

Prayer Alert

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In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly. (Psalm 5:3)

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

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Praise Reports

[Pastor tackled gunman at Sunday service](#)

American pastor Ezekiel Ndikumana said God helped him know what to do, after a man at the front of his church pulled a gun out and pointed it at the congregation. Pastor Ezekiel, who has been hailed a hero, was praying with members of his congregation when the incident happened. He can be seen on camera tackling the gun-wielding man into the aisle. He held him down until police arrived and arrested Dezire Baganda, 26, who also faces over a dozen aggravated assault charges. While Baganda is not a church member, the pastor said he has attended previous services. Congregation member Akimana Charite said, 'We were so shocked seeing him come in the front and pull out a gun. The whole church was calm; we thank God, if we had started panicking he might have started shooting, but we all stayed calm.'

Praise: God for Pastor Ezekiel's bravery and for His protection over the church. (Jeremiah 29:11)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/pastor-who-tackled-gunman-during-his-sunday-service-credits-god-for-his-quick-thinking

[Former gay learned to love himself as a man](#)

Emmett Chang grew up with mostly female friends and was bullied by males his age; he grew to hate his masculinity. 'I medicated, pacified, and drowned myself in homosexuality. I hated myself as a man. I didn't feel like a man.' But somebody talked to him about God and gave him a booklet. He read it because he wanted to see if God hated him. He found out God didn't. Emmett said, 'It said all sins are bad; they're all worthy of death, including homosexuality. But that same sin was covered by grace.' Next, a pastor prompted him indirectly by asking if God ever said he was gay? Emmett said, 'It was a million-dollar question. It took 21 years for God to answer me in that fashion.' After giving his life to Christ his transformation has been progressive. He now attends the Door Church in Tucson.

Praise: God for breaking the dominion of homosexuality in Emmett's life. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

More: www.godreports.com/2021/11/former-gay-learned-to-love-himself-as-a-man-join-the-marines/

British Isles

Liverpool terror incident

Emad al-Swealmeen moved to the UK several years ago and converted to Christianity from Islam in 2017. He was looked after for several months by a Christian couple who volunteered at Liverpool Cathedral where he attended an Alpha course and was confirmed. In 2014 he had his asylum claim rejected. Associates believed he was only interested in converting to Christianity because he believed it would assist his asylum claim. He made a new application in 2017. He suffered mental health problems and was sectioned seven years ago after trying to kill himself by jumping off an overpass, while waving a knife. Then on 11 November he detonated a homemade bomb inside a taxi, killing himself and injuring the driver, David Perry, who survived and has been discharged from hospital. Four men have been arrested under terrorism laws. People who knew Swealmeen said, 'We're just so, so sad. We just loved him, he was a lovely guy.'

Pray: for all who were affected by the explosion in Liverpool. (John 14:27)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/liverpool-terror-suspect-was-a-christian-convert

Liverpool terrorist incident developments

On 17 November police investigating the Liverpool taxi explosion sent a bomb disposal vehicle and fire engine to Sutcliff Street and extended a cordon around the Kensington area of Liverpool to allow them to assess 'materials' found during their search on the asylum accommodation. Residents living within the cordon were told they were not able to return home, while investigators continue to work on piecing together a motive for the blast. Apparently, Emad al-Swealmeen had been buying parts for his homemade device since at least April. Meanwhile, David Perry, who reportedly averted disaster by locking the bomber in his vehicle is said to have spoken to counter-terrorism officers for 90 minutes at his home. Priti Patel said the asylum system is 'dysfunctional'. Patrols by armed police will be increased and security plans for major events reviewed after the terror threat level was raised following the attack.

Pray: for the community and Liverpool Women's Hospital to recover, for the asylum system to be reviewed, and for the nation to be protected from terrorists. (Psalm 91:11)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/liverpool-bomb-news-taxi-attack-update-b1959119.html

Smuggling and selling Class A drugs

Border Force stopped a lorry on its way to Kent through the Channel Tunnel carrying cocaine with a street value of £33m concealed in a 418kg load of frozen onion rings. Lorry driver Piotr Perzenowski, 30, from Poland, was charged with smuggling Class A drugs and is remanded in custody until 13 December. See (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-59280849>) Also appearing in court on that day is a 19-year-old suspected county line drug dealer caught by Kent police, who seized heroin, cocaine, cash and criminal property (<https://localrags.co.uk/2021/11/14/drugs-charges-brought-against-suspected-county-line-dealer-in-hythe/>). Also, 'Happy Families' smuggler Michael Sloan was jailed this week after heroin worth £2m was seized from his camper van as he and his family returned to Dover Eastern Docks from Europe. Forensic experts said the heroin was between 44% and 59% pure, and once adulterated would value £1.98 million. Heroin is closely linked to county lines' type exploitation and violence.

