

Prayer Alert

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Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isaiah 56:7b)

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

[From vengeance to forgiveness](#)

'People may ask, 'How is it possible for an Afghan man to become a Christian?'" Homayoun, who was once bent on violence and vengeance, is now a pastor. He shared his testimony on SAT-7 PARS live programme Signal, in the hope that God will use his story of transformation to touch the lives and hearts of viewers facing enormous challenges in Afghanistan and Iran today. 'I grew up in Afghanistan and come from a Muslim background. As I got older, I always had God on my mind, I prayed five times a day and read the Quran. I wanted to know God and I wanted to know the truth, but I never found peace and tranquillity. Eventually I joined the army. I wanted to fight Daesh, the Taliban, or anyone really. But it didn't work out. God didn't want me to kill anyone.' Read Homayoun's testimony [here https://sat7.org/from-vengeance-to-forgiveness-an-afghan-mans-transformation/](https://sat7.org/from-vengeance-to-forgiveness-an-afghan-mans-transformation/)

Praise: God for transforming Homayoun from a killer full of vengeance to a pastor who prays for people in the Farsi-speaking world. (Ephesians 4:32)

More: sat7.org/about-us/our-mission/

[International Christian Concern giving help](#)

Thomas came to know Christ last year, while living in a communal home with his non-Christian parents. Tensions began to mount, prompting him to build a tent on his parents' land as a temporary living space. When he tried to purchase land and build his own home, the authorities repeatedly blocked his efforts. Thankfully, his pastor was able to secure him a new piece of land and then International Christian Concern was able to help him build a new, humble home for his immediate family. His pastor said, 'Thomas is very firm in his new faith. God saved him and his family. Thomas would never give up his faith.'

Praise: God for His mission workers who step in to help believers endure the many storms of life that come as a Christian convert. (James 1:12)

More: pages.e2ma.net/pages/1806612/37168

British Isles

[Cost of living crisis and cutting taxes](#)

Public finances are under pressure from a predicted recession. Both PM candidates agree that people will need help with the cost of living this autumn, but tax cuts will only bring relief to taxpayers. Cutting health and social care levies gives no money to pensioners or anyone earning less than £12,570. The new prime minister will not start the job for another four weeks. The candidates are coming under increasing pressure to spell out their plans. Gordon Brown recently said an emergency budget was urgently needed and that Boris Johnson, Ms Truss and Mr Sunak must agree on one now. A financial time bomb will explode with the October energy price cap. Loughborough University's Prof Hirsch said, 'It is urgent for the next prime minister to ensure families have enough to live through this crisis and beyond.' Some will be £1,600 worse off per year. On 11 August government ministers met with energy giants, focusing on how energy companies can alleviate pressure on consumers: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-62486509](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-62486509)

Pray: for wise planning and action to support financially people on Universal Credit and other benefits, and for fuel duty to be cut. (Philippians 4:19)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-62453813

Disappearing dentists

Nine in ten NHS dental practices across the UK are not accepting new adult patients for treatment. In a third of 200 council areas, no dentists were taking on adult NHS patients and eight in ten NHS practices were not taking on children. The Department of Health said it had made an extra £50m available 'to help bust the Covid backlogs' and that improving NHS access was a priority. While NHS dental treatment is not free for most adults, it is subsidised. There are people across the UK who cannot afford private fees, and the subsidised rates are crucial to getting care. The lack of NHS appointments means people drive hundreds of miles in search of treatment, pull out their own teeth, resort to making their own improvised dentures, and restrict their long-term diets to little more than soup.

Pray: for the British Dental Association to take note of this survey and work with the NHS to improve the service of subsidised dentistry. (Proverbs 31:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-62253893

Downs campaigner appeals abortion law again

Heidi Crowter is hoping to change Britain's abortion legislation through her hearing at the Court of Appeal. Currently the UK permits unborn babies with a disability to be aborted up to birth, while the limit for other babies is 24 weeks. Heidi and others want to stop this discrimination and are continuing their fight after the High Court rejected their case last year. Heidi's mother Liz told the Christian Institute that those with Downs syndrome are still made in the image of God; they just have one extra chromosome. Heidi said, 'In 2022 we live in a society where disabled people are valued equally after birth but not in the womb. This law is discriminatory and needs to be changed.' A ruling will be made in late autumn.

