



Monthly Prayer Topics for France

September 2010

France “at immediate risk of a terrorist attack”

1. The last two weeks of September saw three bomb alerts, twice resulting in the evacuation of the Eiffel Tower and once in the evacuation of the Saint-Lazare train station, one of the busiest public transportation hubs in Paris. Although these alerts were all proven to be false alarms, French authorities say the nation is at elevated risk for a terrorist attack. Please pray for the safety of the French people, the wisdom of government leaders, and for God to protect the nation in the face of terrorist threats. Pray as well that the French people would seek comfort in God in these turbulent times.

In politics...

1. Tensions in Belgium between the Flemish and Francophone communities continue to push the country towards a political schism. Please pray in these difficult times for France to maintain an amicable and benevolent position towards francophone Belgians, both now and in the future.
2. Eric Besson, the French minister of immigration, recently presented his draft legislature on immigration, integration, and nationality. Please pray that this project will be widely discussed, and for a strong understanding of each of its points. Ask God to ensure that the legislature respects the country’s need for social peace and development.
3. Bioethical laws are being discussed in French Parliament concerning the right of children whose birth resulted from artificial insemination to know the identity of their biological parent. Additionally, heterosexual civil unions will have access to state-funded fertility diagnosis and treatment but homosexual parenting is still illegal in France as are surrogate mothers. Please pray for a Christian ethic to prevail in these discussions and for the people involved to know the Giver of Life.

In society...

1. A large debate has been unfolding in France surrounding retirement, including its affect on the present economic crisis and rise in unemployment. Although many people have called for reform, there has also been significant protest by those who doubt the efficiency of the reform. Despite this strong mobilization against the issue, thank God for the smoothness with which the reforms were made, and pray that a spirit of humility and restraint will pervade the economic and social climate. Pray also for a revival of prosperity, as well as a revival of righteousness, justice, and equality in France.
2. Relations between Romanian immigrants and native Frenchmen have been under pressure for years. After a visit of Eric Besson (French Minister of Immigration) and Pierre Lelouch (State Secretary for European Affairs) to Bucharest, the Chief of Romanian Diplomacy conceded that only a European strategy would be able to respond effectively to the legitimate expectations of this large community concerning access to education, housing, and health care. Simultaneously, the Catholic Church in France is exhibiting a disapproval of the number of Romanian immigrants entering the country and their apparent inability to assimilate to French society. The *Le Monde* newspaper also recently reported expelled Romanians as “cursing” Sarkozy and his family with animal sacrifices and expressing their anger through internet abuse. Please pray for an increased

respect for the rights and needs of all people, according to the values of God's kingdom. Pray as well for the Romanian community, that they will be well-preserved in all circumstances. Please also pray for Sarkozy and his family, that they will know the one true God.

3. The United Nations held a summit on its Millennium Development Goals in New York this month. The summit aimed to assess progress of these goals, which include working to decrease hunger, poverty, and illness throughout the world. France is the 2nd-greatest financial donor to the initiative and plays a pioneering role in development of new financial resources. Thank God for France's engagement with the development and determination to end poverty, and pray for this spirit to continue to live in French hearts. Pray as well that the global economic crisis would not be used as justification to decrease benevolent giving. Also, please pray specifically for women's and children's health initiatives, as these Development Goals have seen the least progress thus far.