

**Ruach (Breath of Life) Ministries
Prayer Perspectives from the Peninsula Issue 8
October 14th 2005**



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A Missing Generation

Sally Mowbray, who has just begun to working for Ruach Breath of Life Ministries, wrote to me yesterday, 'Yesterday I tuned on to Ceefax to catch the headlines, one of them, regarding the earthquake in Pakistan, impacted me deeply. It said words to the effect that **'we fear we have lost a whole generation of youth'**. This felt like a case of what is happening 'in the natural' reflecting what is going on in the spiritual world.

'I felt a huge rush of grief for our youth. I felt a cry rising in my heart, 'No, not the youth Lord.' This had nothing to do with the physical happenings in Pakistan (not that I want to minimise that for one moment): it is a worldwide burden. I know that satan wants to take out the youth – because if we lose a generation, all that we have to impart to them will be aborted and will remain with this current generation.

'We have lost a whole generation of children' – what a thought. How important Phil Buechler's work is in reaching out the Bridger generation!

'We are in a battle for our youth of never-seen-before intensity. That said, those who are sold out for God are running with Him in a way not seen

quite before too. They will need such a strong relationship with God because of the things they are going to face in this increasingly dark age.

'By the way, have you noticed the strong-arm tactics being deployed to make people use their pin numbers when using cards to pay for things? People will be refused service if they won't use their pin. (The cashless society suddenly seems alarmingly near!)

'I was impressed by this article by Mark Steyn – a secular journalist who seems to be more awake than much of the Church to the Islamist agenda in our country. "Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, Anne Owers, has banned the English flag – the cross of St George – from being worn on tiepins at Wakefield Prisons because it might be "misinterpreted" as a racist symbol.

'Official Britain seems to have lost all sense of proportion . . . We hear endlessly about "systemic racism" in

Pray that the up and coming generation not to swallow the lies of political correctness, but to turn away from them, even as earlier generations 'rebelled' against stuffy conformity. Pray that their huge hunger may cause them to hunger after Truth!

British institutions, but the really rampant contagion seems to be . . . a psychologically unhealthy predisposition to believe the worst only about one's own culture.

South Asia Earthquake

www.barnabasfund.org reports

Last Saturday's earthquake caused huge destruction and loss of life in northern Pakistan as well as in neighbouring areas of India. Barnabas Fund is appealing for help with the knock-on effects of the earthquake on the Christian minority.

As you know, Christians are a despised minority in Pakistan and endure discrimination in many forms. In such a context, Christians are likely to be shunted to the end of the queue, as regards meeting their practical needs after a natural disaster. The December 2004 tsunami and the January 2001 Indian earthquake showed this happening in other contexts where anti-Christian discrimination is commonplace. When the USA attacked Afghanistan in late 2001, Afghan refugees streamed over the border to Pakistan - and took the jobs of the Pakistani Christians, leaving them destitute.

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, international director of Barnabas Fund, comments: "There is a link between persecution, discrimination and disasters. In time of disaster it is often Christian minorities who suffer the most, either because of neglect or because of deliberate discrimination. The Pakistan earthquake will have knock-on effects on Christian communities in the region.

We therefore need to be concerned for our Christian brothers and sisters at this time. Whilst they have not borne the brunt of the disaster, they will soon be feeling its effects in other ways."

If you would like to assist, please go to this link to donate securely online: <https://secure.barnabasfund.org/> (quoting project reference 41-592). Or phone: 0800 587 4006 from within the UK or +44 1672 565 031.

* Pray for all the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan, the bereaved, the injured and those who have lost their homes and livelihoods. Pray for strength for those who are seeking to help them. Pray for the aid being contributed by the international community to be distributed fairly.

* The majority of Christians in Pakistan were desperately poor even before the earthquake. Pray for those directly affected by the earthquake that they may know the comfort and provision of their heavenly Father, and be a blessing and inspiration to others. Pray that they are not discriminated against.

