

Prayer Diary for September 2007

Current Community Members: Harry & Dorothy Smith, (Leaders), Norman & Valerie Taylor, Eileen Murphy, Molly Cooper, Jeremy & Naomi Gadd with children *Amy, Alison and Ben*.

Current Helpers: Chelsea Bair (USA), Beni Mereu (Romania), Anaïs Straub (Switzerland), Kate Wünsche (Germany).

Also: Jill Young (bookshop and finances), Aubrey McComb (accounts), Pauline Wilson (kitchen) & Dora South (reception).

N.B. Writing in bold is the topic for Evening Prayers at the Centre.

1. “Hungry We Come”. On the first Saturday of each month, starting today and continuing until next June, we plan to hold a joint day of prayer and fasting for Ireland, with the newly formed Irish Prayer Association (see the flier for more details). You are all very warmly invited to join us and to copy/pass on this invitation to others.

2. Sun. “King of the Kingdom”. Remember all Church leaders re-starting activities this month, praying for a ‘Kingdom’ vision for their areas, and an openness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance and empowering.

3. Ask God’s blessing on our many visitors this month. May their time here be truly refreshing, and may they return to their homes and work encouraged and strengthened.

4. Prayer for Israel. Pray for the Israeli government as negotiations continue with Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, and surrounding Arab States. In view of the disaster following Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza, ask God to work out His will in all decisions taken.

5. Praise God for the generosity which has enabled us to completely refurbish our Bookshop and Worship Area over the holiday period. May He be truly glorified, both by our worship and through the books we sell.

6. Prayer for Ireland. Thank God for a quiet ‘Marching Season’ in the North, and praise Him that the proposed, enlarged ‘Love Ulster’ rally in Dublin this autumn is to be held indoors and not along O’Connell Street.

7. Prayer for Ireland. “I want to pay tribute to the leadership shown by...our First Minister Ian Paisley. I think he has made a very powerful contribution to bringing the position to where it is today.” (Martin McGuinness 17-07-07). Ask God to bless the relationship of these two men.

8. Pray for Lord Eames and Denis Bradley as they head up a study group, looking to see if there is a consensus on how best to deal with Northern Ireland’s past, especially in view of the soaring costs of the present 4 historical investigations (using 40% of police time) the 3,000 unsolved murders, and the deep hurt on both sides (IT12-06-07).

9. Sun. “King of the Kingdom”. Pray for a deep repentance, before God and before men, for all the wrongs that have divided this island for many centuries, without which no true healing can come. Continue to pray for Spirit-inspired action by the Protestant clergy, in response to Harry’s book “Heal Not Lightly”.

10. Prayer for Ireland. Pray for continued good relationships between the UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Dr. Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness. Ask for a wise decision over the high Corporation Tax being paid in the North, compared with that of the Republic (IT 18-07-07).

11. Prayer for Israel. Tonight, at 7pm, the Rev. Gilbert van Dueren from Near East Ministries will be sharing about this ministry, which works with both Jews and Arabs, and offers opportunities for short or longer term ‘working visits’ to the Middle East, especially for young people. You are all warmly invited.

12. Praise God for a useful July North/South Ministerial Council where there was a “spirit of ‘real engagement and spontaneity’ which saw Ministers contributing freely to lively debates simply because they wanted ‘the best advantage for the people they represent’ ” (IT 18-07-07).

13. Prayer for Ireland. Pray for Ministers for Education, Mary Hanafin, in the Republic, and Catriona Ruane, in N. Ireland, asking for wisdom over important decisions about curriculum, transfers between Primary and Secondary Schools, and the development of high level research. Remember Amy Gadd, settling into her new Secondary School.

14. Prayer for Ireland. “An academic study of 667 children ... showed that Protestants and Catholics still live parallel and separate lives, sharing few of their attitudes to everyday issues” (BT 19-06-08). Ask God’s blessing, especially on Integrated Schools in the North and ‘Educate Together’ Primary Schools in the Republic.

15. A 40 Day Worship/Prayer Watch, called “His Isles” starts today – a call to grasp God’s Kingdom perspective for these islands, and France, “laying aside our national preferences...that we may rise as one to fulfil something deeper of our call to Europe and beyond, even to the ‘Apple of His Eye’”. Pray for Beni, who joins us from Romania today.

