

Prayer Alert

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You have defined and established all the borders of the earth, and the divisions of land and sea and of the nations. You have made summer and winter. (Psalm 74:17, AMP)

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.

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

Blessings,

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert Team

Praise Reports

[Ministry to disabled sees surge in growth](#)
[Youth mission trip saves a witchdoctor](#)

British Isles

[Seeds of prayer: Brexit and climate change](#)
[Ambulance waits risk lives](#)
[Anti-Semitism a 'present danger' at universities](#)
[Church land to be transformed for net-zero](#)
[Politics and corruption](#)
[Covid gene doubling death risk](#)

Europe

[Poland: humanitarian crisis unfolding at border zone](#)
[Finland: Christian charity cuts ties with Palestinian NGO](#)

Worldwide

[COP26: death threats for indigenous activist after speech](#)
[China: weaponisation of space](#)
[USA / Iran: options over nuclear deal](#)
[India: Christians are attacked, but then are arrested](#)
[Iraq: IS attack sparks sectarian bloodshed](#)
[Ethiopia: a seemingly inescapable quagmire](#)
[Yemen: rising severe mental health problems](#)

Praise Reports

[Ministry to disabled sees surge in growth](#)

2.25 million disabled Americans should attend church, but don't. Calvary Community is oriented towards people with 'special abilities'. Their families drive long distances to get there. As a result, church growth has surged. 'It just really exploded,' said Pastor Gina. 'We have a heart to help. The church understands the value of people with special abilities. They have a straightforward clear understanding of the love of God. They're not bogged down by noise, politics, or anything that can confuse who God is. Their childlike faith reminds us how simple the love of God can be. They help us understand what it means to serve someone who can't serve us back.' The community has 300 volunteers actively seeking and serving people with special abilities. The results speak for themselves. The church now has a database of 700 families with one or more child or adult with special abilities, and they train and help other churches develop special programmes.

Praise: God for this community and for all who serve and help the disabled to come to a living faith in Jesus Christ. (1 John 5:4)

More: www.godreports.com/2021/11/church-ministry-to-disabled-leads-to-surge-in-growth/

[Youth mission trip saves a witchdoctor](#)

Pastor Brant Cole took a team of teenagers to their sister church in Haiti. The night before they were to leave, Brant felt there was still something left that God wanted to do. As they drove through a village he saw a woman and stopped the truck; he needed to tell her about Jesus. The woman said she couldn't receive Jesus; she was indebted to the devil. They told her repeatedly, 'Christ died to take away every debt and sin in our past.' Surprisingly, she invited them to her house. After sharing the gospel with her more fully, the power of the Word and Spirit burst into her and she was born again. Later, they discovered she was the local witchdoctor. Other Christians had witnessed the love of God to her for years, but she had refused. Then God brought a little team of willing teenagers from a distant land and created a miracle.

Praise: God for the blessings He brings about through His people. (Luke 1:37)

More: www.godreports.com/2021/10/youth-mission-trip-results-in-witch-doctors-salvation/

British Isles

Seeds of prayer: Brexit and climate change

Brexit is having both expected and unexpected impacts on trade in agricultural and food products, and is blamed even when other factors may be at play (current fisheries dispute, lorry drivers shortage, increased red tape and costs in trading with the EU). Trade thrives on trust. Honesty and fairness in buying and selling are pleasing to God and make for a good society (Leviticus 19:36). Pray for all seeking to resolve trade disputes and for all affected by them, for peace, truth and equity to prevail in trade negotiations, and for Christians in trade to shine as lights of integrity and reconciliation. The UK's net zero strategy will profoundly impact farming and the countryside. The Lord has promised 'seed time and harvest while the earth remains' but holds us responsible for our stewardship of the earth (Genesis 1:28, 2:15; Revelation 11:18). Unlike some of today's environmentalists, we have a message of hope. Large numbers of Christians are praying and present at COP26.

Pray: for Christians to see 'climate change' from God's viewpoint, discern the many agendas at work at and around COP26, and not just embrace the gloomiest narratives. (Romans 12:2)

More: hopeforthecountryside.uk/seedssofarprayer/

Ambulance waits risk lives

Richard Webber from the College of Paramedics said that members with thirty years' service have never experienced anything like this. Lives are at risk because patients face unacceptably long waits for 999 emergency callouts for heart attacks and strokes, with some seriously ill patients waiting up to nine hours for an ambulance. Numerous investigations are going on into deaths linked to delays. The problems have forced all ambulance services to be put on their highest levels of alert - meaning that patients who can make their own way to hospital are told to do so. A number of services have brought in the military to support crews, and patients are taken to hospital in the back of police cars. Cases involve waits for crews to reach patients and delays when they arrive at overcrowded A&E's and spend hours queuing outside. Also hospitals cannot discharge patients fit to leave because of a lack of community support.

