

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 44-2021 | Friday 05 November 2021
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You care for the land and water it; You enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so You have ordained it. (Psalm 65:9)

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

You may like to explore our new online [Prayer Alert Prayer Wall](#) where we can add our own prayers and praise, interactively. We trust that you will find this helpful and encouraging, as we pray from our homes during lockdown.

Can you help? - Prayer Alert is brought to your inbox without charge thanks largely to the generosity of individuals and organisations that freely provide most of the resources we need to operate. However, we would be grateful for donations from appreciative subscribers towards our costs. Please click the 'Donations' button above to make a contribution

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

Blessings,

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert Team

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Praise Reports

Answered prayer - 1

On 16 October four-year-old Cleo Smith disappeared in the middle of the night while camping with her family in a harsh remote area of Australia. On 21 October we joined with many across Australia to pray for her [to be found](https://www.prayer-alert.net/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/14672-australia-missing-four-year-old) (<https://www.prayer-alert.net/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/14672-australia-missing-four-year-old>). Now, after 18 days, she has been rescued from a locked house in Carnarvon. The police have arrested a 36-year-old man and are questioning him. The authorities say they have so far not found any connection between the man and the Smith family. She has now been reunited with her parents. 'Our family is whole again,' was the message Cleo's mother wrote on Instagram. Prime minister Scott Morrison said, 'It is a huge relief that the nightmare has come to an end and our worst fears were not realised.'

Praise: God that Cleo has been discovered safe and well. Pray for any emotional scars to be healed. (Psalm 23:2)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/missing-cleo-smith-found-australia-update-b1950386.html

Answered prayer - 2

Recently you prayed for eighty women [on a spiritual retreat](https://www.prayer-alert.net/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/14635-iraq-spiritual-retreat-for-persecuted-women) (<https://www.prayer-alert.net/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/14635-iraq-spiritual-retreat-for-persecuted-women>). Today we received this message: 'The Lord answered your prayers abundantly! Thank you for praying for the many ladies suffering persecution from their families for their faith in Christ. This retreat gave them hope and allowed them to worship freely. One woman, overwhelmed with thankfulness, said her faith is growing and she looks forward to sharing Christ with others. Another woman, in tears, said, "The retreat taught me what it is like to be loved and valued by God and others". Time and time again we see broken, weary, fearful attendees who have experienced suffering, trauma, and loss. But through God's grace and power, after just a few days, a distinct, palpable transformation occurs. Hope-filled smiles and laughter, healing of past wounds, restoration of soul and spirit.'

Praise: God for spiritual retreats like this that bring healing and hope to the broken. (Mark 11:24)

More: http.org/stories

British Isles

COP26 - prayers

Hundreds of 'climate pilgrims' have trekked miles from across the UK and Europe to Glasgow's COP26. Some waved flags, others played musical instruments; many carried religious banners. Numerous intercessors prayed as they journeyed and will continue praying in Glasgow streets throughout the two weeks of COP26. We can pray along with them. Pray for world leaders to agree to act swiftly and justly transitioning the global economy from fossil fuels toward renewables. Pray for communities already affected by climate change to be fairly compensated. Pray for delegates to have the wisdom, compassion, humility and courage necessary to work in unity to safeguard the future of all life on this

fragile planet. Pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire political leaders to embrace every single change needed to cultivate a more sustainable society, and may we all acknowledge the responsibilities God has placed upon us as stewards of His creation.

Pray: for prosperous nations to have the commitment needed to pledge and act out constructive changes to save the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable nations. (Galatians 6:2)

More: www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/faith-community-arrives-glasgow-pray-world-leaders-strong-action-cop-26

COP26 - promises and refusals

The Earth is sending a message to COP26. Delegates must commit to zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. China, the world's largest emitter, committed to achieve this by 2060 and India, the third largest emitter, by 2070. Ask God to convict delegates of greed and pride. May they re-assess all commitments and actions according to Micah 6:8 and act justly, love mercy and walk humbly under God's authority. The Least Developed Countries group said, 'Raising global ambition and increasing climate finance is paramount to our survival'. Pray that after COP26 the actions of powerful nations will reaffirm their positive pledges. In recent years more than two out of three deaths in the least developed countries were caused by droughts, wildfires, and floods. Pray that this crisis is treated like a crisis, and in the midst of the many voices clamouring to be heard important issues will be understood and positively acted on by decision-makers.