An Islamic leader has commented that this earthquake, which came at the beginning of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, was a judgement from God on Muslims because they had not been active enough in jihad. Ramadan is a time when some radical Muslims believe they should attack non-Muslims more than usual. Pray that such radical comments will not succeed in exploiting the tragedy of the earthquake to bring further suffering, hostility and bloodshed for non-Muslims.

Al Qaeda Camps in Pakistan

The epicentre of the terrible earthquake in Pakistan contains the areas when Al Qaeda has its notorious training camps. It will difficult now for Pakistan authorities to hide these camps. One positive spin-off that may come from the quake is mounting international pressure to take the action it has

hitherto avoided taking and to clamp down on these seedbeds of terror.

As George Bush found in New Orleans, even an apology from Pakistan's leader for the slow response of the substantial Pakistan military may not endear him to his people. **Pray for the power of God to touch many in Pakistan.**

There are encouraging signs that **India** is at long last prepared to address the **Kashmir issue**. Pray for the political aftermath of this quake. See:

<http://telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2005/10/12/do1202.xml&sSheet=/portal/2005/10/12/ixportal.html>

Syria holds its Breath

Israel is not alone in seeing President Assad's Baathist Syria as a threat in terms of sponsoring world terrorism. America has stood firm against it, but all eyes are now on UN appointee, **Detlev Mehlis**, a vigorous and controversial German prosecutor, who is attempting to see if Syrian government can be directly implicated in the murder of the popular Lebanese President Rafik Hariri, a fierce critic of Syria's occupation of Lebanon.

The international outcry that followed the massive car bomb was so great that Syria felt obliged to start withdrawing troops from Lebanon. (Four top pro-Syrian senior Lebanese security chiefs are currently in prison). According to Syria Radio and a major Pakistan newspaper (www.dawn.com) evidence is not yet conclusive concerning the president's involvement.

As a result, President Assad is starting to breathe more easily – especially since President Mubarak has refused to support moves to isolate Syrian internationally. He is not out of the woods yet though. Although receiving

less than full cooperation from Damascus, Detlev Mehlis, whose previous investigations has severely embarrassed both Colonel Gaddafi and Iran's senior mullahs, is now seeking extra time in which to pursue his investigations.

A guilty verdict could cause major problems for the President of Syria, because his younger brother, (who is responsible for his personal security), is almost certain to be implicated. It is unthinkable that Assad would hand *him* over for trial. Many Syrians are more than fed up with their leaders and are more than excited at the thought of their rulers being brought to book before an international tribunal. But there is widespread concern that anarchy and civil war could ensue if there was a move against the rulers.

Will the pressure cause President Assad to close the loopholes by which terrorists cross the border into Iraq? Recognise Israel? Hand over al Qaeda suspects and drop Syria's claim to receive the Golan Heights? **Pray for the power of God to be at work in Syria – and for Detlev's investigation to help achieve a true and helpful outcome.**

We have just heard that **Ghazi Kanaan, Syria's hardline Interior Minister has shot himself two weeks ahead of publication of the UN Report mentioned above**. This may prove providential for President Assad, as he can be used' as a scapegoat for any criticisms made in the report. Tim Butcher reports in today's *Telegraph*:

Mr Kanaan ran Syria's military intelligence operations in Lebanon for twenty years, using violence, threats and bribes to set the various religious and social factions against each other. By the early 1990s his control of Lebanon was

absolute. He is reported to have ordered the assassination of those who refused his approaches. America has accused him of smuggling illegal weapons, including rockets, to Hizbollah extremists in southern Lebanon.

After Florida and the American election, we've seen it all in terms of dead-heat elections! At long last **Germany's political stalemate** is drawing to a close. It seems strange to consider a newly appointed person as a lame duck; but **Angela Merkel** will face a torrid time persuading her own party, let alone her 'partners' in coalition of Gerhard Schroeder's party, that she really can run the country effectively. **Pray for how this arrangement (as radical as attempting to tie the British Conservatives in with the Labour Party) will work.**

Racial and Religious Hatred Bill

Andrea Williams of the Lawyers Christian Fellowship writes: **'I believe we have begun to see the Church awakening in this country and seeking to take a stand for Christ at the heart of many vital issues.**

'Thousands turned up to pray in front of Parliament while the bill was being debated. The demonstration made a real impact. Baroness Cox saw the wide cross-section of ethnic groups in the demonstration as proving that the opposition to this Bill 'transcends party politics.'

