pray for people with mental health problems to have the same dignified care as anyone else.

Pray: that the Government would consider mental health a priority and improve out-patient care and in-patient units. (Is.32:4, 17-18)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-20300506>

■ Operation Christmas Child

This year's Operation Christmas Child campaign ends on Sunday and Samaritan's Purse has called churches to make a final push to reach a target of 100 million gift-filled shoeboxes to send to needy children in over 100 countries. Across the UK many churches are creatively organising coffee mornings, special concerts and shoebox parties. This year saw new churches and individuals doing shoeboxes for the first time. Many churches are finding it's a great way to reach out to schools and communities, encouraging people in a very compassionate way to give at Christmas time. People who wouldn't normally come to church or speak to people at their church are getting involved in Operation Christmas Child.

Pray: that this and similar initiatives will launch churches, schools and communities into being generously involved in global mission and global giving. (Pr.28:27a)

More: <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2012/s12110062.htm>

■ Military chaplains could be sacked for opposing gay marriage

The Defence Secretary, Philip Hammond, was last night seeking legal advice after the warning in a letter from Sir Gerald Howarth. Sir Gerald, who left the Ministry of Defence in the Government reshuffle in September, warned that the planned change in the law could make the position of some chaplains who disagree with the change untenable. He claimed that they could even find themselves facing disciplinary action for voicing reservations about the redefinition of marriage while speaking in other churches. Although ordained by churches, military chaplains are employees of the armed forces. Hammond's concerns come after a legal opinion for the Coalition For Marriage campaign by human rights barrister Aidan O'Neill questioned the position of hospital chaplains. Colin Hart, director of the Coalition for Marriage, said: 'We have consistently warned that ripping up the centuries-old definition of marriage is a poorly thought out policy that will have many serious consequences.'

Pray: for all the military chaplains in their valuable work. Pray also that the ramifications of any change in the definition of marriage will be fully thought through and addressed before any change is made. (Mat.5:11)

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9673488/Military-chaplains-could-be-sacked-for-opposing-gay-marriage-says-former-minister.html>

EUROPE

■ European workers stage austerity protests

Workers across the European Union have staged a series of protests and strike against rising unemployment and austerity measures. Organisers of the strike urged national leaders to abandon austerity and address growing social anxiety. Strikes were in Spain, Greece, Portugal and Italy, with other protests planned in Belgium, Germany, France and some eastern EU states. Airlines across Europe have been cancelling and rescheduling flights. Spain and Portugal have been particularly hit, and airlines are recommending passengers to check the schedules before travelling to airports. The European Trade Union Confederation urged workers to walk out on Wednesday. The Confederation's Judith Kirton-Darling told the BBC that austerity was not working. 'It's increasing inequalities, it's increasing the social instability in society and it's not resolving the economic crisis,' she said. Some 40 groups from 23 countries were involved in Wednesday's demonstrations.

Pray: for the governments of the nations as they seek ways of mitigating the effects of the austerity measures and pray for all those who are suffering because of these problems. (Col.4:1)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-20320993>

■ French media ignores protest against radical Islam

A patriotic march for French values and culture, and against radical Islam, was virtually blacked out by France's politically correct media. Over the weekend, protestors chanted against Islamic fascism and about the French victory over Arab invaders in 732 AD. It was the first march of its kind in France. A broad coalition of groups from across France banded together because they feel they're losing their country to radical Islam, Sharia law, and a politically correct establishment that encourages the spread of Islam. 'Sharia law is slowly being enforced in our country and we want to march here to protest that because our government is doing nothing,' one French demonstrator said. France has more Muslims than any other European nation. Some believe there could be as many as 15 million Muslims in France, although the official figure is much lower.

Pray: that despite the lack of response by the French media, the message will get to the people. (1Cor.1:18)

More: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2012/November/French-Media-Blacks-Out-Protest-against-Radical-Islam/>

WORLDWIDE

■ Nigeria: Military moves on Niger Delta

Since Sunday there has been a massive military operation as the Nigerian Navy starts flushing out crude oil thieves who are bleeding the country's oil industry through illegal bunkering. The Navy deployed eight warships, six gunboats and three helicopters, including aircraft used for maritime patrol by the Air Force. Oil theft in the Niger Delta on a daily basis, costs the government five billion US dollars in oil revenue annually. Thieves also engage in social responsibilities by building roads, hospitals, schools and engage in community development projects to protect their interests in local communities. Security sources suspect influential Nigerians are behind the operations of oil thieves who are usually heavily armed. Often the ruptured pipelines are not detected by affected oil companies. Foreign collaborators help the thieves to sell the crude oil and also procure arms which are then smuggled into the country.

Pray: this military operation will not only be successful, but lead to more strategic coordinated action against corruption. (Ps.12:5)

More: http://www.cameroon-tribune.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=71052:nigerian-military-moves-against-oil-thieves&catid=39:politique&Itemid=5

■ Israel: Air raids on Gaza

Israel launched three air raids on the Gaza Strip on Tuesday as military top brass weighed a stronger response to rocket fire from the Palestinian territory. The targets included a training camp of a military wing of Hamas, an arms dump and two rocket launch sites hours after Gaza militants fired six rockets at southern Israel residents. The number of rockets fired on Monday dropped significantly from Sunday when dozens of missiles prompted Israel to stage a series of overnight raids. It was unclear if the slowdown was a step towards a more decisive truce, or a lull. The latest flare-up killed six Palestinians and wounded eight Israelis. Benjamin Netanyahu warned, 'Israel has the complete right and obligation to protect its citizens. We'll not sit with our arms folded in the face of repeated, almost daily, attacks.' The violence coming amid an Israeli election campaign raises concern of a broader Israeli military campaign.

