

Prayer Diary for October 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: Anaïs Straub (Switzerland), and David & Christie Lerwick (USA).

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

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

1. Prayer for Ireland. “The land of saints and scholars has become the land of stocks and shares...What often appears...to be a culture of confidence and certainty... is in reality a façade. More and more Irish people are becoming stressed out trying to bring a security to their lives that only God can give” (Archbishop Seán Brady IT 23-08-07). Pray for a mighty turning back to God throughout Ireland.

2. Praise God for the removal of the ‘harassment’ clause from the Sexual Orientation Regulations for Northern Ireland, and pray for a meeting tonight in Kilkeel, organised by the Christian Institute, which several of us will be attending, to consider major ethical issues facing the UK Parliament this autumn. Pray for Spirit-led strategies.

3. Ask God’s blessing on all our guests this month, that they may be refreshed and encouraged and truly touched by His presence here. Pray too for Anaïs, who leaves us tomorrow, to take up her studies in physiotherapy.

4. Prayer for Ireland. Pray for Harry meeting with the Chairperson of the Methodist Church’s Council for Social Responsibility (NI) re the whole issue of the Ulster Covenant and the upcoming centenary in 2012.

5. Prayer for Ireland. Continue to pray for the Northern Ireland Assembly as it begins to face big internal ideological differences, with considerable financial restraints, in the areas of educational reform, the use of the Irish language, policing and justice, and the reform of public administration.

6. “Hungry We Come”. Today with the Irish Prayer Association, we shall be praying about the controversial Human Tissue and Embryos Bill to be considered in the UK Parliament, “the greatest ‘battle for the sanctity of human life’ for 40 years” (CARE September 2007). We encourage you to join us if at all possible.

7. Sun. [Global Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem]. As the status of Jerusalem takes front stage before the world’s eyes, pray for a growing revelation of the Prince of Peace, Yeshua, as the world’s only Messiah.

8. Prayer for Ireland. “Some 90% of our energy requirements have to be imported at present, nearly double the average for EU countries...Even without the threat of global warming, growing vulnerability to disruption in oil and gas supplies demand attention” (IT 23-07-07). Pray for the Irish Minister of Energy regarding this issue.

9. Prayer for Israel. Pray for young people in Israel, especially many Messianic Christians, doing compulsory military service in Israel’s Defence Forces, facing constant danger, as when 69 new recruits were injured by a recent missile attack inside Israeli borders. Continue to pray for the release of the 3 soldiers kidnapped last year.

10. [World Mental Health Day]. A study, published in April by the National Office for Suicide Prevention & Health Service Executive, found that “Suicide is now regarded as the single most significant mental health-related problem in Ireland, followed by alcohol and depression”. Pray for the Church on both sides of the border facing this challenge, that we may share and live out a Gospel of hope, salvation and deliverance.

11. Prayer for Ireland. Pray for wisdom for the Daíl in the present uncertain economic climate, with the pressing demands of Health Service Unions, and the need for careful implementation of the National Development plan.

12. Prayer for Ireland. Thank God for the ministry of Christian Restoration Ireland (N. Ireland) and Lifeline (Dublin) and pray for the leaders and the group of ladies being ministered to by them at the Centre this weekend.

13. Pray for encouragement for all Christian Youth Leaders, and Health and Social Workers seeking to help those addicted to alcohol and drugs. Some women injecting cocaine have had to have legs amputated in Dublin’s Northern inner city, where the area is swamped with drugs (IT 29-06-07).

14. Sun. “King of the Kingdom”. “One Church or tradition cannot say to the other ‘I have no need of you’. I sense Alpha as a gift of God to the people of God...of the strengths of one tradition (Evangelical Anglican) empowered and sharpened by another current (the Charismatic) to all, whether Free Church, House Church or Catholic” (Mgr. Peter Hocken “Alpha and the Catholic Church”).

