

Prayer Alert

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I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people. (1 Timothy 2:1)

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!

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

[New way of farming produces a harvest](#)

Craig's farm was seized by Zimbabwe's government in 2003, forcing his family to move to Harare. He joined a Foundations for Farming group and began teaching the new owners and other small-scale farmers a unique way of farming revealed by God - farming without tillage or burning. He immediately got a 10% increase in yield. He started to grow it bigger, but he knew that God had given him this revelation not for himself but to share across Africa to the rural farmers, the hurting, the poor ones. Zero-tillage technique caught the attention of the government, which endorsed the method. In 2020 Zimbabwe experienced its first food surplus in two decades and now Foundations for Farming teaches the technique all over the world, with the main goal of sharing the Gospel. '80% of what we teach is the heart, using agriculture as an entry point for the gospel.'

Praise: God for the way He provides for all our needs in every situation. (Psalm 104:13b,14)

More: www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/cwn/2021/october/fight-flee-or-forgive-a-true-story-of-radical-forgiveness-that-reaped-a-great-harvest-for-zimbabwe

[Churches and pride community](#)

Seven Australian rugby league team members boycotted a championship match against Sydney Roosters on religious grounds, after being told to wear a jersey celebrating LGBTQ+ rights, replacing white stripes with rainbow bands. Reverend Palu has never met the players but he's proud of them, saying, 'Christianity takes a very strong root in our people'. After another team told players to wear such a jersey without consulting them, that was another flashpoint in deepening tensions between people of faith and the mainstream community over sexuality and same-sex marriage. A similar battle is happening in schools, politics and inside the churches as secular and progressive religious communities embrace sexual diversity while theological conservatives say it contradicts the Bible. Reverend Fihaki said Christianity was 'ingrained into our culture. It's not just a matter of going to church on Sunday, it's part of our DNA, it's part of our culture, it is who we are'.

Praise: God that the players didn't have to support a position with which they did not agree. May Australian Christians be encouraged to stand firm in their faith. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

More: amp.smh.com.au/sport/churches-back-boycott-players-amid-frustration-anger-among-pride-community-20220726-p5b4u8.html

British Isles

[Commonwealth Games: Christians in sport](#)

'God's love for me doesn't depend on how I perform', says British athlete Adam Pengilly. Christian boxer Katie Taylor said, 'I actually don't know how people get through difficult moments without God in their life'. See (<https://www.passionforsport.com/blog/2022/5/2/katie-taylor-i-actually-dont-know-how-people-get-through-difficult-moments-without-god-in-their-life>) During the Commonwealth Games, Passion for Sport will be in Birmingham hosting a special outreach exhibition featuring stories of eight Christian athletes. Three are reigning Commonwealth champions, one is a netball captain, and four are former athletes with great testimonies. Each athlete's story is heard via a QR code link displayed in the installation. There are also visual creations of key moments [from personal journeys](#) (<https://www.passionforsport.com/blog/2022/6/24/commonwealth-games-our-sports-stories-spaces-project>). Pray for the success of this outreach installation, may it inspire and immerse people of faith and none into the world of Christian athletes. For 25 years, Passion for Sport has been

reporting from major sporting events aiming to introduce sports fans to Jesus through comments, discussions and interviews with top Christian athletes sharing their faith.

Pray: for the continual success and growth of news reporting of sports events and athletes with a Christian perspective. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

More: www.passionforsport.com/major-sporting-events

Pray for our youth

This spring and summer across the British Isles, church members have been spending time and energy organising and preparing for youth camps and events in their locality. Now that the schools have closed for summer holidays, we can pray for the young people attending these camps. May they hear the Christian message in their hearts and not just receive head knowledge. Pray for an anointing from heaven to fall on every volunteer running these outreaches. Pray that they do not become fatigued physically or emotionally in the fast-moving environment of youth activities. Pray for God to renew their strength daily as they disciple their various age groups. Lord, be near this generation growing up in an era of stimulation, confusion, and social media. May You be the most real thing to them in a culture that offers temptation with things that look beautiful but are, in reality, empty.

