

Prayer Alert

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Pray continually. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

We are pleased to enclose this week's edition of Prayer Alert.

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Thank you again for standing with us in prayer over the nations.

David Fletcher – Editor

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Praise Reports

[Bright light said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life'](#)

Yassine, a Muslim boy, had recurring dreams of a bright light and a voice saying, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' He said, 'This was not a normal dream to me because I had never heard this phrase before. I had no idea it was from the Bible.' Several years later, when he was given a Bible and started to read it, he found the same words. So he looked for a church - a daring step in a country that is 99% Muslim. 'I went to church and learned more about Jesus and Christianity. I soon truly knew that Jesus was the person in my dreams.' To read his testimony of his walk towards mission work, click the 'More' button.

Praise: God for touching the lives of unreached people and teaching the way, truth and life. (John 14:6)

More: godreports.com/2019/09/bright-light-appeared-to-muslim-boy-in-dreams-said-i-am-the-way-the-truth-and-the-life/

[They looked closer and found survivors](#)

Flying over the Bahamas, a helicopter was dropping supplies, when a passenger pointed out a destroyed village and asked if people could possibly still be alive there. They had flown over it several times and had not seen any people or movement, but on the next run they felt an urge to fly closer and land, to check out their passenger's suspicions. Then forty people climbed out of overturned vehicles and rubble where they had been sheltering, and ran to the team, who quickly gave food, water, tents, and other supplies to these ever-so-grateful and elated survivors.

Praise: God for those determined to bring help in challenging situations. (Psalm 69:14,17)

More: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7468095/Helicopter-pilot-discovers-40-people-debris-Bahamas-village-flattened-Hurricane-Dorian.html

[Drugs to devotion - life turned around](#)

She attended church but didn't know what it meant to seek God. She smoked weed on Friday and sang in the choir on Sunday, without thinking she did anything wrong. After graduation she went for drinks with a man and was date-raped. She reported it to the police, but was told there was not enough evidence. 'I was depressed and drove down the road thinking, I could run into this tree and people won't think it was suicide.' Fortunately, she didn't do it. A few weeks later she shared her troubles with a friend who told her that Christ could heal her heart. 'When he talked sincerely about his life and relationship with God, I felt my eyes open, I started crying. I got it. I'd been wrong.' She rededicated herself to Christ, and her life has turned around.

Praise: God for teaching us how to live the new life He gives us. (Psalm 119:26)

More: godreports.com/2019/09/clubbing-getting-drunk-and-premarital-sex-led-to-despair/

British Isles

[GATHER](#)

All over the UK, God has been doing a hidden work through GATHER - a network of over 120 movements in villages, towns and cities across the UK with Christian leaders and churches forming vibrant mission-focused unity movements based on prayer and friendship. These networks are taking the prayer of Jesus seriously: 'May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me' (John 17:23). Tired of working in isolation from, or in competition with, other churches in their area, these networks are laying aside theological and cultural differences for the sake of reaching their local area with the love of Christ. GATHER is building a growing movement, not an organisation, which encourages and supports unity movements to grow and develop in their prayer, fellowship and missional transformation activities.

Pray: for God to continue to awaken churches to their full potential when they work together, preferring each other's needs. (Philippians 2:3)

More: www.eauk.org/what-we-do/networks/gather-network

Prayer for families and addicts

The following is a prayer from Transformations Ireland: 'Our Father in heaven, may Your name be honoured in families. May Your kingdom come into homes, meeting needs and revealing Your blessings. Father, please heal relationships and build Your kingdom, manifesting Your glory in homes and across the land. Father, we are thankful for Your mercy and Your abounding love. In the Name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we come on behalf of families and communities bound by many strongholds and strategies of the Evil One; we confess and repent of partaking in sins associated with addictions. We ask that, by the blood of the cross and the power of Your Holy Spirit, You will have mercy and set men and women free from all addictions so that they may follow You in fullness of life. As Your church, give us courage and strength as we now take our stand against them.'