Pray: for God's wisdom and compassion to shape the final days of COP26. (Psalm 41:1)

More:

UK reviews how to tackle modern slavery

The UK's work to tackle modern slavery in developing countries has had limited long-term impact. Its strategy did not build on existing international efforts and experience, and failed to adequately involve survivors - though the Government played a prominent role in raising the profile of the issue globally. Consequently the Government is now reviewing its strategy, to shape how the UK tackles modern slavery in years to come. Civil society organisations were consulted on the development of this strategy. Parliament scrutinised the situation at a hearing on 14 April. Now there are follow-up discussions on government responses to various recommendations. Please pray that key points on access to justice will form part of the Government's strategy. This process is a key link in the accountability chain, providing Parliament and the public with an account of how well government departments have responded to reviews.

Pray: for God to direct all communications involved in reviewing the strategy so that next summer's report is in line with His purposes. (Luke 4:18a)

More: icai.independent.gov.uk/review/the-uks-approach-to-tackling-modern-slavery-through-the-aid-programme/

Turning hearts of fathers and children

Malachi 4:6 says, 'He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers'. We pray for this to happen in these days. May fathers and mothers rediscover their roles and lead their families with God's wisdom, love, peace and righteous values. We pray that parents will raise their children with loving discipline and counsel that reflect Christian values. Father in heaven please help the fathers in this nation to re-discover the power of strong love, the kindness of Godly discipline and the blessing of patient encouragement, raising a generation of children fully equipped for their future. We cry out for the children across this nation to experience Godly discipline from fathers balanced with the nurture of mothers. Father, please heal the hearts of parents where regret and failure have caused them to feel guilty, and will you help those living in poverty, particularly single parent families.

Pray: for families to stand strong and healthy, supporting and encouraging each other across generational divides. (Ephesians 6:4)

More:

Covid: hard months to come

England's deputy chief medical officer, Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, predicted that there are hard months to come in the winter because Covid levels are running very high. Too many people believed the pandemic was now over, and winter could 'potentially be problematic'. He also said there were signs that infections were starting to 'penetrate' older age groups, and how Christmas is affected would depend on a whole range of behaviours. We can pray for the nation to recognise that caution is still needed around the elderly, and face coverings should continue to be worn in appropriate places along with social distancing. Meanwhile the joint committee on vaccination and immunisation, which provides advice to the Government, said that while the infection rate is high, the current case numbers are not 'out of control' although we are at a 'relatively important crux point'. The total of UK infections recorded on 3 November was 41,299, higher than most of Europe.

Pray: for the five million unvaccinated to take up the offer of boosters and first doses of Covid jabs. (Acts 27:34)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59147248

Northern Ireland: DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson

After Arlene Foster stood down from the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), her replacement only lasted three weeks. Then Sir Jeffrey Donaldson took over the leadership at a significant moment for NI, as it has come to terms with the effects of Covid and battled the repercussions of Brexit. There have been significant changes on things like abortion and same sex marriage. Although the Church spoke out against changing legislation, Donaldson is concerned over the diminishing church voice. He said that church leaders now find it difficult to speak out in public to give a faith-based perspective on social issues and are not being salt and light in our society. He also believes prayer is the most important thing that the church has available to it: 'I often encourage Christians to intercede and to give prayerful support to those of us who are involved as Christians in the political process'.

Pray: for the Church to fulfill her continuing role to pray for those in authority over us. (Romans 13:1)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/sir-jeffrey-donaldson-one-of-northern-ireland-s-most-senior-politicians-on-the-future-of-the-country-and-how-his-leadership-is-grounded-by-his-christian-faith

Opposition to Tories' attempt to change the standards system

Sir Keir Starmer accused Tories of 'wallowing in sleaze' after they voted to protect the Conservative MP Owen Paterson from suspension over lobbying claims. Starmer said the Labour party would not have anything to do with a complete and utter sham process and will boycott the commission set up to overhaul the parliamentary sleaze system. Boris Johnson initially threw his weight behind an amendment tabled by Andrea Leadsom which will halt Paterson's punishment until a new cross-party committee, chaired by John Whittingdale, has examined the

standards system. But now, the level of cross-part opposition has forced Boris Johnson to withdraw this plan, and Owen Paterson has resigned as an MP.