- 16. Sun. “King of the Kingdom”.** “More than 1,000 young people from Ireland and beyond gathered at Knock this summer for a youth festival...They were invited to have a ‘personal encounter with the risen Lord’... and challenged to enter a relationship with Christ so that they might ‘have life and have it to the full (IN 09-08-07). A Prayer Guidance Centre has also been set up there “to help people meet their Lord in a personal way” through Scripture.
- 17. Prayer for Ireland.** Praise God for increasing confidence in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (IT 06-07-0-7) and pray for the police, in both the North and the Republic, as “Ireland is being used as a gateway for drug smuggling in Europe” (IT 03-06-07). Praise God for some huge drug finds, especially off Cork and in Dublin.
- 18. Prayer for Israel.** Pray for the plight of between 1,000 and 5,000 Sudanese refugees, including some Christians, who have escaped into Israel via the Sinai Peninsula, speaking of serious abuse from Egyptians, and who are now facing deportation back to Egypt. Messianic believers in many places are providing loving help and accommodation.
- 19.** Ask God’s blessing on Kate as she returns to Germany tomorrow to continue her medical studies, and praise Him for the excellent helpers He is sending us. Continue to pray for more, younger Community Members, especially someone to help with maintenance.
- 20. Prayer for Ireland.** Pray against the ‘sexualisation’ of Irish children. “Society is complicit in turning girls into sex objects...Major chain-stores sell g-string and bra sets for girls ranging from 5 to 10 years of age. Branz dolls combine wide-eyed innocence with the clothing and make-up of the prostitute” (IT 21-06-07).
- 21. Prayer for Ireland.** “A new survey shows that teenage girls’ obsession with image is at crisis levels...Eating disorders are threatening the lives of girls as young as 10” (IT 03-07-07). Ask God’s forgiveness for the pressures the adult world is putting on young people, especially through advertising.
- 22.** Ask God’s blessing on the important ministry of those who work with us, Jill Young (bookshop & finances), Aubrey McComb (accounts), Pauline Wilson (kitchen) & Dora South (reception).
- 23. Sun. “King of the Kingdom”.** “Clergy and religious are almost unique in modern society in that they live among the people they work with, especially in deprived urban areas. The parishes they serve often provide the only focus for community, where people can be known and given a sense of belonging” (IT 23-06-07). Pray for the clergy of your area as they face this challenge and opportunity.
- 24. Prayer for Ireland.** Praise God for the completion of the Dublin-Newry Motorway and for the money promised by the Republic to help complete high quality roads linking Dublin, Belfast and Londonderry/Letterkenny. Pray for a safe and responsible use of all our roads, and for growing links all over the island, especially between Prayer Ministries.
- 25. Prayer for Israel.** The situation for Messianic Jews in the Negev town of Arad is increasingly threatening, with women and children being targeted by a fanatical Ultra Orthodox sect. A poster of a pastor’s wife has been published, warning children to avoid her. Pray for protection and much grace.
- 26.** Continue to pray about the UK Draft Human Tissues and Embryos Bill which seeks to legalise the creation of animal-human embryos for research for 14 days, to permit human reproductive cloning, and to remove the obligation on IVF clinics to have regard for the need of any resulting child of a father. Pray for the All Party Parliamentary Pro-life Group as they oppose this bill (www.care.org.uk).
- 27. Prayer for Ireland.** Research published by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency found “young men growing up feel under pressure to prove they are heterosexual and some became sexually active just to prove this” (IT 19-06-07). Pray for Christian parents, teachers and youth leaders as they seek to help young people mature in faith and practice.
- 28. Prayer for Ireland.** The report ‘Travellers’ Last Rights’, 1995-2004, highlights the plight of Irish Travellers, of whom 50% died before their 39th birthday. Pray for the All Ireland Traveller Health Study, recently set up to investigate this situation, where sensitive cultural and lifestyle issues must be faced (IT 16-07-07).
- 29.** With the approach of the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act in the UK, ask that both the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Republic’s Dáil may continue to resist all internal and international pressure to make ‘abortion on demand’ legal.
- 30. Sun. “King of the Kingdom”.** The new Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Dr John Finlay, has taken “Jesus is Lord” as the theme for his term. “I trust that our Church will have the courage...to adapt to the changes in our work and worship” necessary “for us to be oases of faith in the desert of unbelief” (IN 05-06-07).