

NATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS SURVEY 2007 FOR THE BRITISH ISLES

Scope of Survey: Interviews were taken with national leaders in church and government to assess national concerns for the U.K. in January and February of 2007. Interviews were taken from leaders in Wales, England, Ireland, British Isles, Scotland. Contributors were from a wide range of leadership in the U.K. Some included leaders in Parliament from the House of Commons and House of Lords. Church leaders included the Bishop of Rochester, the Arch Bishop of York, the head of a Bible College, London pastors, pastors groups in Walsall and Oxford. Ministry leaders were from across the British Isles. The survey included both Protestant and Catholic leaders. Others included media leaders from the United Christian Broadcasters, Church and business leaders, Christian Lawyers Fellowship, The Christian Institute, The Christian Police Association and The Scottish Christian Party.

Purpose of the Survey: To understand the concerns that the nation's leaders have about the British Isles for the purpose of addressing these issues in prayer and action.

Survey Results Pointing to National Concerns:

1. **The passing of ungodly laws** resulting in the enthronement of evil such as the sexual orientation regulations. (Psalms 94:20, 21) Laws are being passed to protect the minorities in ways that are anti-family and take away freedoms and rights from the majority. Legislation also includes forced education and promotion of alternative sexual orientation in schools which undermines parental rights to be responsible for their children's moral values.

2. **Political correctness pressures** supported by media and politicians empowered by a push for multicultural religious expressions are eroding the values of what began as a Christian nation under King Alfred whose nation had its foundation of law based on the Ten Commandments. There is a need to rediscover a Biblical "fear of God" that seeks His righteousness in all things. The roots of political correctness go back to Karl Marx and the worship of knowledge through science and communism. These theories result in the elevation and worship of the creation over the Creator resulting in moral depravity seen in various forms of sexual perversion. (Romans 1:21-28)

3. **There is an absence of spiritual fathers** who defend, protect, and speak out for the family in the nation. Many of those who do speak out are transplants from other nations. Pray God will raise up spiritual fathers in the homes, businesses, and government who will stand up and speak out to protect family in the nation.

4. **Erosion of family values and society breakdown** are related to the fatherlessness of the nation resulting in increased crime and lawlessness. The Breakdown England report focuses on many aspects of the social breakdown occurring in the nation as a

result of the breakdown of the family. Children raised without a father are at a higher risk of failure and crime:

- a. 75% more likely to fail at school
- b. 70% more likely to be a drug dealer
- c. 50% more likely to have an alcohol problem
- d. 40% more likely to have serious debt problems
- e. 35% more likely to be unemployed
- f. 70% of young offenders come from fatherless homes.

Pray for the institution of marriage to be defended and to be blessed.

Currently 50% of all married couples will divorce by a child's fifth birthday. 75% of unmarried couples living together will split leaving even more children at risk. Church and government need to look beyond cleaning up the fruit of this breakdown to prevention.

5. Secularization of both church and government has resulted in no clear standard of righteousness. Every man does what is right in his own eyes. Rationalism and intellectualism have become the shifting unstable foundations of society displacing the law of God with the sinking sands of an 'anything goes' philosophy. As the great pastor Spurgeon once declared "We've had enough of clever men without conscience. Now let's see what honest, God-fearing men will do."

6. Unholy covenants of the past made by religious leaders, rulers and believers have created walls between churches, people of faith, and nations within the U.K. These past unholy actions have resulted in a history of bloodshed and cursing between believers. There needs to be biblical reconciliation that addresses these issues with prayers and acts of repentance until the walls that are dividing the followers of Christ come down! This is especially true of Protestants and Catholics. This is not to say that we seek unity at the cost of truth. It is a call for a shift from "self interest" on the part of religious leaders to "Kingdom interest" in answer to the prayer of Christ that his followers "would be one as He and the Father are one that the world might believe in Jesus who was sent by the Father." (John 17: 20, 21) Pray for those caught up in cults to come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

7. A need for true compassion in the land which is now being replaced by a focus on tolerance. True compassion comes from a church that has the Father's heart and love for the broken and lost. There is a need for the Church to reach out to the poor, the homeless, the orphans, and those in bondage. The Church needs to be seen as relevant to society by having a creditable message and a working plan for those in bondage instead of proclaiming a message of tolerance. (Luke 4:18) Pray for an openness to the gospel among Muslims and that hatred and fear would turn to love.

8. Pray for those in leadership as a first priority. The Church leaders and believers need to be willing to speak out to those in government. (1 Tim. 2:1-4) The false concept that there is to be complete separation from the state needs to be replaced by the

church embracing its moral responsibility to pray for, and hold accountable, those who serve in government. The “Psalm 94 mandate” makes it clear that laws which enthrone evil are not to be tolerated and those who vote to enthrone them are not to be supported by believers. (Psalms 94: 15, 20) Churches in each district need to pray specifically for their representatives in government and communicate to them in ways that hold them accountable. This can be done by individuals and by pastor/clergy groups. There is a need for a national 'Adopt a Legislator' where believers have an intentional relationship with those who represent them in government. Pray for Her Majesty the Queen as Defender of The Faith will speak out with great courage and immense boldness in defense of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.K.

9. **There is a need to pray for those who fight crime** such as the kinds of partnerships currently seen with the Christian Police Association where the “Adopt a Cop” program is in use. See www.CPAuk.net This results in greater cooperation in communities and for more specific prayers to target crime areas.

10. **There is a need to rediscover the priority of Kingdom prayer** that engages the Churches to take moral responsibility for the condition of it's community. The Church needs to rediscover its presence within the community by identifying it's Gates, then learning how to stand in those Gates with the priority of continual prayer, the proclaiming of the Word in the Gates, and the praising of His name in the Gates. (Psalms 24; 118:18, 19; Isaiah 62: 10) As one pastor put it *“We need to see the work of the Holy Spirit to convict God's people of their need of wholehearted surrender to God. God's people need to turn from all sin toward Him and seek Him for a righteousness that is beyond the standards of the world. It's time to cry out to God for our condition of lukewarmness so that God will set us ablaze for His glory.”*

11. **There is a need to reclaim the institutions of education and media** that were created by Christians for godly purposes such as Universities and the BBC. Pray for those who work in these institutions to come to Christ or be shifted out and replaced by those who hear His voice and will serve His kingdom. Pray for the Biblical foundations to return in these institutions and for the birthing of a new move of God on school campuses. Pray for religious clubs to arise with a passion for Christ. Pray for those in the movie industries to be converted to Christ and for media doors to open to Christians.

12. **The Church is to become salt and light** in all of society by having a presence in every sphere of society. The problem of moral darkness in our nation has more to do with the condition of God's Church than it does with the prevailing darkness we see. As Pastor Henry Blackaby observed *“If society as a whole seems to be getting darker and darker, it is not the problem of the darkness: the darkness is just acting like its nature. But it is that the light no longer dispels the darkness, and the salt no longer preserves. It is time for the light to say, ‘ If things are darker, the problem is with us’.”* The solution is best set forth in this Scripture, **“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sins and heal their land.”** (2 Chronicles 7:

14) This Scripture is calling upon all churches to come corporately before God's face on behalf of its community in repentance. The phrase "before My face" in the original means a corporate coming before God of all who are called by His name. It is humbling to realize we need each other as much as we need our own group. It takes the whole church of the whole city to reach the whole city in kingdom prayer, so that God will visit us and defuse light into us that will dispel the darkness.

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