Pray: for all structures that hold our MPs to high standards to remain in place, and for any changes to be an improvement to the justice system. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59167783

Europe

Germany: Ahr valley region reconstruction

The flood disaster in the Ahr valley was three months ago. Much has been achieved but reconstruction will take a long time. Many houses had to be demolished and over thirty may not be rebuilt. Houses that could remain standing have been completely cleared and left empty to dry out. Large parts of the natural gas network were destroyed, and many oil heating systems in the affected houses no longer work. The government is working flat out to find solutions to the problems and to be prepared for the upcoming winter - including providing mobile gas supply systems and oil tanks, the use of mini-power plants and the purchase of a [Tiny House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiny-house_movement) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiny-house_movement) for residents who need accommodation for the winter due to a lack of heating. The electrical power supply has not yet been completely restored and there is a lack of craftsmen and building materials for the renovation and reconstruction work. See <https://www.help-ev.de/en/country/germany>

Pray: for people to see good progress in the reconstruction work, and for wisdom in all the planning. (Daniel 2:20,21)

More: www.waechterruf.de/gebetsbriefe/gebetsbriefe/briefe/

Italy: G20 - climate and Covid

When the G20 leaders met in Rome last weekend, at their first face to face meeting since the pandemic started, climate change and Covid were on the agenda. The talks come amid increasingly dire warnings for the future if urgent action is not taken to cut emissions. The G20 group of countries and the EU account for 80% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. According to Reuters, a draft communiqué outlined a promise from the G20 to work towards limiting the rise in temperatures to 1.5C, saying it 'will require meaningful and effective actions by all countries'. Covid vaccine equality is also on many leaders' minds. Italy's prime minister said that just 3% of the six billion Covid vaccines administered worldwide had gone to the poorest countries, which was 'morally unacceptable'. He called fellow leaders to do 'all we can' to vaccinate 70% of the world's population by the middle of 2022.

Pray: for the decisions made on these two critical emergencies to be speedily implemented. (Psalm 103:2-4)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-59101218

Worldwide

Global: persecuted children and single parents

Millions of children around the world face violence, discrimination, or bereavement because they or their parents are Christians. This has a huge impact on their faith and self-esteem. Pray for all who invest in these children through Christian education, trauma care and schooling, to ensure a better future for them and the long-term survival of the church. Pray for single parents in Africa, especially mothers whose husbands have been killed for their faith. Ask God to provide for their practical needs and pray that they will lean on the Lord to help them raise godly children. Christian children in North Africa can find it extremely hard to embrace the faith of their parents as they grow up in an Islamic society. Pray for more Bible education classes to be provided for parents so that they are equipped to bring up their children 'in the training and instruction of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4).

Pray: for families facing harassment because of their faith, may they know the deep love of God and receive strength to stand firm in their faith. (Galatians 5:13a)

More: media.opendoorsuk.org/document/pdf/2021-November-Prayer-Diary-WEB.pdf

Canada: First Nation people and human rights

Prime minister Justin Trudeau came into office promising to strengthen and restore ties with native communities and recently told reporters, 'We are committed to compensating indigenous people who were harmed as children in child and family services'. Yet his government says it will appeal against a court order to pay billions of dollars to compensate indigenous children who went through the child welfare system. Last month, a tribunal upheld a 2016 ruling that the government underfunded First Nations services compared with those for non-indigenous children, and ordered \$40,000 (£23,340) payouts to each child who was in the on-reserve welfare system after 2006. The case has been a source of tension between tribes and the government. The government has said it is not opposed to compensation, but that it had issues over the order's jurisdiction and how the money was to be divided.

Pray: for the Canadian government not to appeal against the ruling, and for the human rights tribunal ruling to be upheld. (Psalm 82:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-59098305

Nicaragua: sham election

President Daniel Ortega has gripped Nicaragua's election on 7 November by arresting all competition, controlling electoral authorities, and reinventing himself as a business-friendly devout Catholic. The US is working with international partners to prepare new sanctions to be levied if he wins the election that Washington denounces as a sham. It has also begun a review of Nicaragua's participation in a Central American free trade agreement and has halted support for any 'trade capacity building' activities seen as benefiting Ortega's government. Nearly half of Nicaraguans live below the poverty line, and an additional 90,000 individuals fell into poverty as a result of the pandemic. Nicaragua is one of the most corrupt countries globally - a costly, painful legacy of misrule by Ortega's dictatorship. He stole, wasted and misused state resources, which were destined to combat poverty and used for national development, resulting in immense economic costs. See <https://havanatimes.org/opinion/the-model-of-corruption-and-impunity-in-nicaragua/>

