

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 32-2022 | Friday 19 August 2022
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As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:13)

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

[Deaf four-year-old healed](#)

A four-year-old boy was able to hear for the first time whilst attending the New Wine festival at the beginning of August. Although he has not been publicly named, crowds rejoiced when being told the news from the festival stage. Rev Kate Wharton, New Wine's assistant director, said: 'He was born deaf, but after he was prayed for during the week, he was able to hear for the first time. His mum told this delightful story of him staying awake whispering to his brother all night.' The festival, held at Peterborough, saw 14,000 people gather to grow in their faith. Due to the pandemic, this was the first live New Wine festival since 2019.

Praise: God for His wonderful healing touch. (Luke 7:22b)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/deaf-four-year-old-able-to-hear-for-the-first-time-at-christian-festival?>

British Isles

[Leaders' talks on cost-of-living crisis](#)

Nicola Sturgeon sent a letter to Boris Johnson saying he should have urgent talks with the administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland due to the fast-deteriorating cost of living situation. The PM agreed, but he is now on holiday until 22 August and he will then have two weeks to organise any meeting before he moves out of Number 10. UK ministers had already committed the equivalent of 1.5% of the country's GDP to supporting households with the increasing cost of living. The Government was warned by business leaders that it must put 'all hands to the pump' to address the crisis ahead of the autumn.

Pray: for all to agree on releasing enough funding to address the aid gaps for households on low incomes. (1 Cor. 1:10)

More: www.gov.scot/publications/cost-of-living-crisis-letter-to-the-prime-minister/

Scotland: patients locked in secure hospitals

The BBC have discovered that Scots with learning disabilities and autism have been locked in secure hospitals and psychiatric wards for decades, unable to get out despite ministers saying 22 years ago they should be living independently in the community. One person with a learning disability had been behind locked doors for 25 years. Another was cleared for release eight years ago but is still in hospital. Families said their relatives had been left to rot. The Scottish government said the findings were unacceptable and that local services must do more to get people into their own homes. Freedom of Information requests revealed that 15 Scots with learning disabilities and autism had been living for twenty years or more in hospital, 40 for over ten years and 129 for over a year. Nine autistic people with learning disabilities who had never committed a crime were in a high-security psychiatric hospital which houses Scotland's most serious criminals.

Pray: for these revelations to lead to independent inquiries into the treatment provided so that patients receive care, therapy, medication and supported housing at appropriate levels. (Zechariah 7:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-62477095

Firefighting challenges

Large-scale wildfires are occurring more frequently across the UK. The challenges are enormous: in the middle of nowhere, two-metre-high flames moving faster than anyone can run. It can take days to bring a fire under control, an exhausting ordeal for even the fittest firefighter. An officer said, 'Wildfires are unlike any other fire, they change on a minute-by-minute basis. One minute a fire is knee-high, the next it's above your head. It is one of the most arduous fires our crews face. Left unchecked, they rage for miles across the countryside. If the wind changes direction the tail of the fire could become the head, and it spreads in the opposite direction. You can walk for an hour with hand tools wearing boots, jacket, and helmet, before getting to the area you are going to be fighting.' Conditions are brutal. See also this week's France article, 'We are waiting for rain'.

Pray: for more wildfire training to be given to rural fire services, and for people to dispose of cigarettes and barbeques wisely during this drought. (Joshua 1:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62485130

Protests at drag queen's storytelling events

In July furious parents stormed a Drag Queen Story Hour for three- to 11-year-olds in Reading central library, the first venue in a UK-wide two month library tour. The event descended into chaos after the parents broke in and screamed abuse in front of the children. As they threatened to perform a 'citizens' arrest' and accused the drag queen of paedophilia, the police had to step in to bring calm. The final story hour, in Cardiff, was also targeted by protesters with placards and banners, saying it was inappropriate for children. Many people came to support the event, wearing clothes adorned with the rainbow flag. Sab (drag character Aida H Dee) says the stories provide a positive experience about queer culture and deliver a positive role model for people to look up to. Sab moved to Cardiff to capitalise on its flourishing LGBTQ community. and thinks it wouldn't have thrived without the support Wales gives to that community. Cardiff councillors received 143 letters of complaints [about these story times](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-62521726) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-62521726>).