- 15. Prayer for Ireland.** Pray for our local Catholic Alpha meeting tonight, and for God's prospering of Paddy Monahan's vision to promote Alpha, with follow-up, throughout the Catholic Church in Ireland.
- 16. Prayer for Israel.** Pray about growing hostility between Israel and Syria, with serious tension on both sides of the Syrian border and throughout the Golan Heights (Israel Today newflash 17-09-07)).
- 17.** Ask for God's blessing on the Lerwicks, who join us for three weeks from the USA today. May their visit be a time of shared blessing for us all.
- 18. Prayer for Ireland.** [European Anti-trafficking Day]. Praise God that both the Dáil and the UK Parliament have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Pray that traffickers may be prosecuted, and that trafficked people may be rescued and offered safe houses.
- 19.** Tonight we hold our Worship Watch from 8 to 12 pm. Pray for Jeremy as he co-ordinates this, and thank God for the groups from Kilkeel, Annalong and Newry who join us for this event. Pray that more people would be called to participate, and that "thrones of God's praise" may be set up in many different places in Ireland.
- 20.** Ask God's blessing on a group from Whitehead Baptist Church, visiting the Centre this weekend. Pray for a move of God on the Baptist Church throughout this island.
- 21. Sun. "King of the Kingdom".** [Healthcare Sunday]. "Lord our Healer, please refresh and encourage every Christian working in the NHS, especially those with leadership responsibility who have to make difficult decisions with limited resources" (CARE Prayer Guide). Pray too for those working in the Irish Health Service Executive.
- 22. Prayer for Ireland.** A major EU study has revealed that young Irish are comfortable with technology though aware of the dangers of online scams and talking to strangers in chat-rooms (IT 23-07-07). Ask God for continued protection of our young people, and a wise and measured use of all technological advances.
- 23. Prayer for Israel.** "Pray for those Jews who persecute us (mock us, curse at us, spit on us, do damage to our property) – that they might come to know Yeshua as their Saviour", and may "our reactions to them be Christ-like, so that we may continue to love them" (Yakim Figueras, Pastor of a Messianic Church in Arad, Negev).
- 24.** Ask God's blessing on Pauline (kitchen) who has now left us to work as a classroom assistant, thanking Him for all she has meant to us, and praying for the right person to replace her. Remember Jill Young (bookshop & finances), Aubrey McComb (accounts), & Dora South (reception), as they continue their vital ministry here.
- 25. Prayer for Ireland.** Pray for schools as they seek to ban the use of mobile phones on site, and to stamp out cases of teenagers and young children being forced to fight while bystanders use mobile phones to capture and publicise the clashes. Pray too for wisdom over how to deal with 'cyber bullying' of pupils and teachers.
- 26. Prayer for Ireland.** This weekend Johannes Facius will be leading us in sessions of "Sitting at the feet of Jesus". Pray that each participant would truly meet with and hear from Jesus in these days.
- 27.** [40th Anniversary of the UK 1967 Abortion Act]. Pray for the pro-life vigil being held outside the UK Parliament today, asking that all parliamentarians may be touched by God's Spirit to review their own stance and to refuse any further liberalisation of the Law. Ask too for continued protection of the unborn in Ireland.
- 28. Sun. "King of the Kingdom".** "You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. Your eyes saw my unformed body" (Psalm 139:13,15,16). Pray for encouragement for Christian crisis pregnancy and support centres in the UK, and for those GPs who refuse to perform abortions.
- 29. Prayer for Ireland.** "The State recorded the biggest natural increase in its population in 25 years last year due to high birth rates and increased life expectancy. Even without inward migration Ireland has one of the fastest growing populations in Europe" (IT 01-08-07). Ask God for a true understanding of the sanctity of all human life.
- 30. Prayer for Israel.** Despite the aggressive spread of extremist Islamic ideas under Hamas rule, "the 150 members of the Gaza Baptist church have chosen to stay, to be a beacon of light in this community...running clinics, libraries, bringing humanitarian aid and meeting openly at the church" (Revival Prayer Bulletin 06-09-07).
- 31.** [Halloween.] Ask God's forgiveness for the diet of monsters, and occult symbols served to our children. Pray for their protection, and for wholesome fun activities for them during this half-term break.

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