Pray: for God to continue to speak through Heidi as she demonstrates at rallies and addresses the court of appeal her reasons for standing against disability discrimination. (Psalm 139:14)

More: www.heartpublications.co.uk/read-the-whole-august-september-2022-issue-in-one/

Drought and hosepipe bans

A prolonged dry spell and record-breaking temperatures have left rivers at exceptionally low levels, depleted reservoirs, and dried-out soils. Environment secretary George Eustice has urged more firms to take action to mitigate the effects of the prolonged dry weather. But each water company has different thresholds and demands, so we might not see a UK-wide ban. Sir Robert Goodwill, chairman of the environment, food and rural affairs select committee said, 'It costs water companies money to impose a hosepipe ban and I suspect they have held off longer than they would have done twenty years ago when most people were unmetered and just paid their water rate.' His comments come as the UK prepares to [declare a drought](https://www.itv.com/news/2022-08-08/is-the-uk-heading-for-a-drought-and-what-can-be-done-to-stop-it) (<https://www.itv.com/news/2022-08-08/is-the-uk-heading-for-a-drought-and-what-can-be-done-to-stop-it>). Water UK say that climate change and an increasing population mean there could be water shortages by 2050. On 10 August Thames Water sent water tankers to residents in the first place in Britain to run dry when Stokenchurch reservoir was found to [contain E.coli](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/national/20624427.positive-e-coli-test-reservoir-left-oxfordshire-village-without-water/) (<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/national/20624427.positive-e-coli-test-reservoir-left-oxfordshire-village-without-water/>).

Pray: for water companies to ensure there are adequate supplies, for people with health issues to avoid overheating, and for water to be used sparingly. (Proverbs 22:9)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/08/hosepipe-bans-should-have-brought-sooner-says-mp/

Unprepared firefighters

The Environment Agency is expected to declare a drought in England, the Met Office has issued the highest warning in its Fire Severity Index, but UK's fire brigades are completely unprepared for the risk posed by the soaring temperatures. On 14 August an 'exceptional' red fire risk warning will cover much of central and southern England as temperatures exceed 35C for the fourth day in a row for the first time since 1976. The national officer for the Fire Brigades Union said cuts to services across the UK have left fire services unable to cope with a repeat of the dozens of break-out fires and destroyed homes experienced last month. These fires burn at high temperatures, spread at incredible speed, and are brutally dangerous for fire and rescue crews to fight. Over a fifth of the workforce has been cut since 2010, yet they must deal with extreme weather events in increasing regularity and severity.

Pray: for funds and training to be released so that our fire service can adequately deal with the increasing pressures. Pray that everyone is aware of fire dangers. (Proverbs 12:15)

More: www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/aug/11/firefighters-completely-unprepared-for-high-fire-risk-in-uk-warns-union

Victims failed by police

Most victims of burglary, robbery, and theft in England and Wales are not given the justice they deserve. HM chief inspector of constabulary Andy Cooke calls current low charge rates 'unacceptable and unsustainable'. He said 'Some tackle crimes effectively, but others miss opportunities to identify and catch offenders at all stages from when a crime is first reported.' Lack of investigative capacity and experience is made worse by detective shortages. In the year up to March 2022 only 6.3% of robbery offences and 4.1% of thefts in England and Wales resulted in charges. Digital, forensic, technological and analytical capabilities are not good enough to allow officers to carry through to investigations. They must improve their approach to personal robbery, theft from a person, theft of and from motor vehicles, and domestic burglary. By March 2023, all police forces must ensure burglary, theft and robbery crime scenes are managed according to national standards and are effectively supervised and directed.

Pray: for a successful recruitment drive, and for more and better training to improve detection skills, so that all police can give the quality of service that victims deserve. (Proverbs 15:22)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62491194

Mass migration has cost Britain dear

Some say that failure to plan for the millions of people coming to Britain is behind our current woes. Twenty years ago, Migration Watch UK said Britain could expect over two million immigrants every ten years unless curbs were introduced. The Home Office denounced the prediction, but the actual increase is far greater. Since 2002, the UK's population has grown by eight million. 80% of which is attributed to immigration: but no one talked about it. At the 2001 general election, parties promised 'not to play the race card' during their campaigns, so the impact of extensive immigration was closed. By the 2005 election it could not be ignored. Population increase is now the fastest in history. Recruiting overseas professionals (doctors, teachers, etc.) helps support our growing needs. However, the extra hospitals, schools, GP surgeries, houses, transport links and the like that are required for such a large number of people have not been provided in sufficient quantity.