Pray: for the National Crime Agency, Border Force, and other forces to have the wisdom and discernment from God to break the hold of drug trafficking and trading. (Luke 1:37)

More: localrags.co.uk/2021/11/13/2-million-drugs-seizure-in-dover-lands-man-behind-bars-for-more-than-6-years/

COP26: life changes

It is predicted new electric vehicles could cost the same as petrol or diesel cars within five years, causing a growing second-hand market where these vehicles are cheaper. Dozens of regions and car companies have agreed to ramp up the production of electric vehicles and bring in new zero-emission buses and trucks. Others argue we need fewer cars; we should walk and cycle more. Clean energy is the most reliable and affordable option for powering our homes and businesses. For the UK, this will mean continuing the move towards renewable sources of wind and solar energy - and possibly more reliance on nuclear energy. Another change is greener homes with solar panels and heat pumps becoming standard in our homes. We will build houses using low-carbon alternatives to cement and concrete. We may install 'cool roofs' that reflect sunlight and prevent overheating or introduce shutters so that homes can withstand hurricane winds.

Pray: for the nation to make the changes needed for a better future. (Galatians 6:7)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-59263761

Alarm over thousands of extra non-Covid deaths

Nearly 10,000 more people than usual have died in the past four months from non-Covid reasons. Fears are growing that NHS delays at the height of the pandemic left large numbers of people with previously treatable conditions suffering illnesses that have now become fatal. England and Wales registered 20,823 more deaths than the five-year average in the past 18 weeks. The director of the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine is calling for an urgent investigation. The excess deaths are happening in conditions like ischemic heart disease, cirrhosis of the liver and diabetes, all potentially reversible. There's a need to find out if these deaths were fallout from the lack of preventable care during the pandemic, and what happens downstream of that.

Pray: for investigators to find out what was the root cause of extra deaths and what actions are necessary to prevent further avoidable deaths. (3 John 2)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/16/nhs-delays-height-pandemic-linked-thousands-extra-non-covid/

Elderly care users face costs cap

Sir Andrew Dilnot created the social care reform that prevents people losing homes to pay for care. But proposed changes made to how the cap works means 60% of older people who need social care would lose out, compared with the plan he proposed. The changes would save the government hundreds of millions of pounds.

Pray: for alterations to be re-considered when they are voted on next week. (Proverbs 11:25)

More: www.theguardian.com/society/2021/nov/18/six-in-10-elderly-care-users-in-england-set-to-lose-out-from-costs-cap

Europe

Europe is locking down

Europe has become seriously affected by the pandemic, and several countries are introducing restrictions amid rising cases. Two million Austrians not fully vaccinated are in lockdown as Covid-19 surges. Germany's Covid cases hit 65,371 and Angela Merkel said a fourth wave of Covid is 'hitting us with full force' (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/world-59329996>). New restrictions are expected. Holland's 'lockdown-lite' measures are imposed to limit social contacts after a sharp infection increase. The measures include closing restaurants and shops early, and barring spectators from sporting events. Vaccination rates are significantly lower in some eastern European nations. Latvia has re-imposed a lockdown, Russians have shut shops, restaurants and schools in a partial lockdown and workers had nine days' paid holiday to curb infections. The UK, with one of the highest infection rates, has yet to reintroduce restrictions.

