

# Prayer Alert

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He rules the world in righteousness, and judges the peoples with equity. (Psalm 9:8)

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

### [Brexit mire: young Christians a source of hope](#)

Christians in Politics (CP) shamelessly profess their vision for Christians young and old, up and down the country, stepping into politics from across the spectrum, with loyalty to God before any political tribe. CP's Alasdair Howorth writes, 'We crave the sight of young passionate Christians working together in government, locally and nationally to bring about God's Kingdom in our United Kingdom.' He recently attended a Just Love event where 30+ young people less than five years out of university were working at the heart of politics - parliamentary assistants working in the Houses of Lords and Commons, in Brexit departments, and in individual parties; civil servants, community organisers, and lobbyists. Alasdair said, 'Here before me was the vision of CP being lived out as young Christians were coming together from across political and social divides to pray with and encourage one another, all with a vision of Kingdom before Tribe'.

Praise: God for the snapshot of the potential for thousands of young Christians up and down the country entering politics to bring about political reconciliation and cooperation. (Psalm 8:6)

More: [www.christiantoday.com/article/in-the-midst-of-the-brexit-mire-increasingly-engaged-young-people-are-a-source-of-hope/133538.htm](http://www.christiantoday.com/article/in-the-midst-of-the-brexit-mire-increasingly-engaged-young-people-are-a-source-of-hope/133538.htm)

### [Engulfed in fireball, prayer aids recovery](#)

Fred's body was engulfed in a flame in a tragic accident. He rolled on the ground, but there was extensive damage to his arms and legs. He was airlifted to a burn centre in a critical condition. Julie, his wife, prayed. 'I knew God was there: I just prayed the whole time that he'd be okay.' Doctors were amazed that Fred's lungs and airways were undamaged by the fireball. After only two days in ICU, his circulation was remarkably better - but then infection set in and his condition deteriorated. Julie redoubled her prayers, requesting intercession from family and church. They also prayed with him before his surgery. Doctors said he might be unable to work for six months. But God heard their prayers! Ten days after his last skin graft, Fred was released from hospital, and returned to work a month later.

Praise: God for ministering to Fred throughout this tragedy, and for his wife's faith. (Psalm 30:2)

More: [godreports.com/2019/10/former-seal-engulfed-in-fireball-credits-prayer-for-fast-recovery/](http://godreports.com/2019/10/former-seal-engulfed-in-fireball-credits-prayer-for-fast-recovery/)

## British Isles

### [Christian perspective on politics](#)

The media is predicting a bitter Christmas election battle. Politics may dominate the headlines, but we must not forget other vital concerns. A general election provides opportunities for Christians to speak out and play their part in voting. Believers have to make a judgment about how their vote can be used to best effect. A new Parliament could vote on laws liberalising divorce, abortion and drugs; laws affecting religious liberty, freedom of speech, transgender rights and teaching on marriage, sex and relationships in schools. These are all issues of concern to Christians. It is unlikely that we will find a party or a candidate we believe has all the right views. For many Christians, there is a genuine dilemma over choosing a party or a candidate. We can weigh the evidence before the Lord, and allow Him to exercise our conscience. See also praise article 1.

Pray: for Christian politicians to be salt and light in debates, with heaven's wisdom speaking through them. (Psalm 45:4)

More: [www.christian.org.uk/general-election-2019/](http://www.christian.org.uk/general-election-2019/)

### Brexit could put child refugees at risk

1,800+ refugee children have safely and legally entered the UK from Greece, Italy and Spain through routes that 'Safe Passage' has opened for them. Working in Northern France, it is asking the home secretary to ensure that unaccompanied child refugees are not Brexit victims. As the UK's EU exit is debated, little thought has been given to unaccompanied refugee children hoping to join their families in the UK. A no-deal Brexit, or a Brexit that does not consider their situation, means that under current EU law children could no longer access a safe and legal route. They might have to risk their lives in the hands of smugglers and traffickers. The only way to guarantee that Brexit does not leave them separated from their loved ones is for the Government to commit to maintaining the current family reunion safe passage arrangements from day one if the UK exits the EU.

