

Prayer Alert

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I keep my eyes always on the Lord: with Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. (Psalm 16:8)

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 York Jets follow Jesus' lead

The women, children and elderly fleeing Ukraine are suffering the most, dealing with the trauma from Russia's ongoing onslaught. In support of what churches in Ukraine and Poland are doing, the New York Jets donated \$100,000 towards the work of 'CityServe Krakow Housing Project'. Their goal is to expand refugee housing in Krakow, Poland. The money will provide safe homes for families which include a kitchen and laundry room, and food and vital necessities. CityServe said it is incredible that a secular organisation should partner with faith-based organisations to see the gospel spread in this war-torn region.

Praise: God for all the mission groups on the crisis frontlines in Ukraine, Poland, and surrounding regions. (Matthew 28:19)

More: www.charismanews.com/culture/89953-new-york-jets-follow-jesus-lead-aid-faith-based-groups-in-ukraine

Hope amidst fear

Bible Society staff are taking humanitarian aid and Bibles to cities under heavy attack in Ukraine to provide 'hope amidst fear'. With local churches they take food, medicines and Bibles to homes and to bomb shelters. In one bomb shelter in a school, people read Psalm 91 day and night. War has brought many changes to Ukraine's Bible Society but they meet every challenge. Their bookshelves now store medicine, and the team travel off-road in medical convoys to bring Bibles, scripture-based resources, humanitarian aid and pastoral care to the most devastated places. They say, 'We are sharing living bread and physical bread.'

Praise: God for the work of mission agencies risking their lives in the most dangerous and devastated places. May He keep them safe, and may they have adequate supplies to distribute. (Matthew 4:4)

More: www.biblesociety.org.uk/latest/ukraine/

God heals an incurable cancer

Mikhaila's mother had a rare cancer. The death rate was 100%. Three surgeries failed. A lady who visited her hospital prayed with her, offering hope, and her demeanour changed. She let go of the control she tried to have over the cancer. She was being tube-fed and her faith took over. 'I'll be better by our anniversary next month.' she declared. Mikhaila thought the optimism was due to the morphine. But, a month later, she was better. The 100% cancer fatality rate changed by 100%. No doctor could account for her recovery. Mikhaila and mum discussed the healing proclamation. 'That's a weird day and you said it was going to happen a month ago.' Mikhaila said. 'How is that possible?' 'God', Mum replied nonchalantly.

Praise: God for this miracle, which brought not only healing but the whole family coming to a living faith in Jesus Christ. (Mark 11:24)

More: www.godreports.com/2022/08/god-healed-jordan-petersons-wife-of-rare-incurable-cancer/

British Isles

9-year-old Olivia shot dead

Joseph Nee, a drug dealer and thief, was being chased by a man with a handgun. As Olivia's mum opened the door to see what the noise was outside, he ran into the house. Her mother was shot twice as she tried to shut the door, and Olivia was also killed. The gunman ran away. Nee escaped to hospital in a car while Olivia and her mother were left bleeding. Olivia's school teacher said, 'Olivia was a ray of sunshine and very popular with all her peers'. Nee is stable in hospital and will be returned to prison (he was out on licence to keep the peace). He has no links to the family. In the hunt for the gunman police have been given the same name by two different sources. Police said the investigations into Olivia's death is high-priority, as are the deaths of two other innocent victims this week, [Ashley Dale](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-62657935) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-62657935>) and [Sam Rimmer](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-62661896) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-62661896>).

Pray: for the families of Olivia, Ashley, and Sam as they come to terms with the shootings. Pray for Olivia's school friends and the communities now in shock and disbelief. (Psalm 23:4)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-62658221

Potential energy crisis?

An annual energy industry exercise to prepare the UK for a possible gas supply emergency has been scaled up to four days instead of two. The potential scenarios include rationing electricity. Industry links the decision to extend the drill to the seriousness of the energy challenges forecast for this winter. The Government says it is a routine part of the energy industry calendar, and insists there is no risk to winter's gas supplies. A freedom of information request found that business secretary Kwasi Kwarteng has not sought any advice from government officials on possible energy rationing. Energy experts have expressed surprise, particularly as other countries are working on such plans. The Government said this was because the UK had one of the most reliable and diverse energy systems in the world, thanks to investment in renewables, nuclear power, and the North Sea oil and gas industry.

Pray: for energy security to be strengthened to avoid disruption. (Nahum 1:7)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-62604653

Criminal barristers on strike

English and Welsh barristers will go on an indefinite, uninterrupted strike from 5 September. Recently they have been striking on alternate weeks in a dispute over pay, working conditions and legal aid funding. The strikes will delay thousands of cases, leaving victims and the accused waiting longer for justice. The Criminal Bar Association said the strike action was a last resort, after warning signs coming for many years. Barristers have endured their income collapsing, cuts, and underfunding. Their income has decreased 28% since 2006. Court cases are not going ahead because there are not enough barristers to defend or prosecute. A solution would be an injection of money into the backlog of cases that barristers are working on (currently 60,000 cases). It would cost the government £1.1m per month. It is costing much more for the courts to sit empty.