Pray: that this violence will not escalate. (Ez.26:15)

More: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/464959/israel-launches-retaliatory-air-raids-on-gaza/>

■ Afghanistan: Foreign workers

A local believer writes, 'Afghanistan is a difficult place to live for foreign workers, with hot summers, extremely cold winters and constant concerns over security. In recent years foreign organizations have faced increasing levels of bureaucracy, taxation, and corruption. Nevertheless many Christian workers continue to serve in any way they can because God has called them. Pray for the safety of the workers and their families.' As countries wind down their military mission in Afghanistan the federal government is still writing the policy, working conditions and entitlements of hundreds of diplomats and other public servants who were sent there to work alongside soldiers. The policy is a symbol of the new reality of civilians' key role in securing peace and stability in conflict areas, an unprecedented synergy of military and civilian expertise that governments everywhere are still learning to manage.

Pray: for those working to reduce poverty, those bringing democratic development, those promoting good governance and for opportunities for believers to share their faith during and after the transition. (Ps.40:1-3)

More: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/After+decade+working+side+side+with+soldiers+Afghanistan+diplomats+till/7536674/story.html>

■ China: At a crossroads

Academics agree, 'China is at a crossroads'. A new leadership will establish a distinctive character of its own. The new president Xi Jinping knows the West in a way none of his predecessors did. His daughter is studying in the United States and he has spent time there too. He will not act on his own and needs to persuade the rest of the Party leadership to go along with him, but he may represent a shift to change. Younger people in the cities don't recognise the old Communist leadership which is irrelevant to their lives and futures. The Chinese Church also has been changing - on Tuesday Christian leaders and a number of Bible Society donors joined government officials from the State of Administration for Religious Affairs for a ceremony celebrating over 60 million Bibles having now been distributed throughout China. See: <http://au.christiantoday.com/article/100-million-bibles-printed-in-china/14416.htm>

Pray: for God's hand to guide China through this season of change into a new identity and Christian inheritance. (Ps.125:3 & Pr.29:4)

More: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-20309315>

■ East Africa: Violence spreading

Dozens of Christian worship places have been destroyed by Islamic extremists in Tanzania and church leaders are fleeing its heavily Muslim island of Zanzibar as the persecution of Christians spreads throughout East Africa. 'About 25 churches and convents have been destroyed since May. This destruction is mostly confined to Zanzibar where the population is 99% Muslim and openly hostile to Christians,' explained William Stark, regional manager for Africa of advocacy group International Christian Concern. The latest incidents of violence broke out after a Muslim boy encouraged a Christian boy to urinate on a Qur'an. 'As a result of this the Christian boy was threatened with being beheaded and at least five churches were destroyed,' Stark said.

Pray: that Christians in this area of East Africa would be free of oppression and experience the protection of God over their lives. (Ps.119:45-46)

More: <http://www.worthynews.com/11856-dozens-of-churches-destroyed-in-tanzania-east-africa-violence-spreading>

■ Iran: IMF sending 'Currency Team'

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will send a team to Iran in 2013 for regular consultations regarding its crashing currency. However, an American advocacy group 'United Against Nuclear Iran' (UAN) said the UN and IMF should not undermine the will of the international community and the effects of sanctions imposed in direct response to the Iranian regime's illegal activities. 'The IMF's proposed work in Iran is designed to counter the effects of both the gross mismanagement of the Iranian economy by the regime, and the consequences of international sanctions. But UAN said, 'The IMF's actions are more appropriate for a member state in good standing, not an illegal regime subject to multiple UN Security Council sanctions. The IMF is directly counteracting the effects, and therefore the consequences, of international sanctions. The IMF's cooperation with Iran must end.'

Pray: for God to give Christine Lagarde and the International Monetary Fund wisdom in their dealings with Iran. (Ps.45:4-5)

More: <http://www.cnn.com/id/49812391>

■ Russia: Religious freedom questioned

There is a 'Pattern of Discrimination' emerging in Russia rooted in ideology. The government and the Russian Orthodox Church view the growing dynamic congregations of evangelicals as a threat. The country's constitution states that all religions are equal before the law, but the government is often accused of discriminating against citizens professing faiths other than Orthodox Christianity. Vladimir Ryakhovsky, who runs the Slavic Center for Law & Justice, said that this year the government has given the Russian Orthodox Church 200 building permits and in many cases the government will help fund the new churches. But a recent nightmare destruction of Holy Trinity Evangelical Church by heavy machinery while police watched reflects a threatening pattern against religious freedom. Evangelicals are concerned about the growing influence of the Russian Orthodox Church within the state apparatus and accuses Vladimir Putin of tearing down walls between church and state.

Pray: for the safety and continued increase of congregations facing discrimination for their faith May they continue to meet and share with others the love of Christ. (Is.33:5)

More: <http://www.charismanews.com/world/34538-church-demolished-russias-fading-religious-freedom>

PRAYER FORUM OF THE BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

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