

Prayer Diary for May 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: Bob Loftus (UK); Josiah Nunziato (USA); Alan & Olly Douglas (UK); Roy & Eileen Taylor (Northern Ireland).

Also: Jill Young (bookshop & 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. Prayer for Israel.** A Messianic pastor reports that the Israeli government is in disarray, with the Prime Minister's approval rating at less than 10%. Meanwhile, hundreds of Hamas fighters have been sent to Iran for high-quality training. Pray for God's protection, and for wisdom in all decisions being taken.
- 2.** "The UK government has cleared the way for a form of creationism to be taught in Britain's schools as part of the religious syllabus. A. McIntosh of Leeds University said, 'We believe that the evolutionary theory should be taught in a critical manner, and some space must be given to credible alternative theories, such as intelligent design' " (IPB 03.04.07).
- 3. "King of the Kingdom".** "See how the lilies of the field grow...I tell you not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these" (Matthew 6: 28, 29). Ask God's blessing on the Horticultural Shows in Dublin and Hillsborough this month. May the beauty of the plants speak to all visitors of a wonderful Creator.
- 4. Prayer for Ireland.** Continue to pray for the High Court judicial review of the Sexual Orientation Regulations to be held from June 4th. Ask that the arguments to be presented by the Christian Institute may be legally compelling and result in the striking down of the Regulations in Northern Ireland. Ask for God's blessing on helper Josiah Nunziato (USA), who arrived here yesterday.
- 5. "Hungry We Come".** Today a group from Transformations Ireland will lead us in praying for the Global Prayer Day in Northern Ireland, which is to be held in several different venues this year. Pray especially for co-ordinator Margaret Clarke. (For more information, see www.transformations-ireland.org)
- 6. Sun. "Before the Throne".** "Humble acknowledgement of the wrongs of the past, and of the failures of all of us, linked to prayer for forgiveness, have the power to open up new and as yet unimaginable sources of renewal and reconciliation among us." (Archbishop Seán Brady, IT 07.04.07) Continue to pray for Spirit-led action, especially by the relevant Protestant churches, resulting from Harry's book "Heal Not Lightly".
- 7. Prayer for Ireland.** Praise God for the "historic" meeting in Stormont on March 26th, and pray for the Northern Ireland Assembly as it starts to function tomorrow, that there may be a genuine willingness on the part of all the MLA's to work together in facing the many challenges ahead for the Province.
- 8. Prayer for Israel.** The abortion rate is very high in Israel. Pray that the many Christian pro-life groups may be used by God to help women with crisis pregnancies to keep their babies and to receive the necessary support they need.
- 9.** "More teenagers become pregnant in the UK than in any other European country. Despite the Teenage Pregnancy Unit's £150 million campaign to reduce pregnancies among young girls, 13,616 girls of 16 [in England and Wales] became pregnant in 2004 – 313 more than the previous year. 45% of them had an abortion" (CARE March 2007).
- 10. "King of the Kingdom".** Thank God for the cordial meeting between Dr. Ian Paisley and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in Dublin. "Could it finally be the spark that leads to people both sides of the border wanting to find out more about each other?" (BT 07.04.07). Pray for the healing of the pain and wounds that divide us as an island.
- 11. Prayer for Ireland.** Speaking about the Berlin declaration, made in the EU's 50th Anniversary ceremony, which excluded all mention of God, "Pope Benedict warned that the bloc was headed up a slippery slope of indifference and said that Europe could not deny its historical, cultural and moral identity which Christianity helped to forge" (IT 6.03.07). Pray that Ireland may always acknowledge her Christian heritage.
- 12.** Ask God's blessing on our many visitors this month, praying that their time here may provide them with a renewed vision of His love, power and purpose for their lives.
- 13. Sun. "Before the Throne".** "Material, moral and spiritual poverty engender different kinds of despair which are linked by the sense of hopelessness manifested in binge drinking and general excess. There is also a lack of experience of God, for which Christians must take some responsibility in making Jesus so unattractive" (Dr. John Sentamu, Archbishop of York). Continue to pray for a new outpouring of God's Spirit on these Islands.

