

Prayer Alert

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Send me Your light and Your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to the place where You dwell. (Psalm 43:3)

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!

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

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IJM reports, 'Last week we celebrated justice for IJM lawyer WK, his client and their driver. Three police officers and one civilian were convicted of their murder'. Prior to 2016, few police officers had ever been convicted for murder - despite many instances of police abusing power. But in the past five years, 45 officers have been convicted on murder or manslaughter charges. This gives hope to victims and families of police abuse that justice is possible. 'Also, praise God for the acquittal of an innocent IJM client in Kenya. He was framed for a crime he didn't commit. During the trial, the prosecution failed to produce any witnesses. He is now free, but please pray for him to be protected from further false accusations.'

Praise: God for IJM and others throughout the world who work endlessly to release captives and protect the vulnerable. (Psalm 10:14)

More: ijm.app.box.com/s/ysfcwsu9rbgdwbb7z1g6jkcacr2n57od/file/990275380230

[Sweden: 300 church plants](#)

Since 2000 there have been 300 churches planted across Sweden by other nations. The Nigerian Redeemed Christian Church of God has 40 Swedish church plants. Their vision is to plant worshipping communities within five minutes' distance from each other. Also from Nigeria there are church plants from Deeper Life Bible, Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries. There are plants from Ghanaian Church of Pentecost where the worship language is English, Ghanaian Swahili and Swedish. Chile's International Mission Church gathers 1,500 people for Sunday services in Stockholm. For Sweden, this is a very big church. There are also congregations with Ethiopian, Eritrean, Iranian, or Afghan connections that are generally closer to the established Swedish denominations.

Praise: God for the vibrant variety of church plants in Sweden. Ask God to bring unity amongst the different styles of worship of so many denominations. (Psalm 118:15)

More: www.europeanea.org/diaspora-churches-in-sweden/

[Holy Spirit moves in Brazil](#)

Two years ago, World Missionary Press (WMP) sent 6.4 million Scripture booklets to ministry partners through a project called 'Blessings for Brazil'. WMP freight coordinator Helen Williams says she is flooded with reports of the Holy Spirit changing hearts. 'The feedback is overwhelming as our distributors describe new opportunities; one ministry is sending 500 boxes a time to distribution points for pastors. There are places being reached that have never been reached because of the lack of resources. Some use Scripture booklets in the inner city, others take them to remote jungle tribal villages. Optician teams use Scripture booklets for their eye test reading charts. Where literacy is marginal, teachers use the booklets to teach the language - their lesson plan is the Scripture booklet. Eight million more booklets will go out before the end of 2022.

Praise: God for moving so powerfully through this initiative in Brazil. (Psalm 119:105)

More: www.mnnonline.org/news/the-holy-spirit-moves-in-brazil/

British Isles

End of Archie Battersbee's battle for life

When Archie Battersbee's accident left him unconscious, he was put on life support treatment, but months later he had not regained consciousness and doctors said he was brain-stem dead. They planned to stop treatment. Archie's mother disagreed, wanting a 'realistic time' for her child to recover saying, 'Planned death is euthanasia, which is illegal in this country. It is for God to decide what should happen to Archie, including if, when and how he should die.' On 22 July we highlighted Archie's situation and the need for law changes so that the vulnerable and their families are protected in [end-of-life matters](#). His parents began legal proceedings to keep Archie on life support treatment, but finally on 4 August the European Court of Human Rights refused their application to delay any changes to his treatment. Continue to pray for changes to be made around hospitals' power to make life or death decisions for the vulnerable.

Pray: for God to comfort Archie's family with the peace that can only come from heaven and help them recover from the excruciating ordeal they have been through. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/03/archie-battersbee-parents-submit-application-continue-life-support/

Record-breaking day for Channel migrants

On 1 August almost 700 migrants crossed the English Channel in 14 small boats, a record for the year so far. The French authorities stopped one boat at sea with 35 people on board. Government figures state over 17,000 people have arrived in the UK after navigating busy shipping lanes from France in small boats so far in 2022. Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak have both vowed to toughen controls on migration into the UK as part of their bids to become next Tory leader and prime minister. Mr Sunak said he would tighten the definition of who qualifies for asylum and introduce a cap on refugee numbers. Ms Truss said she would increase the number of Border Force staff and extend the UK's Rwanda asylum plan. However, no asylum seekers have been sent to the East African country yet following a series of legal challenges. [See](#)