Pray: for the nations to avoid a winter crisis with wise, workable guidelines and procedures, and for people to take all lockdown rules seriously. (Proverbs 16:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-59283128

Belarus / Poland: border crisis

On 17 November Belarus provided temporary shelter for 1,000 freezing hungry migrants camping on its border with Poland, wanting to enter the EU. For months, thousands of men, women and children have been amassing at Belarus's western borders. Belarus has been accused of pushing migrants, mostly from Iraq, to the border to destabilise the EU. Belarus's long-time authoritarian leader, Alexander Lukashenko, has denied luring migrants to the border in revenge for EU sanctions. Iraqi Airways confirmed it would send a plane to Belarus on 18 December to take its citizens home. The EU has asked Middle Eastern countries to stop flights to Belarus; several have agreed. Poland, with EU backing, is determined not to let the migrants into the bloc and warned that the border and humanitarian crisis may go on for months. The situation will not be resolved quickly. See also <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-59302919>

Pray: for Europe's leaders to agree to prevent a humanitarian crisis this winter. (Proverbs 15:22)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-59317306

Greece: espionage trial of aid workers

Syrian refugee and aid worker Yusra Mardini went on trial on 18 November with over two dozen other aid workers from various countries, for helping migrants reach Greece between 2016 and 2018. The defendants face charges including forgery, espionage, and the unlawful use of radio frequencies. Human rights groups have condemned the trial as being politically motivated; Amnesty International called the charges 'farfetched' and said they should never have come to trial. If found guilty, the aid workers could face five-year prison sentences. Some remain under investigation for a number of other felonies, including human smuggling, which could lead to further sentences of up to 25 years. Irishman Sean Binder said, 'I am happy to defend myself; I know I did nothing wrong, and we can prove that. I am charged with crimes that I am supposed to have committed a year before I was ever on Lesbos.' STOP PRESS: the trial has been suspended, but will now be heard by an appeal court.

Pray: for the Greek authorities to dismiss all charges as human rights groups and international lawyers speak out with truth against them. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-59330363

Worldwide

Afghanistan: famine conditions

The World Food Programme delivering food in Afghanistan said, 'The Afghan people need our support now more than ever before. 1 in 3 people are hungry and 2 million children are malnourished. With drought, pandemic, and conflict, the food security situation will continue to worsen, and hunger will rise. Despite security and logistics challenges, we deliver food and nutrition assistance to people uprooted from their homes, but we need your help to reach more.' We can pray for an increase in donations to this mission which has been in Afghanistan for almost sixty years. See (<https://www.wfp.org/support-us/stories/families-afghanistan-need-help>) Save The Children reported that more Afghan children are going hungry than ever before. Almost 14 million children are expected to face crisis this winter. These millions of children are hungry, cut off from aid supplies, out of school, and facing the threats of violence and the approaching winter. Temperatures can drop to -16 C on some nights.

Pray: for God to release the necessary funds to mission agencies delivering access to adequate shelter, food and medical care. (2 Thessalonians 3:13)

More: www.savethechildren.org.uk/where-we-work/asia/afghanistan

Canada: BC state of emergency

A state of emergency has been declared in British Columbia, where torrential rain and mudslides have destroyed roads, cut off several mountain towns, and displaced 18,000 people. At the time of writing there has only been one death, but the death toll will probably rise as the Canadian province grapples with what its premier, John Horgan, called a once-in-500-year event. Pray for neighbours and authorities working to save people and animals, secure supply chains, and ensure that essential goods and emergency services can reach hard-hit communities. Pray for the thousands of people forced to leave their homes in regions under evacuation orders. Ottawa is sending hundreds of air force personnel to aid the recovery, and thousands more are on standby. Pray for the affected towns in remote mountain areas with limited access and freezing temperatures. Many are cut off by road closures and mudslides.

Pray: for God to give strength and stamina to rescue workers, and peace and hope to the people of British Columbia. (Nahum 1:7)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/canada-british-columbia-flooding-state-of-emergency-b1959886.html

Abu Dhabi: rescued Afghan refugees

It has been thirty days since two planes flew 545 persecuted Christians and at-risk Afghans [out of the country](https://www.prayer-alert.net/pray/regions/worldwide/item/14654-afghanistan-prayer-request) (<https://www.prayer-alert.net/pray/regions/worldwide/item/14654-afghanistan-prayer-request>). They are now temporarily housed in Abu Dhabi. They have been given ninety days from when they arrived to leave the country and re-settle. They boarded these flights with nothing more than a handbag. Everything was left behind as they fled to safety. While they are all grateful to be alive, they now face uncertainty; pray for those assisting them with paperwork that must be completed for their resettlement, arrangements for flights out of Abu Dhabi, and temporary housing and living expenses when they land in their new home country. Brazil has emerged as a potential new home for these Afghans. Their rescuers have strong contacts in local churches, and the community there is ready to step up and serve as the Body of Christ, welcoming this group of refugees.