Pray: for God to protect addicts from illusions and false inspirations that addiction encourages, free them to recognise God's presence, and walk in His ways. (Ezra 8:23)

More: www.transformations-ireland.org/cmsfiles/HTL-Prayers-1.pdf

'Wall of Answered Prayer' update

In April 2016 Prayer Alert intercessors prayed that a vision to build a wall of one million bricks, each brick representing an answered prayer, would become a reality. The land has now been secured: the wall will be positioned by a busy motorway, with 50,000+ people driving past every day. What a wonderful testimony that Jesus is alive and has answered a million prayers! Hundreds of people are becoming involved each month. God has been providing generously. Please pray that the organisers continue to receive wonderful testimonies that will encourage and remind others of God's goodness and raise the money needed to finalise the planning phase. [See also https://youtube.com/watch?v=pF-rjN3gXX4&feature=youtu.be](https://youtube.com/watch?v=pF-rjN3gXX4&feature=youtu.be)

Pray: for the rest of the money to come in as and when it is needed. (Deuteronomy 28:12)

More: www.thewall.org.uk/

Supreme Court justices

The hearing by the members of the Supreme Court regarding the Prime Minister's move to prorogue parliament for five weeks will declare their ruling next week. Let us pray for God's wisdom and revelation to inspire the decisions of Lady Hale, the president of the Supreme Court; Lord Reed, her deputy; Lord Carnwath, who opposed the Article 50 agreement; Lord Kerr, a former lord chief justice of Northern Ireland and a liberal member of the court; Lord Wilson, who practised in the family courts, Lord Hodge, an expert in property and land law; and a Scottish justice, Lady Black, who has expertise in family law. Lord Lloyd-Jones is a Welsh speaker; Lady Arden judges in the European court of human rights; Lord Kitchin's expertise is patents, copyright and intellectual property; Lord Sales sat on the high court in the Article 50 case.

Pray: for justice according to God's plumbline. (Isaiah 28:12)

More: www.theguardian.com/law/2019/sep/17/supreme-court-prorogation-hearing-who-are-the-judges

Climate change fears must be listened to

Rev Dr Richard Frazer has said, 'Climate change will change the lives of children growing up today, and they will experience profoundly the impact in decades to come. It now casts a long shadow over their lives, and they have responded to the inspiring example of the Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icKINGLuqzU&feature=push-fr&attr_tag=uSgroDxKxqn35s7m:6) and want to be heard. We are mindful of the many arguments for and against schoolchildren "striking", and appreciate the strong feelings this evokes. Rather than taking a stand for or against climate strikes, we urge churches and congregations to listen to children in their communities. Churches can provide a safe space in which to express their concerns and aspirations. By listening to them we can learn and understand better, and this will in turn help us to respond more effectively to the climate emergency.' Dr Frazer spoke ahead of a series of school strike events planned in many Scottish cities on Friday 20 September.

Pray: for adults to respond positively to the climate emergency gripping the world. (Genesis 2:15)

More: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2019/young_peoples_fears_over_climate_change_must_be_listened_to

They are not spies

Dr Kylie Moore-Gilbert, an Australian-British lecturer in Islamic studies at Melbourne University, was arrested last September, tried, and imprisoned for ten years for espionage. She is in solitary confinement in Tehran's Evin prison, with no contact from family or friends. The British and Australian governments have kept the identity of their arrested citizens out of the public domain, believing diplomatic efforts for release would be more effective if conducted behind closed doors. Others argue that publicity will generate international, community and political support, providing impetus for release negotiations. Meanwhile, Jolie King, a British-Australian woman and Cambridge University honours graduate in Middle Eastern studies, and her Australian boyfriend Mark Firkin were arrested ten weeks ago near Tehran for flying a drone near military installations. They were shooting pictures for a travel blog of their overland journey from Perth to London. Also, please continue praying for Nazanin Ratcliffe.

Pray: for international prayers to God and pressure on Iran to generate the release of those imprisoned for undisclosed or untrue actions in Iran. (2 Corinthians 1:11)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/17/shes-not-a-spy-friends-shocked-over-academic-dr-kylie-moore-gilberts-jailing-in-iran

New envoy for freedom of religion

Rehman Chishti MP is to be the new Prime Minister's envoy for freedom of religion and belief. CSW has congratulated him on his appointment, saying, 'He has always been outspoken on issues relating to freedom of religion or belief, and we look forward to working with him as he takes on this new role.' Mr Chishti, a Muslim, was previously the vice-chairman of the Conservative party covering faith and communities, and was an outspoken critic of the Government's handling of Aasia Bibi's appeal for asylum. Foreign secretary Dominic Raab said, 'A staggering 83% of the world's population live in nations where religious freedom is threatened or banned. It is an area where the UK can and must make a difference.'