Pray: for more routes which are safe and legal for asylum-seekers; there are currently nine. (Proverbs 1:33)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-62392898

Northern Ireland: people-smuggling arrests

On 3 August thirty police officers and immigration officials raided two properties and detained a 40-year-old woman and a 26-year-old man, both originally from Somalia, on suspicion of offences linked to people-smuggling. The pair have lived in Northern Ireland for ten years; authorities believe they are part of an operation being run by an organised crime gang transporting people into the UK. Officers also searched the addresses for cash. Immigration officials say that individuals can pay gangs between £2,500 and £15,000 to be brought into the UK, often exploiting the Common Travel Area with the Republic of Ireland. Priti Patel said the operation showed expertly-trained officers working tirelessly to keep our country safe by disrupting suspected criminal activity. An immigration enforcement officer said this was just one of the ways they worked with the police to act against people-smuggling.

Pray: for continuing success of immigration and police officers as they partner to investigate, arrest, convict and destroy illegal people-smuggling gangs. (Isaiah 5:20)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-62404714

Energy rebate: renters 'at mercy of landlords'

An estimated 585,000 households - 13% of everyone renting in the private market - have energy bills included in their rent. Citizens Advice said renters could miss out on the £400 energy rebate and the warm home discount if they are not the bill payer because those are paid to the landlord. The charity Shelter said tenants whose energy bills were included in their rent or service charge will be at the mercy of their landlord passing on this much-needed support, as there is no specific legal obligation for landlords to do so. They are not allowed to overcharge tenants for energy used or make a profit on it, but this could happen if they pocket the government support and continue to charge the same rate for utilities. The Government is looking into this, as it has acknowledged it is not right. Landlords can only charge for energy used, the standing charge and VAT.

Pray: for the Government to ensure all financial support goes straight to the people who need it the most, not their landlords. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.theguardian.com/money/2022/aug/03/renters-at-mercy-of-landlords-over-400-energy-rebate-uk-charities-warn

Bank warning of recession

The Bank of England has raised interest rates to 1.75%, the biggest rise in 25 years, as it predicts an even higher peak in inflation of 13%. It fears inflationary pressures are becoming 'more persistent and broadening'. Many companies have been successfully raising prices which will push up consumer costs in the shops. The latest rise in gas prices has led to another significant deterioration in the financial outlook as the UK is now projected to enter recession. The bank has forecast that the UK economy will start shrinking in the fourth quarter of this year, and then keep contracting through next year. That would be the longest recession since after the 2008 financial crisis. The bank also points to the UK's 'tight' labour market - a signal that it is worried about a wage-price spiral, as workers seek pay rises to help with the worst cost of living crisis in decades.

Pray: for firms to stop passing on price increases, to bring inflation down, and to wisely manage shrinking profit margins, so that people can afford their essentials. (Matthew 19:30)

More: www.theguardian.com/business/live/2022/aug/04/bank-of-england-interest-rate-decision-andrew-bailey-inflation-stock-markets-business-live

Hosepipe bans in Southern England

After the driest July since 1935, hosepipe bans will be introduced in Kent and Sussex on 12 August and Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on the 5th. England has been moved into 'prolonged dry weather' status (the stage before a drought). Restrictions mean people cannot use hosepipes or anything that connects to an outside tap. Breaking the rules could lead to a £1,000 fine. Water UK said people use twice as much water as they did sixty years ago. Supplies must not be taken for granted. To avoid further bans people could collect water from baths, washing up, and cooking, known as grey water. Water used for cooking vegetables is nutritious for plants. Cutting off the end of a plastic bottle creates a funnel to channel water to the roots of plants, avoiding wastage. People can also reuse paddling pool water, wash dogs outside, and fill ponds with rainwater.