Pray: for our politicians to make affordable housing, adequate schools and a struggling NHS their priority as the population continues to grow. (Proverbs 2:6)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/09/conspiracy-silence-impact-mass-migration-has-cost-britain-dear/

Europe

Russia: 'blackmailing the world'

Ukraine's nuclear agency Enerhoatom says the Russians are 'blackmailing the entire world' with threats to blow up the Zaporizhzhia power plant. In a post on messaging app Telegram, Enerhoatom says Maj Gen Valery Vasiliev - the head of Russia's radiation, chemical and biological defence forces - has said, 'There will be either Russian land or a scorched desert. We have mined all the important facilities of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.' UN secretary general António Guterres has called for international inspectors to be given access to the power plant, after Ukraine and Russia accused each other of shelling the site on 7 August. One of Putin's closest allies, former president Medvedev, has been telling the media that Russia will achieve its aims in the conflict in Ukraine on its own terms. He warns the West has a long-term plan to destroy Russia.

Pray: for the nuclear power plant complex in Zaporizhzhia to be safe, and for an end to dangerous accusations and threats. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/62462223

Ukraine: Wagner mercenaries

Mercenary group Wagner does not officially exist, but billboards in Russia's cities depicting three men in military uniform next to the words 'Wagner2022.org' are inviting fighters to join its ranks in Ukraine. They have transformed from a secretive mercenary organisation to an extension of Russia's efforts in Ukraine. Wagner was established in 2014 to support pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine and is funded by a businessman linked to Putin. On paper, it doesn't exist, with no company registration, tax returns, or organisational chart to be found. Russia's senior leadership, including Vladimir Putin, has repeatedly denied any connections between Wagner and the state. Currently Wagner has lowered recruitment standards, hiring convicts and blacklisted individuals, which impacts military effectiveness. Before the conflict less than 30% of Wagners were professionals. Now this recruitment push threatens to diminish its overall military standards.

Pray: for Wagner's unruly amateurs to hinder and not help Putin's plans. (Psalm 55:23)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/07/russias-private-military-contractor-wagner-comes-out-of-the-shadows-in-ukraine-war

Worldwide

Israel: IDF targets Islamic Jihad

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is backed by Iran, and its headquarters are in Syria. From 5 to 7 August it fired 600 rockets and mortars into Israel. Israel retaliated with jets, drones, helicopters, tanks, artillery and elite commando units against PIJ military bases, weapon production sites, rocket launching sites, and observation posts. Two PIJ cells were hit, killing twelve operatives and several civilians. Israeli military called this operation Breaking Dawn and said it could last a week (<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-714056>). At 11.30 am on 7 August a truce was called. Israel had inflicted significant losses on PIJ in those three days, including killing two senior commanders. By the 11th a further eight individuals with ties to terrorism were arrested in Gaza. PIJ was still insisting on the release of prisoners from Israeli jails, warning that their continued custody was grounds for violence to breakout again.

Pray: for God to release all civilians from fear. Pray for the UN, Qatar, and Egypt to negotiate a peaceful agreement that prevents any further hostility. (John 14:27)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/07/israel-palestine-militant-killed-gaza-strip-khaled-mansour

China / Taiwan: military drills and threats

China sees the self-ruled island of Taiwan as a part of its territory and insists it be unified with them, by force if necessary. Taiwan has its own constitution, democratically elected leaders, and 300,000 troops; also, the USA is available to provide it with the means to defend itself. After Beijing recently conducted air and sea military drills with live ammunition around Taiwan, the US accused it of 'provocative' actions. Taiwan said China is using military exercises to disrupt regional stability, and responded by launching a two-day exercise, simulating a Chinese invasion, to show it is ready to defend the island from any attack. China is signalling to Taiwan that it is ready to invade, while Taipei is telling China 'You can hurt us, but we will also hurt you.' Beijing's extended drills are disrupting air travel and trade in the Taiwan Strait, one of the world's busiest waterways. The aggression could spill into the South China Sea, where many countries which rely on China economically would have to contend with a more geopolitically belligerent Beijing (<https://www.incontextinternational.org/2022/08/08/china-announces-further-military-drills-in-wake-of-pelosi-visit-to-taiwan/>).