Pray: for parents and teachers to voice their opinions peacefully around the suitability of events with LGBTQ undertones aimed at children. (Proverbs 22:6)

More: www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1646670/reading-drag-queen-story-hour-uk-reading-library

Emotions running high for students

Hundreds of thousands of students received their A Level results on 18 August. This was the first time students had actually sat their exams since 2019: during the coronavirus outbreak, they were assessed by teachers. Getting the grades needed for university or college can be really tough, and for some it impacts their mental health. Amid rising levels of anxiety in the run up to results day, Childline said it had seen large numbers of students receiving counselling for concerns about their grades. Pray that those teenagers who may not have achieved the results they wanted will be able to talk to a teacher or an adult they trust to discuss how they are feeling. Remember those who are now desperately hoping to find a university place, somewhere, through the clearing system.

Pray: for the less able to avoid comparing themselves with their friends and instead to remember that exam results do not determine their value in God's eyes. (1 Samuel 16:7b)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/education-62550119

Rishi Sunak's 'favourite meal' no longer exists

During his time as a minister, and especially in the battle to succeed Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak and his team have sought to present the wealthy former banker as someone nonetheless in touch with the concerns of voters. But his habit of awkward interactions with the everyday world continued when he told a TV show that he and his daughters liked the breakfast wrap at McDonald's, saying, 'It's what we do.' However, a McDonald's spokesman confirmed the chain stopped selling breakfast wraps in March 2020. A photo shoot for the budget, when he was still chancellor, showed Sunak at a petrol station filling up a car that later turned out to be borrowed. He was also pictured trying to pay by holding his bank card up to a barcode scanner, rather than the payment machine.

Pray: for Rishi Sunak to begin to reveal his true self and the banking skills that he has which would improve the UK economy. (Psalm 78:72)

More: www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/aug/18/thats-not-a-wrap-rishi-sunak-fails-mcdonalds-fact-check

Sussex beaches closed after sewage discharge

Beaches in Bexhill and Normans Bay in East Sussex have been closed after untreated wastewater was released into the sea at the shoreline. Hastings borough council also advised people against swimming at Pelham Beach due to pollution. Southern Water said they were 'deeply sorry' and understood 'the distress this causes'. The liquid, including sewage, was released when the primary power and back-up system failed on 17 August. A member of Bexhill SeaGals sea-swimming group believes water companies should be 'held accountable', adding, 'It is unbelievable and outrageous that they can continue to get away with this'. The head of Surfers Against Sewage said, 'Years of underinvestment are now in plain sight. It is time that huge water company profits were diverted to properly managing water and sewage and protecting people and planet. Our rivers and beaches should not be subject to this type of industrial environmental vandalism.'

Pray: for Sussex's coasts and waterways to be respected and protected. (Jeremiah 2:7)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-62589667

Europe

Ukraine: nuclear plant situation 'approaches critical'

NATO is the latest international organisation calling for UN inspectors to be allowed into Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, saying its seizure posed a serious threat to Ukraine and neighbouring countries. For two weeks there has been heavy shelling on and around the plant, with both sides blaming each other. Officials say Zaporizhzhia could be cut off from power. Moscow is redirecting electricity to Crimea. Ukraine says the situation is 'approaching critical'. Unable to force the Russians from Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, Ukraine is preparing for the worst. At a supermarket car park emergency workers wearing yellow hazmat suits are practising cleaning drills in the event of radioactive contamination. The car park is also where Ukrainians fleeing Russian-occupied territories first arrive. There are queues of cars with people and full suitcases.

Pray: for the shooting and bombing to stop, and for God to comfort the fearful fleeing families sheltering in the Ukraine-controlled car park. (James 1:27)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62579154

Germany: Rhine drying up

Swathes of the Rhine riverbed are exposed, while a few commercial vessels slowly navigate the channel of water that is left in one of Europe's great working rivers. Industry relies on barges to fetch and carry raw materials and finished products to and from the power plants and factories that line the riverbank. Germany's main industry lobby group has warned that factories may have to limit production or halt it completely because plunging water levels on the river are making it harder to transport cargo. The water is already too low to allow some of the larger vessels through. Others have reduced their cargo to lighten the load so that they sit higher in the water. Experts warn that the low water could significantly damage Germany's economy (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62519683>).