Pray: for the Home Secretary to ensure these children are safely reunited with their families. (Job 11:18)

More: [safepassage.org.uk/](http://safepassage.org.uk/)

### God wants His people to flourish

We know that Jesus came to transform our brokenness, and, as His representatives on earth, we carry His mandate. But how do we address the huge issue of mental health? Emerge Advocacy has been taking on the challenge. Launched in Guildford in 2016, Emerge is a 'voice of hope' to young people who find themselves overwhelmed by their thoughts and feelings and unable to keep themselves safe. Teams in A&E departments bringing comfort, hope and peace to young people admitted after self-harming or a suicide attempt. They have already supported over 350 young people, and their work is recognised by the Care Quality Commission. Young people struggling to articulate thoughts and feelings to health professionals may feel intimidated by the clinical environment. Volunteers stay with them, reassuring them, chatting, explaining what is happening, and helping them engage with health professionals, so that the experience is not so overwhelming.

Pray: for God to bless and grow this initiative across neighbouring areas through networking Christians and churches. (Psalm 25:5)

More: [www.eauk.org/news-and-views/boost-for-young-hurting-and-at-risk](http://www.eauk.org/news-and-views/boost-for-young-hurting-and-at-risk)

### Discrimination against Christian refugees 'indefensible'

Lord Carey has launched a judicial review against the Home Office, claiming it has discriminated against Christian Syrian refugees. He writes, 'War in Syria has reignited. Once again refugees fill its roads in need of our compassion. Yet those from the "wrong faith" won't find it from the British government. The UK's resettlement of 16,000 refugees from the earlier conflict saw hardly any from the most brutalised minorities reach safety in our land. Of the refugees who came here in 2015 under the Vulnerable Persons Scheme, only 1.6% were Christians - despite being 10% of the Syrian population. The situation for Christians seeking asylum has worsened. In 2016 only 0.4% were Christians; in 2017, 0.2%. In the early part of last year none of the 1,112 refugees we took in were Christians.'

Pray: for the courts to recognise the degree of Home Office discrimination against Syrian Christian refugees. (Exodus 23:6)

More: [anglicanmainstream.org/politically-correct-discrimination-against-christian-refugees-is-an-indefensible-scandal/](http://anglicanmainstream.org/politically-correct-discrimination-against-christian-refugees-is-an-indefensible-scandal/)

### Call to review euthanasia law

A cross-party group (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/oct/30/assisted-dying-laws-are-in-need-of-review>) of 20+ MPs want the law banning euthanasia to be reviewed. The current law punishes assisted suicide with up to fourteen years' imprisonment. However, committing the offence may not automatically result in prosecution. Consideration must be made whether a prosecution is in the public interest. There is a lobby of campaigners and individuals who are determined to see some form of assisted suicide introduced in the UK. - Dignity in Dying. Nearly all pain can be alleviated to some degree through medicine and palliative care. When patients' physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs are properly met, suicide requests are extremely rare. The UK is a world leader in the provision of palliative care, and we should build on this legacy. If we permit assisted suicide, the right to die will soon become a duty to die for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Pray: for the ministry of justice to uphold regulations, so that causing death is against the law in every circumstance. (Exodus 20:13)

More: [www.care.org.uk/news/latest-news/what-are-key-arguments-against-assisted-suicide](http://www.care.org.uk/news/latest-news/what-are-key-arguments-against-assisted-suicide)

### Prisoners' families hotline not working

A 'safer custody' telephone line for families to flag up concerns about a prisoner's physical or mental health was a key recommendation in a review commissioned by the Government, but research shows hotlines were not answered or had not been set up in over one third of jails. Most emergency calls went to an answering machine. Figures for the twelve months to June 2019 revealed 86 self-inflicted deaths, up from 81 in 2018, and 57,968 incidents of self-harm, an increase of 24% on the previous year. Peter Dawson, director of the Prison Reform Trust (PRT), said the problem is a very long way from being solved. It demands action now, as lives depend on it. The PRT said poor arrangements for families to get in touch with prisons had been identified in inquests into the deaths of prisoners.