Pray: for the NHS to get the help it needs, and for God to fill the hearts of paramedics with resilience as they do their best in challenging situations that they can do nothing about. (Nahum 1:7)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-59237935

Anti-Semitism a 'present danger' at universities

Education secretary Nadhim Zahawi said Oxford University should explain to Jewish students why it took a total of £12.3 million from the Mosley family, as anti-Semitism is not simply a historic debate. The Mosley charitable trust houses the fortune of Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists. The university is now facing a donor backlash. One benefactor vowed not to give St Peter's College another penny, and four British Nobel laureates have urged the university to reconsider giving a professorship in the name of Mosley's grandson, saying that doing so 'dishonours' their subject. On 9 November police were called to the London School of Economics, where activists carrying Palestinian flags demonstrated against Israel's ambassador, who was addressing the university's debating society. They chanted that Israel is a 'terrorist state'. Next week the debating society is hosting Husam Zomlot, head of the Palestinian mission to the UK.

Pray: for universities to protect the safety of their Jewish students and make sure they are never targeted because of their religion or race. (Psalm 23:4)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/09/oxford-university-owes-explanation-jewish-students-taking-mosley/

Church land to be transformed for net-zero

A new project is planning to regenerate 15 percent of the UK's church land in a bid to cut carbon emissions. According to a Christian conservation charity, A Rocha, approximately 500,000 acres of land across the UK is owned by churches in the form of churchyards, conference centre grounds, urban community farms, and agricultural estates. A Rocha's initiative aims to transform 75,000 acres of this land into wildflower meadows, native woodlands and food forests over five years. Regenerating certain types of ecosystems can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and lock it up safely in soil and vegetation. The scheme will also involve the restoration of peatlands to help to soak up carbon emissions with native mix forests, protecting soils from drought and floods. These nature-based solutions can make a significant contribution to lowering the amount of carbon dioxide that is being stored, held, and taken up across the country.

Pray: for the success of this scheme so that even more church-owned land is transformed in future. (Genesis 8:22)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/75-000-acres-of-church-land-to-be-transformed-to-help-uk-reach-net-zero

Politics and corruption

After speaking on climate change Boris Johnson told the media he 'genuinely believes the UK is not a corrupt country'. But sleaze accusations continue. MPs' second jobs are under scrutiny after Owen Paterson was found to have broken lobbying rules. Questions are raised about the Conservative MP and former attorney general Sir Geoffrey Cox who earned around £900,000 last year through his work as a lawyer, while International trade secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said it would be 'wise' to review the rules around second jobs. Although MPs are allowed second jobs, they are not allowed to use taxpayer-funded resources, or premises, to do so; this rule is being broken consistently. Meanwhile MP Andrew Bowie has decided to take a step back from his role of Tory vice-chair and focus on his constituency where he holds a narrow majority of 843 votes. A friend was quoted saying, 'He doesn't want to make a fuss but he's unable to support the Government after the sleaze events of recent days.' (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/11/10/tory-partys-vice-chair-andrew-bowie-quits/>)

Pray: for God to give MPs wisdom as they serve, giving them courage to speak out against corruption; and may there be independent inquiries into any sleaze accusations. (1 Peter 3:10,11)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59242252

Covid gene doubling death risk

British scientists have identified a gene that doubles the risk of dying from Covid-19, opening up possibilities for targeted medicine and providing new insights into why some people are more susceptible to the disease than others. Researchers at Oxford University found that 60% of people with South Asian ancestry carry the high-risk gene. The discovery partly explains the high number of deaths seen in some British communities, and the effect of Covid in the Indian subcontinent. The scientists found that the increased risk is not because of a difference in genetic coding of the proteins, but because of differences in the DNA that makes a kind of 'switch' to turn a gene on. That genetic signal is likely to affect cells in the lung. The study shows that the way in which the lung responds to the infection is critical. This is important because most treatments have focused on changing the way in which the immune system reacts to the virus.