Pray: for government ministers and those who live by or work on the river to engage in wise problem-solving strategies and support to prevent an economic drain. (Numbers 24:6)

More: abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/europe-drought-german-industry-risk-rhine-falls-88435575

France: 'We are waiting for rain'

Hervé Trentin, a veteran firefighter, stood on the edge of a charred section of forest wiping tears from his cheeks. It was the second time he had cried that morning. He and his team were moving around an area south of Bordeaux trying to stay ahead of a megafire. Their job was burning the forest, to create firebreaks - a tactic they are trained to master. They are the only ones in the region capable of doing the job. Trentin grew up there, and setting his home soil alight was disturbing. He said 'The forest needs over thirty years to recover.' In July a megafire appeared to be under control, but the heat remained in the earth, creating a 'zombie fire' that re-emerged and accelerated new fires in the dry conditions.

Pray: for the 1,000+ French firefighters now battling this blaze, assisted by colleagues from various European nations. (Job 5:10)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62539385

Worldwide

Global repercussions of Ukraine war

While explosions rocked a Crimean ammunition depot, disrupting railway services and causing 2,000 people to be evacuated from a nearby village, the Russian defence minister claimed Ukrainian military operations were being planned by the Americans and British while NATO increased its troop deployment in eastern and central Europe 'several times over'. Vladimir Putin also said the bloc of Australia, UK, and the USA had the potential to develop into 'a political-military alliance'. Meanwhile Russia's Black Sea fleet struggles to exercise effective sea control, with patrols generally limited to the waters within sight of the Crimean coast, according to British intelligence reports. The fleet continues to use long-range cruise missiles to support ground offensives, but is keeping a defensive posture. Britain is training 10,000 Ukrainian raw recruits in marksmanship, battlefield first aid, and urban warfare. Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Nordic nations are also providing training.

Pray: for God to inspire world leaders with the routes He has prepared for them to take, and for Russia to fall into the pit it is digging. (Proverbs 26:27)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/16/russia-ukraine-war-latest-what-we-know-on-day-174-of-the-invasion

India: escalating Christian persecution

The persecution of Christians in India is intensifying as Hindu extremists aim to cleanse the country of their presence and influence. The driving force behind this is Hindutva, an ideology that refuses to treat Christians and other religious minorities as true Indians because they allegedly have allegiances that lie outside India; it asserts the country should be purified of their presence. This is leading to systemic, often violent, carefully orchestrated targeting of Christians. The extremists often use social media to spread disinformation and stir up hatred. Pray that social media companies will do more to combat the spread of fake news and hatred on their platforms. Overall, violence against Christians remains at an extreme level, and levels of pressure in all spheres of life remain very high or extreme. Regions experiencing the most persecution are ruled by the Hindu nationalist party (BJP). Pray that this situation changes with the next elections (Himachal Pradesh in November and Gujarat in December (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_elections_in_India)).

Pray: for God to protect, strengthen and encourage His church in India. (2 Sam. 22:31)

More: www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/india/

Canada / Australia: sexual abuse and fraud in evangelical churches

The Meeting House church in Oakville, Canada has had 'substantiated' sexual abuse allegations against its former leader, Bruxy Cavey. In June, he was charged with one count of sexual abuse after an internal investigation. Then the church announced two further investigations, as more accusations of sexual abuse against him and former pastor Tim Day were submitted: [see \(https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/new-sexual-abuse-allegations-involving-a-minor-against-former-leader-of-one-of-canada-s-biggest-evangelical-churches\)](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/new-sexual-abuse-allegations-involving-a-minor-against-former-leader-of-one-of-canada-s-biggest-evangelical-churches) In Australia the Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission launched an investigation into the Hillsong megachurch in March after a former employee alleged financial malpractice, including using tax-free money for 'large cash gifts' to former Hillsong global leader Brian Houston and his family. [See also \(https://charismamag.com/blogs/fire-in-my-bones/how-do-you-leave-a-church-that-becomes-toxic/\)](https://charismamag.com/blogs/fire-in-my-bones/how-do-you-leave-a-church-that-becomes-toxic/)

Pray: for every moral and ethical issue to be resolved so that congregations can believe that they are not being financially, sexually, or emotionally harmed by religious institutions. (Psalm 15:2)