Pray: for God to use Mr Chishti as he enters the Government's global network supporting those persecuted for their faith and promoting respect between faiths. (Isaiah 45:1)

More: christiantoday.com/article/rehman-chishti-is-new-prime-ministers-envoy-for-freedom-of-religion-belief/133208.htm

Europe

Spain: aftermath of unprecedented storm

It smells of mud and damp. Mattresses, household appliances, chairs and broken tables are tossed outside on almost every street hit by last week's worst storm in 140 years. Residents in Orihuela, one of many towns isolated by floods, couldn't leave their homes for four days, fearing currents would drag them away. 'We lost the car from the garage. We had food in the freezer, but people needed it and the emergency military unit took it.' Pray for the areas still completely flooded and without electricity or water. Pray for the 3,500 who were evacuated, now returning to overwhelming destruction. €75 million was released to repair roads, bridges, homes, farms, schools, hospitals, health centres and businesses. 'We cannot remove their suffering, but we can help them recover', said regional president Juanma Moreno.

Pray: for God to be with those searching in canoes, speedboats and tractors for lost people, and for those sorting through their ruined possessions. (Psalm:67:1)

More: elpais.com/elpais/2019/09/17/inenglish/1568707899_683506.html

EU parliament - solutions?

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked Britain to table 'operable proposals in writing' to the Irish Backstop. On 19 September the UK gave the EU written suggested solutions (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-49753413>) 'reflecting the ideas the UK has put forward' saying that the UK will table 'formal written solutions when we are ready and not to an artificial deadline'. The UK will accept an all-Ireland food and agricultural zone to avoid the need for many checks, but Barnier said that the EU must control products arriving to the single market, insisting Brexit must include the backstop or equivalent legally-binding guarantees. The EU parliament will never accept any agreement giving the UK advantages of free trade without aligning with European standards. 'We are not stupid, we will not kill our own companies.' Nigel Farage said Barnier's objective is 'keeping us trapped inside, fearing - if we break out of the single market - we would become wealthier outside the EU'.

Pray: for clarity to replace confusion, and for God to have the last word. (Isaiah 1:26a)

More: www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/18/brexit-juncker-calls-for-operable-proposals-in-writing-from-uk

Worldwide

Bringing the Gospel to oral learners

If written words meant nothing to you, how would you hear and understand the gospel? 1,961 unengaged and unreached people groups, totalling 5.7 billion people, are oral learners who do not know a single verse of Scripture in their native language. Pray for the mission agencies developing strategies to reach these unreached people with God's word. Pray for churches overseas to engage with these people groups in their area through methods specific to their worldview and culture. Pray for organisations like [Wycliffe Bible Translators](https://www.wycliffe.org/unreached) (<https://www.wycliffe.org/unreached>), who are impacting unreached people groups globally with oral Bible storytelling and audio recordings of Scripture. It is time that all nations, tribes and languages not only hear about Jesus, but also experience him through God's transforming Word.

Pray: for more people to hear the call to be trained in mission methods to unreached people. (Mark 16:20)

More: www.lausanne.org/best-of-lausanne/bringing-gospel-oral-learners

Burkina Faso: Islam gains as churches close

When the Burkinabe people gained independence in 1960, the motto 'Unity, progress, justice' embodied hope for them. Currently almost eighty ethnic groups embrace religious practices: earth priests, fortune tellers, healers, witchcraft, and animal sacrifice. Recently the president of the Episcopal Conference said (<https://cruxnow.com/church-in-africa/2019/08/02/burkina-faso-church-appeals-for-protection-against-terror-attacks/>) that over 200 churches have closed in the north of the country to avoid attacks. If the world continues to do nothing, the result will be the elimination of a Christian presence. Muslims and Christians had enjoyed a peaceful coexistence. But this once-peaceful country has turned into a hotbed for extremism, and a long-held peace is under threat. Christians were specifically targeted in recent attacks. The violence has taken hundreds of lives (Muslim and Christian) and displaced tens of thousands more, as Islam rapidly spreads into nearly every ethnic group. Unreached peoples are steadily turning to Islamic teachings.

