

Aug/Sept 2011

Awake, awake O Zion!

Prime Minister David Cameron has said that the recent rioting and looting in England was a 'wake-up call' for the country. Surely there is no community better able to respond to this than people of God, the body of Christ, the church.

The fact that such behaviour has been unleashed on the streets of our cities has once again provoked politicians and pundits to identify its root in a variety of social and economic failures; some have hinted at moral failures. None, as far as we can tell, have identified the real root cause as a spiritual issue, yet it is the spiritual that is the driving force behind all that we see manifested in the social and moral behaviour of those who rioted and plundered in our streets. Scripture makes the point very clearly in Ephesians 6 "*we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*"

To say it couldn't happen in Cumbria, as I was assured in a casual conversation at the local petrol station, is to be blinded by the gods of this world, for those same spiritual forces make no distinction between urban or rural, big city or small market town, and the triggering factors - be they economic, social or just plain lawlessness - exist wherever we may live.

The history of revival teaches us that spiritual transformation begins when the church wakes up and begins to unite in prayer. This first step is then followed by a renewed obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit in preaching the gospel and engaging with the ills of society in social action.

We all have a responsibility not just to our local community but to our region and nation. So let's wake up before we have to be woken up!

Colin & Chrissie Greaves
Cumbria Prayer Net

Cumbria Prayer Net - Website

Keep in touch with the CPN Website at
www.cumbriaprayer.net

Prayer Rooms

As announced in the Spring Bulletin, the Kendal Prayer Room was launched in March with 40 hours of prayer over 5 days. Whilst support was not numerically great, we remain convinced that our God is with us, and were led to dedicate a tithe of our time in keeping the Prayer Room open (two and a half hours a day) for 21 days. This led up to a 24 hours of prayer on Easter Saturday. The prayer room remained available and in informal use until the 11th Global Day of Prayer on Pentecost Sunday.

With much encouragement from Scripture, the witness of the Holy Spirit, and friends locally and from outside the area, we are holding on to the dream and asking the Lord for others to join us and to build a foundation so that eventually Kendal will have a 24/7 house of prayer for all nations.

We live in a time when the prayer movement is growing across the British Isles (as well as overseas) and is increasingly being expressed in establishing 24/7 prayer and Houses of Prayer.

A 'House of Prayer' may be a room in an office block, disused shop premises or a community centre, a church vestry, a spare room in someone's home or a converted barn. Send us information if you lead or know of other Cumbrian 'prayer houses.'

See the Cumbria Prayer Net website for more information for the Kendal Prayer Room.

<http://www.cumbriaprayer.net/prayerroom.html>



United Christian Broadcasters (UCB), which broadcasts across the UK (on DAB Digital Radio, Internet and Satellite Channels) are extending their "Prayer Line" service by developing satellite call centres around the nation.

See <http://www.ucb.co.uk/prayer>. The goal is a prayer line service available around the clock.

At a recent meeting with UCB staff held in Cumbria, those present representing churches and ministry organisations agreed to investigate the possibility of establishing one or more satellite call centres in Cumbria. Please join us by adding your prayers for this service and its expansion and if you would like to find out more contact: Geoff Wall on 07768 322259 or email geoffwall@btinternet.com

Prayer Pointers

Pray for our nation

In response to the recent street riots Ian Cole of WPC writes "What many of us have experienced in recent days is ... the result of a society which in general, the church included, over many years has created for itself, a system that is all about "getting" rather than "giving".

Let's pray for our nation and our region that God will turn the "getting" into a "giving" attitude and a real care for our neighbour before ourselves.

Pray for our nation

Pray that eyes and ears will be open to a fresh understanding in our nation that we are not struggling to find social, economic or political solutions but are dealing with spiritual forces whose agenda is to steal kill and destroy our families and our communities.

Pray for Cumbria

That God's people, the church, will wake up to the reality of the spiritual battle we face on our own doorstep. We are not immune from these things because we live in a largely rural area. The outward beauty and calm of the region hides the same social, economic and spiritual tensions as any city. Only the church has the position and the authority in prayer to overcome these potential threats to the peace and stability of our region.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6 :10 -20

PRAYER ALERT...

Weekly prayer news from across the nation and the world
<http://www.prayer-alert.net>

Harp and Bowl

Revelation 5 v 8 says: "Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

Whilst there is "nothing new under the sun", not everyone will have heard of, or personally experienced, the combination of worship and prayer which currently goes under this heading. If you can access the internet look at the International House of Prayer broadcasting on <http://www.ihop.org/> (follow the link to the Prayer Room)

Since the opening of the Kendal Prayer Room we have frequently tuned in to ihop and left it running in the background, especially when we are called away from the prayer room. So we were pleased, when we visited Le Chateau Blanc in France in early June, to experience for ourselves this approach as we were led by someone who had been involved in this ministry at ihop in Kansas City.

Put simply, skilled musicians play quietly whilst a theme of prayer is developed, and a phrase based upon scripture will be repeated (almost Taize style) as people meditate upon it. This seems to me to be the place where Christian meditation meets charismatic worship – two very different parts of the wonderfully diverse spectrum that makes up the Body of Christ.

It may not at first appear as intercessory prayer, but the person lost in wonder, love and awe for an hour in this way is being changed from the inside out, and becoming the answer to his unspoken prayers for the nations. Some may find this easier than spending fifteen minutes praying for his community, fifteen minutes for the persecuted church, fifteen minutes for current affairs, and fifteen minutes for his missionary friends. And yet both forms are valid and productive and add to the wide variety of expressions available as we intercede for our world.



12th June 2011 saw participation from many nations, cities, towns, communities, local churches and prayer groups. However the full picture is hard to record because some believers have never been able to register an event, either because they weren't able to gather in large public places because of fear of persecution, or because they don't have the resources to plan such gatherings.

Reports in the UK from places as far apart as Jersey, Dudley, Gosport and Leeds illustrate that this united day of prayer is making an increasing impact across this nation too.

In Cumbria the link with GDoP was maintained on a damp Pentecost Sunday with a concert of Prayer at the CPN base in the Shakespeare Centre in Kendal. There we joined with all nations lifting up the name of Jesus in a blend of set prayers which were being echoed in every tongue around the globe, and our own spontaneous offerings. Put this in your diary for Pentecost Sunday next year, and get involved!

Please join the world for the Global Day of Prayer on **27 May 2012** and may we see the fulfilment of Habakkuk . 2:14

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

<http://www.globaldayofprayer.com/history.html>