

Prayer Diary for June 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: Roy and Eileen Taylor (Northern Ireland); Josiah Nunziato (USA); Zak Landrum (USA).

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 Ireland. “From the depths of my heart, I believe Northern Ireland has come to a time of peace – a time when hate will no longer rule. How good it will be to be part of a wonderful healing. We have begun the work of planting and we all look for a good and blessed harvest.” (Ian Paisley May 8th 2007). Praise God for this but pray for the deep repentance and mutual forgiveness, which alone can bring true peace and healing to this Province.

2. “Hungry We Come”. Today, we are praying about the Judicial Review of the Sexual Orientation Regulations, taking place in Belfast from June 4th, a last window of opportunity to strike down the Regulations in Northern Ireland. The Community is fasting this day but drinks will be provided as normal. Worship will be led by Andy Rogers.

3. Sun. “Before the Throne”. The World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk. “A recent NSPCC [UK] report shows that... each week one child will be killed by a parent or carer...with a further two dying from the affects of cruelty. Those most likely to suffer a violent death are babies under one year old” (Prayer Magazine, June 2007).

4. Prayer for Ireland. Continue to pray for the Belfast Supreme Court as it meets today. Ask for wisdom and skill for the lawyers arguing against the Regulations, and for a reverent fear of God for the judge considering his ruling.

5. Prayer for Israel. As Israeli Prime Minister Olmert battles for political survival, pray that the government may indeed be purged of all corruption, and that God-fearing men of integrity may be given positions of trust and responsibility. Ask too for God’s protection over the summer months as tensions mount on the Syrian border.

6. “As of 12 midnight, May 3rd, 2007, the Ulster Volunteer Force and Red Hand commando will assume a non-military, civilianised role...All recruitment has ceased; military training has ceased; targeting has ceased and all intelligence rendered obsolete; all active Service Units have been de-activated; all ordinance has been put beyond reach” (Official Statement, IT 04-05-07). Pray that this may be truly so.

7. “King of the Kingdom”. “One of the worst break-ins I’ve ever seen” was how the policeman described a recent racist attack on the apartments of Poles and Lithuanians living in Rostrevor. Ask for God’s protection of the immigrants living in Ireland, and that as a society we may learn to welcome the strangers in our midst.

8. Prayer for Ireland. Pray for God’s blessing on the Acorn Christian Listeners as they join us overnight for a Quiet Day. May we all learn to be good listeners to God, and to the many needy people around us.

9. “For those who genuinely want to leave the past behind and to share the new future, our hand is outstretched...The Good Friday Agreement has settled the constitutional issue. The principle of consent is accepted and everyone’s rights and aspirations are protected in the new democratic institutions” (Fianna Fail leader, Bertie Ahern, 24-04-07).

10. Sun. “Before the Throne”. “Only 5 per cent, or one in 20, of 15 to 24-year-olds could quote the first of the Ten Commandments when interviewed for a new survey in Ireland. Almost one-third could not say where Jesus was born and more than one-third did not know what is celebrated at Easter” (IT 09-04-07).

11. Prayer for Ireland. Pray for Harry and Dorothy as they return to Rostrevor this week, after visiting their daughter Cheryl in Australia. Ask for a safe journey and a good settling back time, praying also for Cheryl. Continue to pray for Spirit-led responses to Harry’s book “Heal Not Lightly”.

12. Prayer for Israel. Although Abu Mazen, the President of the Palestinian Authority, has agreed to stop incitement against Jews in Palestinian schoolbooks, the new Palestinian textbooks continue to glorify terror, and teach 12th graders that hating and working to destroy Israel is a religious duty.

13. Ask God to bless everyone who visits us this month, praying that each one may experience His presence and His peace, and be strengthened and encouraged as they return to their homes.

14. “King of the Kingdom”. “The number of homeless people in Northern Ireland has risen by 15%...Spiralling house prices and investor activity have been blamed for the decline in first-time buyers” (BT 03-04-07). Pray for wise decisions for the new Assembly as it seeks to provide more, affordable housing.