Pray: for a service of effective communications within each prison to end the rising tide of self-harm and suicides. (2 Chronicles 24:13a)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-50239811](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-50239811)

### Parents pressured to have abortions

A survey of 1,400 women with Down's syndrome babies found that 69% were offered a termination. Nearly half who wanted to continue with the pregnancy were asked again. 91% were offered further tests after discovering a high chance of Down's. Of those who declined further tests, 44% were pressurised regardless. One mother said that, even though they made it clear that wasn't an option for them, professionals pushed them about fifteen times to terminate. 'At 38 weeks they said if I changed my mind on the morning of the induction to let them know, because it wasn't too late; until the baby had started travelling down the birth canal, I could still terminate.' Millions of pounds are poured into refining the Down's screening process, whilst £5.33 per person per year is spent on research to improve the lives

of people with Down's syndrome.

Pray: for an end to prejudicial views pressuring women to make life or death decisions. (Deuteronomy 30:19b)

More: [www.christiantoday.com/article/mothers-of-babies-with-downs-syndrome-reveal-pressure-to-have-an-abortion/133530.htm](http://www.christiantoday.com/article/mothers-of-babies-with-downs-syndrome-reveal-pressure-to-have-an-abortion/133530.htm)

## Europe

### Vatican: 'Click to Pray' eRosary app

Frédéric Fornos, director of the Pope's worldwide prayer network, has said that the eRosary combines the best of Church tradition with the best of technology. The device is aimed at young people who seek to learn how to pray and who don't really know how to. It reminds them to pray three times a day. Once connected to its application, the Rosary has specific content, such as thematic prayers, allowing fervent users to record and share their spiritual activity. One researcher said a security flaw in the application allows an attacker to take over the account of the victim and get the victim's personal information just by knowing their email address. Another problem is the price of the device, which many consider to be too high.

Pray: for secure technology, and for prices to drop so that more young people to use this app. (1 Chronicles 5:20b)

More: [www.euronews.com/2019/10/25/vatican-erosary-app-hacked-multiple-times-just-days-after-launch](http://www.euronews.com/2019/10/25/vatican-erosary-app-hacked-multiple-times-just-days-after-launch)

### France: secularism sowing hatred and division

Religion is again at the forefront of French public debate. After an 84-year-old former far-right candidate fired shots at a mosque in Bayonne, Emmanuel Macron evoked the French concept of 'laïcité' in a speech at the inauguration of a European Centre for Judaism. Defined as the concept of separation of church and state, it has also been at the centre of debates about wearing religious symbols in public. Macron said, 'Laïcité is a tenet of fraternity that should live in each French person like a compass in their relationship to other citizens - that is essentially a form of French civility. I want to recall it at this moment in our nation's history, where these values of unity and cohesiveness are sometimes distorted and used by those who, seeking to sow hatred and division, use it to fight against this or that religion.'

Pray: for Christianity to flourish across France as the nation faces a crisis of values. (Deuteronomy 28:14)

More: [www.euronews.com/2019/10/30/macron-condemns-those-who-use-secularism-to-sow-hatred-and-division](http://www.euronews.com/2019/10/30/macron-condemns-those-who-use-secularism-to-sow-hatred-and-division)