Pray: for the Gospel to reach the five million in the nation who have never heard of Christ. (Mark 2:2)

More: www.prayercast.com/burkina-faso.html

Afghanistan: crises

On 19 September (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/afghanistan-dozens-civilians-killed-drone-attack-190919072728303.html>) 30+ civilians were killed and 40+ injured in an air attack that accidentally targeted farmers, and 20+ people were killed in a suicide car bomb that hit a hospital. 74 Afghans were killed every day during August. Unrelenting violence affects almost the entire country. The US/Taliban peace talks have failed, attacks are killing dozens in Kabul, militant sieges trap residents in Kunduz and Pul-e-Khumri, airstrikes by security forces kill innocent civilians, and the Taliban have executed a rights commission's provincial director. Conflict has displaced 237,000+ people this year, and recent floods following extreme drought have uprooted comparable numbers. Hundreds of thousands of

refugees are being forced home, increasing the burden on a fragile state with lowering income, high unemployment, and rising debt. Three million people are experiencing food insecurity; one in six need humanitarian assistance. But in the midst of crises, many displaced Afghans are becoming Christians. See the following article, on suffering but growing church.

Pray: for God's mercy to fall on those displaced or facing a fragile future at home. (Genesis 17:20a)

More: www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2019/09/13/Migration-displacement-Afghanistan-crises

Afghanistan, Iran: suffering but growing church

We praise God that hundreds of new Iranian and Afghan believers have been baptised in recent months in cities across the region. In Iran, these include teenagers who were deeply impacted recently by an Elam youth discipleship conference. The baptisms have been occasions of great joy and celebration, often lasting from morning to evening. Over 100 more new believers will be baptised soon at a service in Afghanistan. Please pray that all these new believers will grow in love and knowledge of Christ, and that God will protect them and give them wisdom as they witness to family and friends.

Pray: for God to safeguard and empower all involved in discipling these new believers. (Acts 8:4)

More: www.elam.com/Iran30/hundreds-baptized-recently-iran-region

USA / Philippines: online sex offending

This month a US court sentenced Anthony Schultz to 84 years in prison for filming rape and sharing the abuse online. The case dated back to 2016, when he was arrested for multiple counts of child pornography he created in the Philippines. US-based FBI investigators discovered Schultz would film himself abusing children and then sell the materials online. He also convinced a Filipino mother to sexually abuse her own daughter and sell the videos to him. Throughout 2017 the International Justice Mission (IJM) supported Philippine authorities as they used this intelligence to rescue three girls aged 10, 15 and 17 from Schultz's videos. While we can praise and thank God for the success of this investigation, please pray for the release of thousands of other children in similar circumstances across the nations. Pray for the work of IJM as they work to end slavery in our lifetime.

Pray: for countries to take more seriously their global responsibility to protect children and punish those preying on the vulnerable. (Matthew 19:14)

More: www.ijm.org/news/american-sex-offender-sentenced-to-84-years-for-abusing-filipino-girls-online

China: Ten Commandments replaced

A believer says the Chinese government doesn't want Christians to know the Ten Commandments, which have been removed from nearly every state church and meeting venue and replaced with quotations from a 2015 speech by Xi Jinping. The government said that the core socialist values and Chinese culture will swallow religions of China and support religious communities to re-interpret religious thought, doctrines, and teachings in a way that conforms to the progress of the times. This means resolutely guarding against the infiltration of Western ideology, and consciously resisting the influence of extremist thought. Some churches have been closed for not replacing the Ten Commandments with the President's quotes. Others have been threatened with blacklisting, which means that travel, schooling, and their children's future employment will be impeded if they refuse to overhaul their church's teaching. A pastor said, 'The Communist Party's ultimate goal is to become God'.

Pray: for God to protect Christians who disobey the Communist Party, and for attempts to erode Christian doctrine to fail. (Revelation 22:19a)

More: www.persecution.org/2019/09/16/ten-commandments-chinas-henan-replaced-xis-quotations/

Israel: Judaism's place in politics

Religious Jewish parties won nearly 20% of the vote in the national election on 17 September. Previously, those parties have united with the conservative Likud party to form a governing coalition. But now the religious-nationalist bloc fell short of a majority in the Knesset, winning only 56 of the 120 seats. Seven decades after Israel's founding, the debate over Judaism's place in public life rages on. Israeli political battle lines often fracture along balancing Jewish religion and liberal democracy. These tensions were a central issue in the election, and will influence the composition of Israel's next government.

Pray: for God to hold Israel's identity in His hands, and direct the nation's decisions. (Isaiah 2:3b)

More: religionnews.com/2019/09/18/a-look-at-judaisms-place-in-israeli-politics/

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