Pray: for this opening into Brazil, and the provision of funds to move the 545 people on safely and with dignity within the allotted time frame. (Matthew 6:33)

More: <http://opportunities-to-help-afghanistan>

Church leadership: different levels of training

A renowned and well-established research institution found only 5% of pastors/priests in every worldwide Christian tradition have theological training with a recognised degree. 90% of pastors only have some kind of informal or non-formal theological education. Formal theological education has a clearly defined programme, curriculum, exams, degrees, and associated accreditation processes. The thousands of informal programmes have nothing similar; there are no guidelines, no standards, and no outcomes that could be globally accepted. Each one does what it considers best. Often the concepts and beliefs of the founders or leaders of each denomination or mission agency determine how the various training programmes are carried out. One teacher and missionary leader stated publicly that he had personally trained more than 15,000 pastors for ministry; each pastor received about six weeks of training, and were then ordained as pastors. He and his board believe that such training is sufficient.

Pray: for informal training programmes to be replaced by clear, globally recognized guidelines focussed on effectively equipping leaders for ministry with biblically-based outcomes. (Philippians 2:2)

More: lausanne.org/content/lga/2021-11/a-global-standard-for-ministry-training

India: Zika outbreak in Uttar Pradesh

As of 9 November there were 89 new cases of the Zika virus in the city of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP). This is the first time they have found Zika in UP. Health officials said it can quickly spread through the population of 204 million. Mosquitoes spread Zika, and it can also be sexually transmitted. There is no cure, so they must rid the area of mosquitoes quickly. Symptoms include fever, joint head and muscle pain, rash and conjunctivitis. Pregnant women who catch Zika can have babies born with severe disabilities, such as abnormally small heads or underdeveloped brains. Zika is also linked to an auto-immune disease that causes the body to attack its immunities. Pray for healthy babies to be born to women in UP. Several teams are trying to contain the spread with very aggressive contact tracing, and there are additional teams eliminating the mosquitoes' breeding grounds.

Pray: for health officials to have complete success in stopping this virus. (Psalm 91:5-6)

More: edition.cnn.com/2021/11/08/asia/india-zika-outbreak-kanpur-intl-hnk/index.html

India: floods and deaths in Chennai

This year's rainy season in Chennai is as heavy as 2015, when 200 people died in floods. Fortunately, the death count is lower this time, but heavy rains are still pounding the area, so the danger continues. Uprooted trees block roads, cars are damaged, and people wade through knee-high water. The rains are taxing the infrastructure. To avoid the danger of electrocution, the government shut down the power grid in some areas. If the rains continue, other low-lying areas of Chennai will be in danger. Pray for God's mercy for those who are most vulnerable to flooding, cholera, and electrocution. Illegal building has left Chennai vulnerable to flood damage; pray for God to raise up righteous decision-makers. Pray for those suffering amid days of stagnant waterlogging and no power. 'Drainage water is mixed with rainwater, causing odour, and a lot of insects and snakes are coming into the house,' said a local.

Pray: for our God of life to save lives in Chennai. (Genesis 2:7)

More: indianexpress.com/article/cities/chennai/chennai-rains-live-updates-7612073/

Uganda: Muslim cleric shot dead after terrorist attack

Security forces in Uganda have shot dead a Muslim cleric, Sheikh Muhammad Abas Kirevu, accused of working with an armed group linked to suicide bombings in Kampala. He had recruited for cells run by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) - rebels who have pledged allegiance to IS. On 16 November four people were killed and over thirty injured by attackers on motorbikes who blew themselves up in the city: IS claimed responsibility, but officials have blamed the ADF. Twenty-one people have been arrested since the attack, in what police have described as the dismantling of ADF terrorist cells in Kampala and across the country. A police spokesperson said 13 suspects, including several children, had been intercepted while trying to cross the border into DR Congo. Also, on 17 November four suspected ADF operatives were killed near the border.

Pray: that the police and armed forces will be vigilant and able to curb the violence. Remember all those affected by this attack, and also by previous ones. (Psalm 9:12)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-59337953

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