## Worldwide

### Vietnam: Phuc, poverty and prayers

Prime minister Phuc has asked the public security and foreign ministries to investigate the trafficking of Vietnamese citizens into foreign countries after 39 people died in a refrigerated truck in Essex. Vietnam's UK embassy and the British authorities are identifying the dead. Rural Vietnamese believe many of the dead came from their poor, rice-growing areas where families pay traffickers to take their youths abroad to work, save, repay traffickers the debt, and return home with enough money to buy land and build a home. The newly-built houses in poor districts are evidence of the money to be made, and saved, by [working overseas](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-50203096) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-50203096>) Father Anthony Dang Huu Nam believes most of the dead were from his parish. 'The whole district is covered in sorrow,' Nam said, as prayers rang out over the town on loudspeakers. 'This is a catastrophe for our community.' See <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-bodies/rural-vietnamese-mourn-loved-ones-feared-dead-in-back-of-british-truck-idUSKBN1X503U>

Pray: for God's anointing on communities helping anxious and devastated relatives. (Romans 12:15)

More: [e.vnexpress.net/news/news/pm-orders-investigation-into-overseas-trafficking-of-vietnamese-citizens-4002921.html](http://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/pm-orders-investigation-into-overseas-trafficking-of-vietnamese-citizens-4002921.html)

### USA: new wildfires as crews brace for winds

The US national weather service has issued an 'extreme red flag' warning for wildfires in Los Angeles county, Ventura county and the Simi valley. 'I don't know if I've ever seen us use this warning,' forecaster Marc Chenard said. 'It's pretty bad.' Dangerous fire weather conditions cover over 34,000 square miles, and 21 million people have been warned they may need to leave 'at a moment's notice' as the 70 mph winds threaten to bring more devastation to areas already ravaged. Power cuts have left 1.5 million people without electricity.

Pray: for the thousands of evacuees not knowing what they will return to, and for those in blackout without heating, lighting or cooking facilities. (Psalm 23:4)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/california-wildfires-blaze-erupts-crew-brace-winds-191030153654466.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/california-wildfires-blaze-erupts-crew-brace-winds-191030153654466.html)

### Syria: al-Baghdadi's ugly legacy

In 2014 Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the establishment of an Islamic caliphate and that the world's Muslims owed him their allegiance as 'Caliph Ibrahim.' It was an attempt to establish Islamic sovereignty across the Earth much as the Prophet Mohammed enjoyed. Recent events demonstrated that his aspiration died with him. However al-Baghdadi divided the jihadist movement rather than uniting it. IS controlled a hard-line state, offering recruits the chance to live its 'revolutionary' vision, which was what made IS such a radical sensation, and was key to al-Baghdadi's recruiting power. Now both the caliph and the caliphate are gone. Yet IS survives underground, lurking in the shadowy manner al-Baghdadi helped to define for it.

Pray: for God to prevent the birth of further terror groups after the death of al-Baghdadi. (Isaiah 27:1)

More: [www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/10/ugly-legacy-abu-bakr-al-baghdadi/600913/](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/10/ugly-legacy-abu-bakr-al-baghdadi/600913/)

### DRC: Justin Welby visits Ebola zone

The Archbishop of Canterbury has visited areas affected by the Ebola crisis in the DRC, which surfaced in August 2018 and has killed 2,169 people so far. Following strict anti-contamination procedures he toured hospitals transformed into Ebola treatment facilities with

quarantine units, screening centres, and blood-testing tents set up to combat the disease. The archbishop flew to Ebola-affected cities with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). They fly in the most difficult places in the world, landing on the most challenging runways but with the highest safety standards. MAF said the situation is complex, with the threat of violence now increasing. Flying is a safe and trusted way to deliver blood samples, vaccines, scrubs, gloves and oxygen tanks to those working to combat the virus.