15. We hold our monthly Worship Watch from 8 pm to 12 pm tonight. Pray for Jeremy as he co-ordinates this, thanking God for all those who participate, and praying that He may be glorified. Pray also for some of the young people from Connect, coming for part or whole of the weekend.

16. Praise God for all the help we have received from Josiah Nunziato and Roy and Eileen Taylor this month, and pray for God's blessing on Zac Landrum as he joins us for a week, tomorrow.

17. Sun. (Father's Day). "Before the Throne". "Intercede that there will arise in [our] nation a fresh realisation that all children need loving fathers who will provide for them, materially and emotionally, throughout their dependent years (CARE June 2007). Ask God's blessing on the fathers you may know.

18. Prayer for Ireland. Praise God that the Republic has signed the European anti-trafficking of human beings accord, but pray about the "emerging black economy" due to the influx of thousands of Romanians and Bulgarians who have been unable to get PPS numbers but are working all over the country (IT 14-04-07).

19. Prayer for Israel. Pray for all groups in Israel with a specific ministry of reconciliation between Jew and Arab believers in Jesus. One of these, Musalaha, offers 'Desert Encounters' for both adult leaders and for young people – opportunities to learn from each other and to build strong relationships. Continue to pray that the difficulties in obtaining visas for vital, long-standing Christian Ministries may be over-come.

20. Thank God for the vital ministry of those who work with us: Jill Young (bookshop & finances), Aubrey McComb (accounts), Pauline Wilson (kitchen) & Dora South (reception).

21. "King of the Kingdom". Pray for a just and financially viable solution to the nurses' dispute in the Republic, praising God for the sacrificial, important nature of their work, and praying for an end to the present bitter confrontation and the disruption of their service to the public at the time of this going to press.

22. Prayer for Ireland. Praise God for the ministries of Christian Restoration Ireland and Lifeline, and pray for God's anointing on Ken Symington and Philip Richardson as they lead a weekend here, starting tonight.

23. Pray for wisdom for the Republic's newly elected government and for the UK's new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, asking God to continue to direct and bless relationships on both sides of the water.

24. Sun. "Before the Throne". 'A Hunger Taskforce' has been launched by the Irish government to recommend the best contribution the State can make to end world hunger, but "what is the point of giving €1 billion a year to developing countries when our Government is prepared to allow Irish companies to undermine development and democratisation through corruption?" (IT 11-04-07).

25. Prayer for Ireland. "Much of Ireland's recent population growth has been happening in the wrong places...with one-off houses in the countryside, while the population of villages continues to decline [and] 15 % of the entire housing stock is vacant." Very poor-quality development is still taking place in growth areas and "many people now commute long distances to work and even to do their shopping" (IT 20-04-07).

26. Community Day. Ask God to continue to knit us together as a Community, and pray for a Spirit-led time as we seek Him together, praying too that God would call more, younger people to join us. Could you also pray for a volunteer, certified electrician who could come to check all our electrical appliances? Any suggestions!

27. We plan to refurbish the Worship Area and the Bookshop during July and August. Praise God for the gifts that have made this possible and pray that the result may truly glorify Him. Ask, too, that He would continue to provide the finances to cover further refurbishing and necessary building repair work.

28. "King of the Kingdom". Pray for all school children starting their long summer break this week, asking for interesting and worthwhile activities, in safe environments. Pray for a very happy time for Amy, Alison and Ben Gadd, remembering Amy as she anticipates moving on to Secondary School in September.

29. Because of falling roll numbers, several primary schools in Northern Ireland are facing closure or amalgamation, while uncertainty about secondary school selection is worrying teaching staff and parents. Pray for wise decision-making for all authorities concerned, and for good holidays for all teachers throughout Ireland.

30. Molly and Eileen start a few days' tour around Kerry today. Pray for real refreshment for them and for all the other Community Members as they take holidays over the next few weeks.

***I.T. = Irish Times, B.T.= Belfast Telegraph, CARE = Christian Action,, Research and Education.*