'Christian Concern for our Nation and Premier Radio presented a petition of 40,000 signatures against the Bill to Tony Blair.

'Roughly four speeches opposed this unwise bill for every one that supported it. No vote as such was taken yesterday. **Keep praying as it goes back to**

committee stage. What happens next is by no means straightforward. The Lawyers Christian Fellowship have drawn up a detailed chart of 'what could happen next' scenarios, and encourage contact with your peer or MP if they voted for the bill last time round. (NB: Most Liberal and Conservative MPs do not need

'The debate in the House of Lords clearly illustrated the concern, confusion and misinformation surrounding the Bill. With approximately 80% of the House of Lords speaking against it, surely the government must see that the Bill in its present form cannot be brought into law.

convincing!) See our website: www.ruachministries.org

'The broad and confusing wording, along with the notable absence of a definition of religious belief, makes it open to serious misapplication. **'During the debate, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey, said the Bill "threatens civil liberties."** The Bishop of Winchester described the Bill as **'very dangerous', with the potential to have 'a series of unacceptable consequences'**. It could stop Christians legitimately proclaiming their faith and expressing accepted Christian teachings. It would have the opposite effect to that intended by setting one faith community against another and providing legal ammunition for one community against another in court.

'The former Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, said **'existing law makes adequate provision for all the circumstances that one can see.'** **This bill is therefore an unnecessary addition to the criminal law.**

'Many of the Lords highlighted the danger of this Bill by talking about what has happened in Australia since the introduction of similar legislation. It is essential that the Government take note and listen. Lord Taylor summed up the position: 'So many representative groups – in the public gallery and outside this House – are against the Bill. **I know that the Government have heard them; but hearing is not the same as listening.**' A Committee of the whole House will meet on the 24th October, to consider amendments to the Bill. **However, it is still unclear how any amendments to this Bill will work. The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship remain opposed to any form of the Bill.** To contact Andrea Minichiello Williams, Barrister: andrea@williamsa.force9.co.uk

The Christian Institute has also asked us to pray about the **Equality Bill** which will also have serious implications for religious freedom if the government **bans the provision of Bibles in public places, including hospitals.**

Mega Trends: The EU, Water & Oil
We have suggested on many occasions praying for where the EU goes next. It is already unrecognisable from the group of six nations that first came together. At what point should the EU stop trying to turn foreign policy into 'home' policy by incorporating an ever larger group of nations? Latest long-shot suggestions for membership include Azerbaijan and Georgia – and even Morocco, as opposed to the countries where progress is already being made such as Croatia and Turkey. Regardless of whether the move to include Turkey is right or not, German and French opposition to Turkey has caused much ill feeling in

Ankara. Pray this does not degenerate into a lose-lose situation.

Does Turkey's accession represent the first step towards a Eurasia model? Apart from Islamic issues, it will involve very real aspects of **water supplies**. (We have mentioned before what a critical issue this is for the Middle East. For in-depth updates, read the articles on <http://www.newint.org/issue354/contents.htm> and especially www.newint.org/issue354/running.htm

We have ranged far and wide and covered many global topics in this edition. If you can cope with one more: to find out just how difficult it is going to be for the world to meet growing oil demands, visit www.peakoil.net and <http://www.listener.co.nz/default,2878,2872,2.sm>.

The problems are genuine, and all the more so since Russia has nationalised its oil industry, and Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's president, continues to whip up anti-western propaganda. Even the supposedly inexhaustible reserves of the Middle East are less endless than we are led to believe. This is about more than the cost of our heating oil going up each time we fill our tanks! But as someone wisely wrote, 'The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stone, and the oil age won't end because we ran out of oil.'

Pray for the wise and innovative diversification of renewable energies – and for all the infighting, squabbling and worse that governments and multinationals are sure to get up to in the meanwhile!

www.ruachministries.org

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