Pray: for the success of the ongoing work of medical teams to eradicate Ebola entirely. (Isaiah 35:3)

More: [www.premierchristianradio.com/News/World/Justin-Welby-visits-DRC-Ebola-zone](http://www.premierchristianradio.com/News/World/Justin-Welby-visits-DRC-Ebola-zone)

### Lebanon: demonstrations - PM resigns

Protesters have paralysed Lebanon, blocking roadways, closing schools and shutting banks nationwide. Emergency reform measures and an offer of dialogue with protest representatives by the president failed to defuse anger or move the cross-communal demonstrations of Christians, Muslims (Shia and Sunni), and Druze from the streets demanding the resignation of all Lebanese political leaders. On 29 October the prime minister, Saad Hariri, resigned. The protests over political corruption and economic turmoil began after now-scrapped plans to tax WhatsApp calls were introduced in mid-October. Lebanon has one of the highest debt levels in the world. Mr Hariri must stay on until a new administration is established, but parliament contains the same factions that are in the outgoing coalition. On 30 October demonstrators celebrated Hariri's departure, but vowed to stay in the streets until all their demands are met. See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/lebanese-protesters-celebrate-hariri-resignation-191029203414584.html>

Pray: for reforms that bring social and economic stability. (Jeremiah 7:5,7b)

More: [www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/27/lebanon-protesters-form-human-chain-across-entire-country](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/27/lebanon-protesters-form-human-chain-across-entire-country)

### Pray for Somalia

Somalia, located on the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, has summer droughts and dust storms and floods during the rainy season. It has the seventh-highest birth rate in the world, the second-highest maternal mortality rate, and fourth-highest infant mortality rate. Decades-long instability has caused a 38% literacy rate, and 1/3rd of children are underweight. Sunni Islam is the official religion; the government functions under the Union of Islamic Courts, which has implemented Shari'a law, creating a mixed legal system with other customary laws, known as Xeer. 16 of the 22 people groups have never heard the gospel, but praise God that the Somali church (a tiny minority), though driven underground, has withstood sufferings, great persecution, and martyrdom. Pray for an end to radicalism and tribalism, and that the country's leaders will help to unite people by bringing in policies that protect human rights and equality of all people.

Pray: for God to bring peace from the chaos created by smugglers, bandits, pirates and terrorists, and for al-Shabaab members to bend their knees to Jesus Christ. (Romans 14:11)

More: [www.windowreporter.com/prayer-points-day?day=28](http://www.windowreporter.com/prayer-points-day?day=28)

### Global: polio in 2019

World Polio Day was on 24 October. Global polio numbers have fallen over decades, but new outbreaks continue to raise questions about eradication efforts in countries where humanitarian access is a problem. The recent surge in polio is fuelled by dozens of cases of wild poliovirus in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and by unexpected new outbreaks of vaccine-derived strains, rare mutations that affect under-immunised populations, in at least 14 other countries. Some of these had not seen polio for years, including Ghana and the Philippines, which both announced outbreaks in September. In some cases, vaccine-derived polio strains have leapt across borders - from Nigeria to its neighbours and from Somalia to Ethiopia. A WHO committee has said, 'The risk of new outbreaks in other countries is considered extremely high, even probable'. There are grave concerns that it will not be possible to control outbreaks in Africa and Asia.

Pray: for vaccines to eradicate new strains, and for medicine to reach destinations safely. (Proverbs 3:8)

More: [www.thenewhumanitarian.org/maps-and-graphics/2019/10/24/polio-outbreaks-how-virus-spread-decades-eradication-efforts](http://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/maps-and-graphics/2019/10/24/polio-outbreaks-how-virus-spread-decades-eradication-efforts)

### South Africa: A Rocha deaths

A Rocha is a respected Christian environmental organisation, currently operating in over twenty nations. On 28 October, Peter and Miranda Harris, its co-founders, along with Chris Naylor, executive director of A Rocha International, and his wife Susanna, were involved in a fatal car accident in Port Elizabeth. Miranda, Chris, and Susanna did not survive. Peter and the driver of the car are being treated at a local hospital and are in a stable condition. Please pray for the families concerned, and also for the future leadership of the organisation.

Pray: for God to comfort those who mourn, and raise up others to continue the work. Give thanks to God for all the ways in which A Rocha highlights the vital importance of caring for His creation. (Psalm 19:1)

More: [www.christianitytoday.com/news/2019/october/rocha](http://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2019/october/rocha)

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