Pray: for God's Spirit to continually pour into today's youth. May they become prophetic, visionary, young adults of godly character. (Joel 2:28)

More:

Drag Queen story time for three-year-olds

Parents have concerns over 'highly inappropriate' drag queen story time sessions for children as young as three. The Story Hour summer tour starts next week, performing to as many as 3,000 three- to eleven-year-olds at sixty public libraries in England and Wales. The sessions include reading children's books about same-sex relationships. Outraged parents wrote to their local councils expressing their concerns about the highly sexualised events. Their letters, co-ordinated by the Family Education Trust, say, 'Drag shows are adults-only entertainment and not suitable for school-age children'. The letters also criticised promotion of radical gender ideology and stated, 'To try to blind children to a most basic fact of human existence is a form of child abuse. Children who experience gender identity issues need careful and sensitive care, not wholesale indoctrination.' In response Drag Queens organised online fundraising for 'Mermaids charity', which promotes puberty-blocking drugs and surgery for children who are confused about their gender.

Pray: for the Safe Schools Alliance campaign group of teachers and parents and the Family Education Trust to succeed in persuading councils to block all Story Hour sessions. (Proverbs 22:6)

More: www.christian.org.uk/news/parents-object-to-drag-queen-story-time-for-3-year-olds/

Bishops' voting options at Lambeth Conference

650 Bishops from across the Anglican Communion are debating at the Lambeth Conference if marriage is solely between a man and a woman. The once-a-decade conference ends on 8 August. There is now a three-way choice of voting options around homosexuality being incompatible with scripture. Originally bishops were asked to reaffirm a resolution of the 1998 Conference which considers homosexuality as 'incompatible with scripture'. Now they can not only affirm it or abstain; they can vote against. This revised outlook has the potential to divide the church. A poll commissioned by the Ozanne Foundation found a clear majority of Anglicans believe that same-sex marriage is right, despite the church's refusal to permit it. See <https://ozanne.foundation/project/same-sex-marriage-research-2022/>

Pray: for God's values to be honoured in today's fast-changing society and for the bishops to unite in love and mutual respect as they reflect on God's never-changing standards. (Mark 10:6)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/following-outrage-bishops-given-new-option-to-reject-homosexuality-vote-at-lambeth-conference

Our next Prime Minister

The two remaining candidates for leader of the Conservative party and our next Prime Minister are now criss-crossing the country engaging with party members and setting out their policies. This is a difficult and dangerous time for the UK. Boris Johnson lost his position primarily due to a lack of integrity and honesty - lack of 'righteousness'. Proverbs 14:34 says, 'Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.' Whatever we may think of the candidates and their politics, we all must pray, as Paul exhorted Timothy, for 'those in authority' so that we may 'live peaceful lives'. Scripture reminds us that even one person's intercession can change God's mind. The prayers of many affected the future of the UK during WW2. Today tens of thousands of people are praying over and for our 'rulers'. We can trust Him to take all our prayers and through them reshape the future of our Government, Parliament, and nation for His purposes.

Pray: for Spirit-led prayers to remodel the future into the shape God intends. (1 Timothy 2:1)

More: www.prayforscotland.org.uk/e-news-letter/

NHS crisis

An MP social care report said the large number of NHS job vacancies is a serious risk to staff and patient safety. England needs 12,000 more hospital doctors (it takes six years to train one) and 50,000+ nurses and midwives, in the worst-ever NHS workforce crisis. Current projections estimate a million new jobs will need to be filled in health and social care by the early part of the next decade. Extra staff will be needed to keep up with rising demands as the population gets older and healthcare becomes more complex and technologically advanced. The situation is compounded by the absence of a long-term plan by the Government to tackle it. 28% of staff experienced at least one incident of bullying or abuse in the past year. Sajid Javid said the Government was not on track to deliver its manifesto commitment to increase GPs in England by 6,000, and NHS pensions arrangements allow senior doctors to retire or reduce their hours and become better-off.

Pray: for tackling staff shortages to be a top priority for the new PM in September. Pray for cost-effective workforce plans and the immediate removal of loopholes in GPs' pensions. (Jeremiah 33:6)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-62267282

UK cities warned of wildfire risk

Last week's wildfires across London showed lessons learned tackling rural blazes must urgently be applied to built-up areas after grass fires spread to forty houses and shops nearby. Prolonged dry weather parching gardens, verges and green spaces followed by temperatures of 40C sparked blazes normally seen in the countryside. 500 wildfires have been reported so far this year, compared with 237 last year. The group commander for Hereford and Worcester Fire Service said, 'Everything is bone-dry and services need to recognise the risk they've now got. If they don't, then they're naïve. There are very urban services that think wildfires are low down on the risk list. I understand their need to prioritise resources, but there must be a review.' A 2021 risk assessment report for the government found that two out of eight fire services made no reference to wildfires in their risk management plans.