Pray: for people to wisely manage their demands on water supplies during these unprecedented conditions. (Isaiah 35:7)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62406916

Illegal and legal business profits

Sanctioned Russian oligarchs from Putin's inner circle have exploited a UK secrecy loophole left open by the Government. They use a type of company which does not need to identify its real owners known as an English Limited Partnerships (ELP). ELPs are also linked to fraud, terrorism and money laundering. Since 2017 over 4,500 have been set up to dodge anti-money laundering laws which require the real owners to be disclosed. Pray for the UK Economic Crime Programme, police and government to make ELPs illegal. Meanwhile Shell Plc has given employees a 'Special Recognition Award', equivalent to 8% of their annual salary, after recording profits for a second consecutive quarter thanks to soaring oil and gas prices and legally strong refining margins. The one-time payment will be made to most of Shell's 82,000 employees. Shell said the award was not a response to the rising cost of living. [See](#)

Pray: for the Government to make ELPs illegal, and to examine the case for a tougher windfall tax on energy companies as consumers suffer a cost-of-living crisis. (Proverbs 19:17)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62410715

Europe

Ukraine: pray for mission work

Since the USSR broke up, Ukrainians have experienced freedom and democracy, but more importantly they have experienced freedom to preach the good news, resulting in masses of people being saved and many church plants. Ukraine is also a door for the Gospel to other, surrounding nations. Pray for the door to stay open and fulfil the command to 'go into the world and preach the Gospel'. Pray for the work of Operation Mobilisation in Ukraine as it connects humanitarian aid with those in need. Pray particularly for traumatised displaced children who are receiving small stuffed baby tigers, with a pocket that holds an mp3 player of 38 recordings in Ukrainian for 3- to 11-year-olds. The stories point them to Father God and Jesus, with an emphasis on trauma relief. Please pray for God's anointing on a team of youth workers in Vinnytsia organising six-day camps for traumatised children during August.

Pray: for Ukraine to once more be a breadbasket for the nations, not just with grain, but also with the Gospel, the Bread of Life. (Matthew 4:4)

More: www.uk.om.org/pray-for-ukraine

Ukraine: American aid workers abducted

Ten people in Berdyansk, Ukraine, have been taken captive by Russian militia groups. They were kidnapped while helping evacuate residents from the southern port city, which Russia occupies. The captives include several Orphan's Promise (OP) volunteers, a driver, and an elderly couple who are the parents of a pastor who works with OP. Their whereabouts are unknown. These militia groups are known for their cruelty, especially to volunteers helping Ukrainians. Terry Meeuwsen, the founder of OP said, 'We have no idea where this team is. We don't know if they're alive. We don't know if they're being cared for. We just have no idea. Being treated well has not been the traditional response by the Russians.'

Pray: for God's protection over the captives and for His divine intervention in their release. (Psalm 34:17)

More: www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/cwn/2022/july/please-pray-for-gods-protection-orphans-promise-aid-workers-taken-hostage-by-cruel-russian-militia

Worldwide

Global: break the chains

Lockdown, confinement, violence, and isolation is the daily reality for hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities around the world. Many are locked in sheds, cages, or tethered to trees and are forced to eat, sleep, urinate, and defecate in the same tiny area, sometimes for years at a time. Why? Simply because they have a psychosocial disability (mental health condition). This inhumane practice called 'shackling' occurs because of the widespread stigma surrounding mental health, and a lack of access to adequate support services, both for those with disabilities and for their families. Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children - some as young as ten - have been shackled at least once in their lives in over sixty countries. In 2020 #BreakTheChains published a ground-breaking report exposing the global scale of chaining, and in Kenya, achieved a ruling which found that this practice was inhumane and held the people responsible [to account](#).

Pray: for #BreakTheChains and other initiatives to successfully influence global policies and end chaining so that people with mental health conditions receive the support they need and thrive. (Romans 12:16)

More: www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/essay/lockdown-in-chains

Chile: domestic abuse

Attacking families is one of the best ways for Satan to ruin a nation - and in Chile, marriages are under serious spiritual attack. Domestic abuse is a social plague. Around 35% of Chilean women have suffered physical or sexual violence by a partner or spouse. The emotional and physical pain wounds all members of the family. If husbands and wives began loving and honouring one another as Christ loves the Church, it could transform neighbourhoods, cities, and even the whole nation. The Chilean people are overwhelmingly Christian in name - roughly 60% Catholic and 20% Evangelical. But church attendances are dwindling, and claims of faith tend to be based in culture rather than relationship with Jesus Christ. Crime, drug abuse, and materialism are increasing. One in seven women are mothers by the age of 14. During Pinochet's rule the Church ignored the needy people. There will soon be an election for a controversial new constitution.