More: www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-12/hillsong-church-allegedly-mislead-charities-regulators/101324578

Ethiopia: prayer needs

Ethiopians have a catastrophic hunger crisis after four failed harvest seasons due to drought. There are dire predictions for the autumn harvest. 91% of people in southern Ethiopia live in rural areas, depending on livestock and agriculture to survive – the backbone of Ethiopia's economy. All grazing lands and water sources have dried out. Livestock and crops have perished. There are severe food shortages. People travel for hours searching for water. This responsibility falls to women and girls, putting them at risk on dangerous routes. Girls are also missing school. Pray for agencies to provide adequate nourishing food and clean water where it is needed. Pray for people to feel God's love and comfort surrounding them. Pray that there will be no long-term side effects or medical conditions due to hunger. Ask God to bring the rainfall that is needed; may this lead to abundant harvests and water sources springing up again closer to communities.

Pray: for healing for those who are suffering from malnutrition and hunger. (Psalm 37:19)

More: www.tearfund.org/stories/2022/08/catastrophic-hunger-crisis-in-ethiopia-is-far-from-over

Afghanistan: how to pray, one year on

In August 2021 Afghans dreading the return of the draconian Taliban regime risked their lives clinging to the outside of departing planes, desperate to escape. Afghanistan is now the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. Closing the ministry of women's affairs demonstrated a return to the denigration of women that had previously characterised the Taliban rule. Except for healthcare workers, women must stay at home 'to protect their safety'. Girls' secondary schools stay closed 'until a comprehensive plan is prepared according to Sharia and Afghan culture'. The Taliban have re-established the 'Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue' to enforce their strict interpretation of Sharia. Their drive for only the 'purest' form of Islam has left no room for Christians in Afghanistan. Please pray for the safety and protection of secret believers from being discovered, and for the families who have to leave everything behind as they flee to safety. [See also \(https://www.opendoorsuk.org/churches/resources/Afghanistan-prayer-churches/\)](https://www.opendoorsuk.org/churches/resources/Afghanistan-prayer-churches/)

Pray: for women to be allowed to contribute to Afghan society, and for girls to be educated. (Psalm 16:1)

More: www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/afghanistan-prayer/

North Korea 'ready to send 100,000 soldiers' to help Russia

Russian military expert Igor Korotchenko said on state TV: 'There are 100,000 North Korean volunteers prepared to come and take part in the war in Ukraine. North Korean builders are ready to work alongside ours to repair war damage. If North Korean volunteers with their artillery systems, wealth of experience with counter-battery warfare, and large calibre multi-launch rocket systems, want to participate in the conflict, well, let's give the green light to their volunteer impulse.' A South Korean report stated that the North is already preparing to dispatch its workers to the pro-Russian Donbas region in eastern Ukraine. Calling the North Korean troops 'resilient, undemanding and motivated', a Russian journalist said that the Kremlin 'should not be shy in accepting the hand extended to us by Kim Jong-un'.

Pray: for Moscow's failures to capture Kyiv continue to cause loss of troops, morale and resources as they run out of steam, and for North Korea to pause its involvement. (Psalm 140:8)

More: www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/world/north-korea-volunteers-russia-ukraine-b2143165.html

USA: Trump investigation

The FBI search warrant of former president Donald Trump's Florida home authorised confiscation of every record he ever saw, read or created during his four years as commander-in-chief, right down to scribbles on a napkin. Democrats are asking for a damage assessment from the intelligence community on the eleven sets of classified documents recovered in the raid, including one marked 'SCI', a classification for some of the most sensitive national security information that is normally viewed in a highly secured location. A Trump lawyer signed a statement in June saying 'all classified documents at Mar-a-Lago had been turned over to federal investigators'. On 14 August Trump's lawyer claimed all investigations into 'him will be dropped if he says he won't run to be elected president in 2024. Later Trump's office released a new defence statement: 'As we can all relate to, everyone ends up having to bring home their work from time to time. American presidents are no different' (<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-2024-investigations-alina-habba-b2144471.html>).

Pray: for truth, humility, and justice to rule in American politics. (Matthew 5:8)

More: www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2022/august/could-trump-face-prison-time-for-violating-espionage-act-nbsp

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