Pray: for fire services to have wildfire training from firemen more familiar with tackling blazes in grasslands, moors, and woods, and to have the additional resources they need. (Galatians 6:2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-62253581

Europe

Europe's heatwaves: the worst is yet to come

It is not too late to avert the climate crisis from becoming even more deadly – but the window is closing. Across western Europe high temperature records are being obliterated; some had been set during the heatwave in 2003 that left tens of thousands dead. Raging wildfires are displacing thousands of people, one of the many compounding impacts of the climate crisis. This heatwave is another reminder that we have already reached unsafe levels of global heating. As our planet warms, heatwaves will become more frequent and more intense. In fact, we may look back on these years as some of the coolest, compared with what will come if we do not act now. Human life will encounter life-threatening impacts with increasing frequency and mounting consequences. Countless scientific reports have been conveying this reality for decades.

Pray: for the recent climate anomalies to shake national leaders and give them political will to meet the challenge immediately and sharply reduce all greenhouse gas emissions. (Jeremiah 2:7)

More: www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jul/22/heatwaves-climate-emergency-act-now

France: prayer needs

Although over half of the population is defined as Christian, most have never had authentic contact with the Gospel. Only 2% are Evangelical, and 8% regularly attend church. A staggering 50 million have no link to a church, and 80% have never even handled a Bible. Many are suspicious of organised religion. Defined by secularism, the country has separated itself from its only source of healing. The philosophies and post-modern relative truth have left many seeking meaning and purpose. Despair and hopelessness have led to Europe's highest number of youth suicides. However, this search for meaning has also led some to seek and find Christ. Dozens of churches are now being planted each year. France stands in desperate need of a move of God: only He can bring the healing and hope this nation needs.

Pray: for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to revive France and give people life in Christ; pray for dry spirits to be refreshed. (John 14:14)

More: prayercast.com/france.html

Worldwide

Turkey: Briton arrested in dangerous prison

While on vacation in Marmaris, 51-year-old GJH was rushed to hospital after falling and hitting his head. He could not be saved. Due to the circumstances of his death and his son's 'suspicious' behaviour, the police launched an investigation and reviewed CCTV footage from the area around their hotel. It showed that GJH's 22-year-old son punched his father on the face, causing him to fall. The suspect was taken into custody by the police before being referred to court on 28 July. Please pray for the safety of this tourist. Data shared by two human rights organisations reported that 531 people were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in official places of detention last year, and torture in Turkey's prisons has reached [unprecedented levels](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18715/turkey-torture) (<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18715/turkey-torture>).

Pray: for the human rights of the British man in detention to be upheld, and for him to be protected from being badly or unfairly treated while in Turkey. (Psalm 34:19)

More: www.dailysabah.com/turkey/briton-arrested-over-alleged-murder-of-his-father-in-turkey/news

Japan: economically rich but gospel-poor

127 million Japanese enjoy low crime and great wealth but face changes due to population decline and ageing. By 2060 there could be 40 million fewer Japanese, and 40% of them will be over 65. Buddhism and Shintoism are soaked into the culture with widely practised rituals. But few identify as Shinto or Buddhist, preferring to be non-religious or atheist. As the population shrinks, faddish religious trends have started. Everything is mixed: Santa Claus, gospel-music choirs, Shinto shrines. Christianity is followed by 0.5% of the population; it was established by missionaries 500 years ago. The church has known 17th-century persecution and post-WW2 Protestant growth, but struggles to make an impact and battles internally with formalism and cultural relevance. But we can praise God for the Japanese Christians and pastors who persevere despite all their discouragements.

Pray: for more Christians to hear God's call to be pastors and missionaries and step out to birth new churches in Japan. (2 Timothy 4:5)

More: drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mzD6Zaf9WeCAmJiGVVWVGehTrD0s6wFe

California: wildfires

On 24 July part of California had to declare another state of emergency and evacuate over 6,000 people as the largest active wildfire in the USA rapidly spread near Yosemite National Park (home to some of the largest and oldest sequoia trees in the world). The Oak Fire started two days earlier but the explosive behaviour of the fire meant firefighters struggled to control it. The state of emergency allows access to federal help. By 27 July the wildfires grew to 18,824 acres with 36% containment, but the northward direction of the wind was taking it into the Sierra National Forest - no longer in the direction of Yosemite (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Oak-Fire-update-Blaze-near-Yosemite-now-covering-17332334.php>). The scale of the blaze marks an ominous start to California's wildfire season. Pray for the families and business owners of 100 destroyed structures and for the safety of the 1,000 structures being threatened.