Pray: for healed marriages, spiritual revival, and Godly government wisdom in Chile. (John 14:14)

More: prayercast.com/chile.html

India: millions without tap water

India has 18% of the world's population, but only 4% of its water resources. It is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. Many face high to extreme water stress; depending on an increasingly erratic monsoon for water requirements increases this challenge. Climate change is likely to exacerbate this pressure on water resources, as the frequency and intensity of floods and droughts increases. Currently the World Bank is engaged in various aspects of water resource management and the supply of drinking water and sanitation services across the country. Also, prime minister Narendra Modi has launched the Jal Jeevan (water is life) Mission, which aims to bring tap water to every Indian home by 2024. Millions of households have benefited from the programme so far. But with just two years left before the deadline, millions are still waiting, and people living in rural areas travel miles on foot, across harsh terrain, to collect water from sources that are **not always clean**.

Pray: for the many millions of Indians who believe getting access to clean water is a distant dream. May the authorities make that dream come true. (Leviticus 26:4)

More: www.worldbank.org/en/country/india/brief/world-water-day-2022-how-india-is-addressing-its-water-needs

Yemen: truce renewed - peace potential?

Six years into an armed conflict that has killed and injured over 18,400 civilians, Yemen remains the largest humanitarian crisis in the world and the world's worst food security crisis (20.1 million people, two-thirds of the population, need food assistance). On 2 August the warring parties agreed to extend a UN-brokered truce for another two months. The truce has brought the longest period of relative calm in over seven years and a significant decrease in civilian casualties and increased humanitarian access. The UN is seeking an extended and expanded truce to provide a platform for further trust-building, discussions on economic priorities, and establishing a permanent ceasefire. Turning the truce into a political agreement is challenging due to deep mistrust, competing agendas among the groups vying for power, and different ideas about what a peace process looks like. Pray for the UN to successfully reopen roads and negotiate nationwide salary payments.

Pray: for moves toward a political settlement that comprehensively ends the conflict. (Matthew 5:9)

More: www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/with-yemen-truce-renewed-what-are-prospects-peace-2022-08-02/

Israel: Palestine accused of systematic torture

The International Legal Forum has brought accusations of torture against the Palestinian Authority (PA) before the International Criminal Court, the first request of its kind, ahead of a UN report. They called for it to investigate President Mahmoud Abbas (in his 18th year in office after cancelling numerous scheduled elections) and the PA for 'rampant, wide-spread and systematic torture' against Palestinian and Israeli nationals. The forum's CEO said, 'The Palestinian Authority is yet to be held accountable under the law for committing such grave crimes as torture.' Examples include Palestinian human rights activist Nizar Banat, who criticised the PA and died after being beaten in the custody of the security services in 2021. A trial against the officers responsible for his death has not yet concluded. Banat's family call the trial a 'farce'. The PA also took two mentally-ill Israelis hostage after they inadvertently crossed into Gaza, and refused to allow the International Red Cross access to them.

Pray: for justice for the traumatised and for God's protection from malicious attacks. (Isaiah 61:8a)

More: vfinews.com/news/enough-is-enough-palestine-accused-of-systematic/enough-is-enough-palestine-accused-of-systematic

Global: floods

Devastating flash floods have killed 37 people and hundreds are still missing in eastern Kentucky's worst disaster for decades. The death toll will continue to rise. Hundreds of homes and businesses have been destroyed. People are sitting on their porches, hoping somebody is coming to save them. **See** In July, Sydney in Australia was hit with a month's worth of rain in five days; people are still cleaning up three feet of swirling mud. Pakistan has 7,000+ glaciers, but rising global temperatures are causing them to melt rapidly, creating thousands of glacial lakes that might burst and release millions of cubic metres of water and debris, flooding villages in just a few hours. Worsening Indian monsoons cause Mumbai residents to commute on Venetian gondolas and inflatable dinghies. This year residents are being asked to tweet details about floods in their neighbourhoods. The data is then used to issue immediate geographically-specific flood alerts.

Pray: for comfort for those mourning the dead and those whose homes or crops have been destroyed. Pray for the success of rescue teams on skiffs delivering aid. (Leviticus 25:18)

More: www.aljazeera.com/tag/floods/

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