Pray: for Taiwan's democracy and human rights to remain in place, and for peace to fall on the Taiwan Strait. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/08/entirely-provoked-china-defends-calling-off-us-military-talks-after-nancy-pelosis-taiwan-visit

Haiti: war zone

Haitians are surrounded by gang warfare. One of the largest gangs is 400 Mawozo who kill police officers. Outmanned and outgunned by well-armed gangs, police are demanding that the government back them up with better support and more equipment. The G9 is an alliance of nine gangs led by an ex-policeman. They control coastal ports and oil terminals, seize goods lorries, and extort money from businesses. An estimated 60% of Haiti's capital is classed as 'lawless' by human rights groups. The city, similar in size to Los Angeles, is paralysed by dozens

of gangs battling for power and territories. Once buzzing with nightlife, it now looks and feels like a ghost town. Shops are shut and residents have vacated homes, fearing of being caught in the crossfire. On city outskirts, huge swathes of the community are living from hand to mouth, without electricity or access to clean water.

Pray: for the government to supply police with appropriate defence weapons and protection, and for the military to help the police restore law and order in the streets. (Psalm 82:3-4)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-62436436

Global: refugees

The UN expects five million people to flee Ukraine. The world was already facing the highest levels of displacement on record. The war in Syria killed 400,000 and destroyed healthcare, education, and infrastructure, forcing millions to cross treacherous waters to safety. An estimated 745,000 people crossed the border from Myanmar into Bangladesh after violence erupted in Rakhine state. The rapid movement and huge influx of Rohingya refugees put massive strain on existing refugee camps like Cox's Bazar and on the host communities who are supporting new arrivals. Every day 37,000 people across the world flee their homes due to persecution or conflict; 26 million people flee their homes annually due to climate-related disasters; and one in five refugee or displaced women are estimated to have experienced sexual violence. In this season of global recessions, pray for adequate financial donations to be given to agencies delivering life-saving aid to refugees. Pray for ample food, water, sanitation, blankets and shelters to reach the vulnerable.

Pray: for the anxious to live a life without fear and develop an independent livelihood in their adopted countries, and for children to continue to get the education they deserve. (Psalm 91:4)

More: www.actionaid.org.uk/changelives/rg/donate-to-help-refugees

Nigeria: a dangerous society

In 2017 Fulani militants seized a Christian mother's land and burned down her house, forcing her and her family to move closer to the city for safety. Loss of their farmland forced the family of seven into deep poverty, living and sleeping in one room. On 8 August Fulani militants attempted to rape her 16-year-old daughter while they were out walking. A missionary visited the family after the attack and the mother said, 'They told us to stop, then they beat me as I tried to stop them from raping my daughter.' She showed the deep gash in her arm she received from the militants, and said God used her to protect her daughter from public disgrace and shame, which is how victims of rape are viewed in their society. 'I have nothing to say but thank God. Please tell Christians to pray for us. Pray that we will return to our village one day. Life is too expensive in the city.'

Pray: for the government, intelligence agencies, and police to end the persecution of Christians and for the safe return of their homes and farms. (1 Peter 3:14)

More: t.e2ma.net/message/m8e2jx/6zdri3u

Lebanon: discrimination against refugees rises

A refugee agency in Lebanon noted discrimination and violence against Syrian refugees rose sharply recently, with more confrontations at bakeries where refugees often have to wait for bread behind Lebanese citizens. Rawan Haddad, of Tent Schools International, said that the refugees' situation is sometimes better than most Lebanese. Nations provide basic support and limited facilities for refugees, but Lebanese below the poverty line have no support. There are shortages of bread, flour, and medicine. People don't make enough to buy what they need, and the government won't help. With these concerns in mind, Lebanese officials have now announced they plan to repatriate refugees back to Syria, but the problem is that European countries will not agree to that course of action.

Pray: for healing to come to Lebanon; pray for stability in the economic situation. (Isaiah 60: 13)

More: www.mnnonline.org/news/in-lebanon-discrimination-rises-against-syrian-refugees/

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 \(https://www.hrw.org/BreakTheChains\)](https://www.hrw.org/BreakTheChains).

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

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