

The Presence

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2009

A REPORT DIRECT FROM THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AT THE LG ARENA AT THE NEC

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2009

Around 2,500 people gathered in the newly refurbished LG Arena at the NEC on **Saturday 17th October 2009** to spend the day in worship and prayer encouraged by the messages of support from around the world including Christians from Australia USA, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia. Our friends in Singapore wrote:



"We are eternally grateful to the British for giving us the legacy of the Gospel. We are praying with you and standing with you as we cry out to almighty God for an awakening in the UK. May the Lord hear our cries, have mercy on the UK and make the UK a gospel sending nation again".



When considering the motivation to call this national day of prayer, the World Prayer Centre team had a deep desire to see more of God's presence, His love, justice and mercy poured out across our nations and across our world. As the preparations to host the 2012 Olympics begin and as our nation prepares for its glory and the athletes prepare for their glory - it is time for the Church to prepare for His glory. A strong invitation was given to all to do everything that day that would attract the presence of God.

THE GLORY OF THE GOSPEL



Malcolm Duncan of **CHURCH & COMMUNITY** www.churchandcommunity.org reminded all those present that the gospel is summed up in three words '**Jesus is Lord!** Our aim as followers of Jesus Christ is to pray and live and work and so demonstrate the reality of His Lordship in every area of our lives. An invitation was given to any who wished to make Jesus Christ their Lord and a number of people responded. This release of the gospel was prayed for into every area of the life of our nation.

How is the gospel making an impact? Debra Green shared stories of how the **REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES** story www.citylinks.org.uk (encouraging prayer and partnership between the police and the church) has now been launched in Liverpool at the invitation of the police and how police forces in Birmingham and London are interested.



Secondly from Ben Cooley who gave an update of how **HOPE FOR JUSTICE** www.hopeforjustice.org.uk are pushing through in their work against human trafficking working both in the UK and globally.....

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Cornerstone House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG, England.

T : 0121 633 7393 F : 0121 643 5645 E: office@worldprayer.org.uk W: www.worldprayer.org.uk

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THE GLORY OF THE CROSS

This part of the day helped us to explore how we understand the glory of the Cross as experienced through the persecuted Church. Three agencies worked together in partnership to showcase different personal situations and nations that needed prayer and action.

Release International www.releaseinternational.org shared stories of how Christians in Eritrea are being persecuted for their faith, **Open Doors** www.opendoorsuk.org interviewed 2 people from the UK who have faced job dismissal because of their Christian faith. They also drew attention to the plight of two people in prison in Iran and the present situation in that country. **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** www.csw.org.uk revealed the extent of murder and arson against Christians in northern Nigeria. Times of prayer and worship spontaneously occurred throughout the afternoon.



THE GLORY OF HIS PRESENCE

It was then time to reflect on what had been shared and invite God's presence again to flood our nations – from village to village, town to town and city to city – into every area of the life of our nation in order to see a turning towards the Lord Jesus Christ. The day ended with the invitation for each person to see themselves as a carrier of the presence of Jesus out into their families and communities. Everyone was encouraged to continue to pray and work to see His Kingdom come.



'But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal process in Christ and through us spreads every-where the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.' 2 Corinthians 2:14

The whole day was framed in prayer, worship, praise, and a deep sense of the presence of God. Graham Kendrick (Make Way Music) Ian Hannah (Coleraine House of Prayer) and Laurence Sharman (World Prayer Centre) co-led the worship during the day, drawing on a whole variety of different worship styles. As always, the cross was a central focus to the day, and at one point - a particularly poignant moment - when the national flags of Israel and Iran were both draped on the cross.



PRAYER ON THE MOVE

In order to keep in touch with how God is mobilising prayer and action across the British Isles register with the Prayer Forum website www.prayerforum.org and receive regular news updates and calls to prayer.

GIVING A HELPING HAND

We do have a financial shortfall from the day and we would be grateful if you could help us in any way. You can donate via the Just Giving page on the World Prayer Centre website www.justgiving.com/wpc/Donate. Please remember no amount is too small... every pound is appreciated.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Father God, help me this day
to do everything that attracts your presence
in my life, my family, and in my community,
in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen.

World Prayer Centre, Birmingham www.worldprayer.org.uk