Pray: for the impending sanctions to cause Ortega to consider his country's situation and begin to live up to his claims of being a Catholic by helping his people come out of poverty. (Isaiah 61:8)

More: www.reuters.com/world/exclusive-us-preparing-new-sanctions-response-nicaraguas-nov-7-election-2021-10-29/

India: Diwali - pray for Hindus

With over one billion people, Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world. The majority of Hindus have never heard the name of Jesus, and less than 2% of Protestant missionaries are serving among them. Centred mostly in India, Hinduism is much more than a religion; it is a way of life and a cultural identity. Acts of violence and intimidation by militant Hindus are on the rise, particularly against Christians. The five-day festival of Diwali, also called Festival of Lights, began on 4 November. Diwali can often also be celebrated by Jains, Sikhs and some Newar Buddhists. Few Indian festivals are as popular or anticipated, or as widely celebrated worldwide as Diwali. Diwali symbolises a spiritual 'victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance'. Despite the candles and fireworks, these millions of people remain in darkness.

Pray: for all celebrating the Festival of Lights to come to know the only true source of light - Jesus. (John 8:12)

More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diwali

Global: disabled people affected by the climate crisis

Israeli minister Karine Elharrar could not attend a COP26 meeting because the room was not wheelchair-accessible. This reflects how many disabled people are ignored and left out of climate change conversations; despite the UN Human Rights Council saying those with disabilities are among those most 'adversely affected in an emergency'. When a heatwave hit Montreal, hospitals helped those experiencing the effects of heat exhaustion, but 61 people died. A quarter of those had schizophrenia. Schizophrenics take anti-psychotic medication which makes them less tolerant to heat, increasing the risk of heatstroke, dehydration and death. What happened in Montreal is a snapshot of things to come. When California fires caused power outages Gerald Niimi's ventilator stopped, He struggled to breathe and died two days later. During the wildfires disabled Californians had difficulty fleeing their homes. Those able to escape found many emergency centres providing water, bathrooms and safety were not accessible. 12 German disabled care home residents died when sudden flooding hit. They were unable to evacuate, because wheelchair-users cannot get into a rubber dinghy.

Pray: for disabled people to be more involved in climate change discussions so that the impact of legislation does not overlook them. (Leviticus 19:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/disability-59042087

China: government closes Christian school

Over 100 students lost their opportunity to continue their education at Jinweizi Christian School founded by Golden Lamp Stand Christian Church. The school mainly served Christian families escaping government-mandated public school. Because of its loving environment many children with autism and other special needs also attended. These children were discriminated against and rejected by public schools. Jinweizi operated for many years with a wide range of grades, from kindergarten to secondary, with comprehensive educational facilities and equipment for over 100 students. Communist party officials confiscated the school's expensive equipment and effectively stripped the students of any opportunity to continue their education. Private schools in China do not have a traditional campus. Students meet in any available space: apartments, office spaces, or any available venues. Teachers and faculty rent properties until the government intervenes. Many Christian schools are considered 'illegal' because they are separate from the communist-controlled public schools.

Pray: for God to protect the teachers, parents, children and all involved in Christian education and help them to re-establish a safe teaching establishment for the pupils to continue their education. (Deuteronomy 6:6)

More: www.chinaaid.org/2021/11/beijing-government-shuts-down-christian.html

Space flight showed Jeff Bezos a 'finite and fragile' earth

Billionaire Jeff Bezos recently made a journey into space. He said his expedition on a space ship had radically changed his view of the world. He has pledged £1.47 billion to help restore nature in Africa. The Amazon founder said he expected his rocket to alter 'the lens from which he viewed the world', but he didn't anticipate the extent to which that would be true. He said, 'Looking back at Earth from space, the atmosphere seems so thin, the world so finite and fragile. Two-thirds of Africa's land is degraded, but this can be reversed. Restoration improves soil fertility, raises yields and improves food security, making water more reliable, creating jobs and boosting economic growth, while also sequestering carbon.'

Pray: for more investments of time and money by individuals and companies to save what we have, restore what we've lost and grow what we need without degrading the planet. (Romans 8:21)

More: www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jeff-bezos-africa-boris-johnson-amazon-earth-b963876.html

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Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with

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