Pray: for God to continue to give even more wisdom to all who are researching Covid roots and remedies. (Proverbs 18:15)

More: www.jpost.com/breaking-news/covid-19-uk-scientists-find-gene-linked-to-doubling-risk-of-death-684147

Europe

Poland: humanitarian crisis unfolding at border zone

Kasia Wappa lives by Poland's national park where a humanitarian crisis is unfolding on a scale not seen since World War 2. She is part of a network trying to save emaciated Middle Eastern immigrants who have been emerging from the wilderness since September. Most had spent days without food or water and were suffering from hypothermia and exhaustion. Some were sick from drinking swamp water. Kasia began by donating warm clothes, and now helps rescue parties retrieve lost and starving people from the woods. But the flow of migrants has increased, and she warns that many probably never make it. Ten deaths have been confirmed, and they have rescued many on the verge of dying. The Polish government has built a three-kilometre deep security cordon the length of its Belarus border to curb illegal immigration. All reporters are banned, creating a media blackout to hide the scale of the crisis. Rescuers now behave like insurgents, operating at night and evading police patrols.

Pray: for the safety and peace of residents and migrants avoiding troops in the forest. Pray also that the EU put a stop to the aggressive radical Polish border security action. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2021/11/11/dispatch-inside-polands-border-zone-quiet-war-humanitarian-crisis/

Finland: Christian charity cuts ties with Palestinian NGO

FELM, a Finnish Christian missionary group, has cut ties with Palestinian children's rights NGO Defence for Children International-Palestine. Mr Stefansson, the charity's executive director, said they had concerns about possible banking sanctions of DCIP who are one of six Palestinian groups accused by Israel of channelling donor aid to militants and labelled as a terrorist organisation. The six accused groups have close ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which carries out deadly attacks on Israelis and is on US and EU terrorism blacklists. DCIP rejects the charge and says it has asked FELM to reconsider cutting funds. Steffansson said it is impossible to maintain ties with the group as, 'It could have impacted the work we do in 30 countries through banking services.' DCIP relies on European aid to fund its advocacy and rights monitoring work in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Pray: for FELM and the Lutheran Church to continue receiving funding from the Finnish foreign ministry, and for this episode not to darken the charity's reputation. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

More: www.jpost.com/international/christian-charity-cuts-ties-with-palestinian-ngo-blacklisted-by-israel-684151

Worldwide

COP26: death threats for indigenous activist after speech

Txai Suruí is a climate activist who is part of an indigenous community in the Amazon rainforest. She spoke to world leaders at COP26 about the direct impacts of climate change that her tribe is already experiencing. But after the speech she was publicly criticised by President Bolsonaro for 'attacking Brazil'. This prompted many people to send her abuse on social media. When she spoke to a BBC reporter, she said, 'I think I said the right words because they attacked me.' Brazil hosts the two most important and diverse tropical forests globally. Almost 20% of the Amazon forest has been cut down in recent decades. This deforestation must stop before it becomes a savanna. Between 2004 and 2012, Brazil successfully controlled deforestation by 80%, by reducing illegal logging, creating protected areas and restricting soya and cattle expansion. This resulted in increased food production by large farming complexes and strengthened smallholder farming. [See https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/nov/06/brazil-climate-crisis-amazon-trees-forests](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/nov/06/brazil-climate-crisis-amazon-trees-forests)

Pray: for Brazil to begin to return to zero deforestation of the Amazon and restore the Atlantic forest in the immediate future, with minimal delay. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-latin-america-59166607

China: weaponisation of space

Space satellites have become strategic assets and valuable military targets. China has vowed to become the world's leading space power by 2045. In 2019 it landed its Chang'e-4 lunar probe on the far side of the moon - something which had never been done before. The US air force secretary said, 'China has moved aggressively to weaponise space. Conventional deterrence and operations depend on access to communications, intelligence, and other services provided by space-based systems. As a result, China has pursued and fielded a number of weapons systems in space designed to defeat or destroy America's space-based military weapons systems and ability to project power.' Much of what happens in space affects life on earth. The 3,000+ active satellites orbiting earth today and their services have become indispensable. Among these are US military-operated GPS satellites for positioning, navigation and timing, serving military and civilian needs - for example taxis, grocery delivery services, monitoring weather, and communications.

Pray: for competition to end and for sharing developments to emerge through mutual support. (Psalm 133:1)

More: www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17873/china-space-weaponization

USA / Iran: options over nuclear deal

US secretary of state Antony Blinken said, 'The US and its allies want to bring Iran back into compliance with the nuclear deal, including looking at all of the options necessary if diplomacy doesn't work.' He was commenting on US talks with Germany, France and Britain about Iran. 'We are absolutely together in lockstep on how we are approaching the challenge of getting Iran back into compliance with the nuclear agreement,' he said. 'And that's new because we've actually been at odds in recent years. But we do not yet know if Iran is willing to come back, engage in a meaningful way, and get back into compliance. If it isn't, if it won't, then we are looking together at all of the options necessary to deal with this problem.'