14. Prayer for Ireland. “34% of Irish people say they “usually” binge drink (defined as consuming more than five drinks in one sitting)...Only 2% of Italians or Greeks say they binge drink” (The Week 17.03.07). Ask God that as a nation, we may be prepared to deal with the causes of such heavy drinking,

15. Prayer for Israel. Pray for the salvation of any Jewish people you may know. Harry and Dorothy leave today for a month’s visit to their daughter Cheryl in Australia. Pray for protection in travelling and a very special family time. Ask God’s blessing on helpers Alan and Olly Douglas, who arrive today for two weeks.

16. Please join us in praying that God would call some more, younger people to join the Community at the Centre. It would be particularly good for these to include someone who could help with maintenance work.

17. (Ascension Day). “King of the Kingdom”. “When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven” (Luke 24: 50-52). Praise God for the ascended Jesus, interceding for us at the Father’s right hand.

18. We hold our monthly Worship Watch from 8 pm to 12 pm tonight. Thank God for those who are joining with us during these evenings, and pray that He may be truly honoured and glorified. Pray too for Jeremy coordinating the event.

19. (Prayer Week: May 19th-27th). “This week provides a focus for local prayer groups. It encourages them to join with thousands around the world and to pray. The aim of Prayer Week is to see Christian standing with Christian, church with church and nation with nation” (Prayer Magazine April-June 2007).

20. Sun. “Before the Throne”, praying for the Global Prayer Day. A recent survey of religions found that there are more Muslims in the Irish Republic than Presbyterians or Methodists. Pray that the Churches may meet the challenge and opportunity these statistics reveal, of reaching people here, whom we could never contact in their native countries.

21. Prayer for Ireland. Praise God that the UK House of Lords voted to reject the proposed distribution of casino premises’ licences throughout Britain. Pray that the government may fail to turn Britain into a leading gambling nation.

22. Prayer for Israel. The Jewish world starts to celebrate the feast of Shavout (also known as Pentecost), tomorrow. Praise God for the number of Israelis coming to faith in their Messiah, Yeshua, and pray for their protection.

23. Thank God for those who minister alongside us at the Centre: Jill Young (bookshop & finances), Aubrey McComb (accounts), Pauline Wilson (kitchen) & Dora South (reception). Ask His blessing on their work and their families.

24. “King of the Kingdom”. With housing costs spiralling, especially in Northern Ireland and around Dublin, often forcing both parents to work, pray for a cooling down of the property market, and for protection of family life in Ireland.

25. Prayer for Ireland. A group of Creative Writers is visiting the Centre this weekend. Pray for them, and ask that God would raise up Christians in all the Creative Arts, able to reach this generation through an inspired use of their gifts.

26. Ask God’s blessing on all the preparations for the Global Prayer Day tomorrow, in the different venues across Northern Ireland. May there be a wide cross-community support for the event.

27. Pentecost Sunday and Global Day of Prayer. “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams” (Acts 2:17). May we see a fresh out-pouring of this same Spirit in response to fervent, believing prayer, world wide today.

28. Prayer for Ireland. The Republic’s 2006 census found that “the traditional family unit is changing dramatically with divorce rates rising, family sizes shrinking and the number of unmarried cohabiting couples increasing” (IT 30.03.07). Pray for a strengthening of the family unit, and for all those caught up in the pain of divorce.

29. Prayer for Israel. Praise God for the ministry of the Pavilion Prayer Tower in Jerusalem, where all the different Messianic, Arab and Western Christian groups are encouraged to pray together. Pray for growing unity and mutual support amongst all believers. Ask for God’s direction and envisioning for our Community Day today.

30. Roy and Eileen Taylor arrived yesterday to help us for two weeks. Ask for God’s blessing on their time here, and thank Him for the ministry of all those who help us for shorter or longer periods.

31. “King of the Kingdom”. The recent UNICEF report on the well-being of children places the Republic’s children seventh out of 21 in family and peer relationships, and fifth for subjective well-being. Praise God that despite reported relative poverty, Irish children have generally good relationships with their parents and a subjective sense of well-being.

***I.T. = Irish Times, B.T.= Belfast Telegraph, I.P.B.=International Prayer Bulletin, C.A.R.E.= Christian Action, Research and Education.*