Pray: for the challenges of drought, climate change, and overgrown vegetation to be overcome with additional resources and manpower. (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-62280905

China: Christians, Covid, and cholera

Chinese officials locked down a popular resort city after 450 Covid-19 cases emerged, causing over 2,000 tourists to be stranded as the city conducts mass testing. China's 'zero-Covid' policy puts immense pressure on regional leaders to eliminate the virus. Wuhan also has a lockdown over a case of cholera. Bibles for China's Kurt Rovenstine said it was a local official who restricted travel. That incited some panic. Rovenstine said that churches and schools suffer the worst from lockdowns. One parent said her son could only attend school six weeks out of the seventeen in the semester. Churches can't meet to offer the Lord's Supper, and people can't go to church to receive a Bible. There are many requests for Bibles around China. Despite the challenges, Christians throughout China remain committed to growing in Jesus. They want to share His story with their neighbours.

Pray: for God to rest upon the Christians and Bible distributors as they function open and legally in their outreach programmes, pray for the wellbeing of communities in lockdown. (Psalm 32:8)

More: www.mnnonline.org/news/lockdowns-in-china-as-covid-19-cases-emerge/

Global health emergency: monkeypox

WHO has declared monkeypox a global health emergency. The first case was in a child in 1970. Since then, outbreaks were small and traceable to an individual returning from a country with monkeypox. But the current outbreak is different, with sustained person-to-person transmission of infection. By 22 July there were 16,593 confirmed infections in 68 countries (none having had monkeypox before). Most infections are in Europe. The majority of infections are in men who have sex with men, especially those with multiple partners. There are concerns of under-reporting of cases in some countries. On 28 July the US federal government allocated 786,000 vaccine doses to local authorities after the Food and Drug Administration cleared them for use by people aged 18 and older who are at high risk. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/27/us-to-release-786000-additional-monkeypox-vaccine-doses-as-outbreak-spreads.html> There is limited supply of the two-dose Jynneos vaccine, and infections could become endemic or be introduced into at-risk groups such as children, the elderly, and pregnant women.

Pray: for ample vaccine supplies, for successful management of the disease, and for countries without monkeypox to be preparing for the event should it reach them. (Proverbs 12:15)

More: theconversation.com/monkeypox-world-health-organization-declares-it-a-global-health-emergency-heres-what-that-means-186518

Papua New Guinea: election violence

Over 24 people were killed and 3,000 displaced this month as the nation battled a surge of election violence in the runup to choosing the next prime minister: either incumbent James Marape or the PM who preceded him, Peter O'Neill. Mr Marape promises to make Papua New Guinea 'the richest black Christian nation on earth', while Mr O'Neill's campaign centres on healthcare, education and job creation. The government funds church programmes that provide health and education services through the Church-State Partnership Programme. Pray for peace to come to the island and for an end to politically-motivated violence. Pray for Christianity to take deep root on the island without being diluted and mixed with traditional and animist beliefs. Pray for God to help His Church overcome the attacks from those who practise sorcery and witchcraft. Pray that people would gain a true understanding of what it means to follow Christ.

Pray: for peace on the streets after 29 July, and for believers to continue to love, serve and demonstrate the love of Christ well in their communities. (1 Peter 4:8)

More: www.incontextinternational.org/2022/07/27/violence-plagues-yet-another-election-cycle-in-papua-new-guinea/

Iran: new nuclear research reactor

On 27 July Mohammed Eslami, head of the national atomic energy organisation, announced that Iran is building a new nuclear research reactor at a facility in Isfahan. The reactor will be able to test fuel for other reactors and will be one of Iran's largest nuclear facilities. Mr Eslami stressed that the main issue is to increase the capacity of domestic power plants, and that the country is examining sites, especially in southern Iran, which could serve as favourable locations for new plants. Last month 90% of Iran's uranium enriched to 60% fissile purity had been moved to Isfahan. Eslami said Iran intends to move forward to produce fuel for reactors and part of the fuel needed for power plants at the Isfahan complex. He dismissed claims that the programme has 'non-peaceful goals.'

Pray: for Iran to honour promises that their nuclear programme is no threat to peace. (Proverbs 15:27)

More: www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-713270

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