Pray: for a resumption of discussions and for an end to aggressive dialogue and stalled talks. (Ephesians 4:3)

More: vfinews.com/news/november-5-2021/us-in-lockstep-with-allies-looking-at-all-options

India: Christians are attacked, but then are arrested

500 Hindu nationalists accused 60+ Christians of forcible conversion. The mob harassed them, searched their belongings, including women's undergarments, physically assaulted them, and vandalised their vehicles. But when the police came they arrested the Christians, not the Hindus. Violence and hate incidents against Christians are increasing. An intervention specialist commented, 'These include disrupting or stopping Sunday services, physical attacks, vandalising churches, social boycotts, false accusations of religious conversions and as in this case arrests on the basis of false charges. Many attacks remain unreported and unrecorded through [fear of further victimisation](https://www.godreports.com/2021/11/hindu-mob-attacks-christians-christians-get-arrested/)' (<https://www.godreports.com/2021/11/hindu-mob-attacks-christians-christians-get-arrested/>). Also, on 6 November, fifty radical Hindu nationalists went from house to house in Metapal village, attacking Christians, to make it a 'Christian-free' village. Wielding fists, clubs, and other objects, they beat everyone including women and children leaving nine seriously injured. Six were hospitalised and remain in a critical condition. Without significant government intervention, 2021 will be the worst year on record for Christian persecution in India.

Pray: for prime minister Narendra Modi to listen to religious rights advocates and make a stand against the unauthorised violence by the Bharatiya Janata party Hindu extremists. (Psalm 106:3)

More: www.persecution.org/2021/11/08/radical-hindu-nationalists-brutally-attack-christian-community-india/

Iraq: IS attack sparks sectarian bloodshed

An IS attack in October has triggered a crescendo of acts of violence against and displacement of Sunnis in a province in Iraq, bordering Iran, which has long suffered from cells operating in its dense orchards and Hamrin mountains. At least eleven people from the village of al-Rashad in the eastern Diyala province were killed. The attack was followed by retaliatory violence against local Sunnis, sparking fears of a return to the years of massive sectarian bloodshed. An operation conducted on 3 November by Iraqi security forces as well as additional security forces sent to the area has failed to quell widespread concerns and indignation. Reportedly several men were abducted and killed, followed by more of their relatives after they had been called to collect the bodies. Armed men subsequently attacked the Sunni-majority village, killing people, burning and destroying homes and farms, in retaliation for assumed 'collusion' by the entire local Sunni community with IS.

Pray: for the security forces in the area as officials battle tribes affiliated with IS. (Psalm 11:5)

More: www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/islamic-state-attack-sparks-sectarian-bloodletting-iraqs-diyala

Ethiopia: a seemingly inescapable quagmire

Since hostilities began last November, there have been rapes and massacres of civilians on a large scale. As far back as January, aid agencies were sounding alarms about how much worse the situation could get. Continued fighting, bureaucratic hurdles, and aid blockades have since led to a continuing famine affecting hundreds of thousands of people. More than two million people have been displaced from their homes, and tens of thousands have died. The declaration of a nationwide state of emergency by the federal government on Tuesday has triggered fears of more instability. The war has degenerated into a brutal conflict to crush and erode Tigray, and talk of elimination of entire ethnic groups has been normalised. The USA has sent a special envoy to Ethiopia for talks, and on 16 November there will be a meeting of the East African bloc Intergovernmental Authority on Development to discuss the worsening conflict.

Pray: for mediation efforts to gain power and for the international community to successfully arrange negotiations and a decision to move towards peace. (Proverbs 3:29a)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/4-a-year-on-ethiopia-decimated-by-civil-war

Yemen: rising severe mental health problems

Now in its seventh year, the crisis in Yemen is no longer headline news. But the conflict continues to have a devastating impact on people's wellbeing, and on their mental health in particular. In Hajjah, Doctors Without Borders teams have found a high need for mental health services. The range of conditions that they treat is very large; there are people suffering from anxiety and insomnia, psychosis, depression, bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. They regularly see patients following suicide attempts: such an attempt might be provoked by a variety of circumstances. Severe symptoms of psychosis can manifest as auditory hallucinations which tell the patient to hurt him or herself, or a patient might be suffering from severe depression. Lack of awareness leads to stigma, discrimination, and segregation, and this leads to people hiding their conditions. Yemen's conflict has also reduced access to healthcare, education, and food, as well as restricting freedom of movement.

Pray: for more mental health services in the area to deal with mental health disorders. (John 16:33)

More: www.msf.org/stigma-fear-and-discrimination-among-obstacles-mental-health-yemen

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