Pray: for the Government to resolve this industrial dispute so that justice is achieved for barristers and the public do not face further delays and distress. (Proverbs 12:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62629776

Back to the office to save jobs

Companies were forced to give bribes to cajole employees to return to the office last year: free breakfast, ice cream and even popcorn to workers who came in. Now bribes are replaced with stern summons issued to workers still wanting to stay at home. Apple's chief executive ordered every employee to return to the office three days a week from September. That is the latest in similar demands issued by other companies, who all feel that office life improves productivity. But efforts to lure staff back may not be necessary when the country plunges into recession. Experts and City professionals are now saying workers are keen to get back in front of managers to save their jobs as a crisis looms. However, as the harsh reality of the cost-of-living crisis hits, they will still have to escort some of their colleagues to the door anyway.

Pray: for businesses to make wise decisions that will tackle the expected decrease in demand as well as an increase in costs. (Proverbs 1:5)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/08/22/wfh-crowd-returns-office-cuts-holidays-short-recession-clouds/

Back-to-school costs

Parents are facing buying expensive school uniforms in time for the new academic year. In 2020 the average cost of a uniform was £337 for secondary schools, £315 for primary schools. This year a quarter of parents will try to reuse old school items rather than buying new, according to Barclaycard research. One in five are donating old uniforms to others who cannot afford new ones. Demand for free school uniforms has rocketed recently. Although a new law protecting parents from unnecessary spending on branded items for school uniform costs will come into effect in September 2022, schools have until September 2023 to introduce change. Pray for schools quickly and thoroughly to review their uniform policies to make them more cost-effective sooner rather than later.

Pray: for pre-loved uniforms to be made easily available for families to pick up. (Psalm 140:12)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-62568027

Monkeypox and brain stimulation research

An Oxford University team who found effective drugs to treat Covid are trialling an antiviral called Tecovirimat to aid monkeypox recovery. Over 3,000 British people have caught monkeypox in recent months, with more cases anticipated. The virus, declared a global health emergency, can take weeks before recovery, and there can be serious complications. 'The aim is to find a treatment that helps people recover quicker and get out of quarantine' (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-62644509>). Also scientists have discovered they can boost people's memory for at least a month by harmlessly stimulating parts of the brain with electricity. Volunteers performed better at word memorisation games, which tested their immediate 'working' memory and their long-term memory. Dementia is caused by a diseased brain, with dying brain cells leading to memory problems. The researchers are investigating whether the technology can be used to stimulate the surviving brain cells and help schizophrenics and obsessive-compulsive disorder patients.

Pray: for scientists and Alzheimer's researchers to successfully enhance failing memories and discover treatment which speeds up the recovery of those who have monkeypox. (3 John 2a)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-62606510

Levels of death still as in pandemic

During lockdown newspapers reported thousands dying weekly. But last week 1,082 more people died than would be expected. These 'excess deaths' have averaged 1,000 for 15 weeks this year: they are not Covid deaths, so not newsworthy. Most deaths occur in private homes. This year there were 6,000 fewer deaths than expected in hospitals and care homes but over 17,000 more in people's homes in England and Wales alone. Doctors are concerned about the unexpectedness of these deaths. 30- to 59-year-olds have excessively high death rates with heart attacks and diabetes. Symptoms were untreated during lockdown. People who need treatment now are struggling to get it. Waiting lists are larger than ever and getting a GP appointment is a lottery. Unless these issues are addressed, these diseases will continue to go untreated.

Pray: for the Department of Health to investigate and quickly resolve challenges. (John 8:32)

More: www.spectator.co.uk/article/we-re-at-pandemic-levels-of-death-why-is-no-one-talking-about-it-

Europe

Europe's drought and cost of living

Rivers drying up and farmland parched: Europe's water scarcity is affecting lives and businesses. Scientists warn the current European drought could become its worst in over 500 years. Water scarcity has hit 60% of the continent from Italy to the UK. An unusually dry winter and scorching summer heat reduced rivers to rivulets. The historic water reserve lows have forced governments to restrict supplies, seriously affecting many sectors from agriculture to shipping. In July heatwaves shaved 0.5% off Europe's annual GDP. Wildfires destroyed crops across Italy, Greece, France, and Spain, and energy prices are up because of the war in Ukraine. The Global Commission on Adaptation said an estimated investment of \$800m in climate programmes could save poor nations up to \$16bn every year.

Pray: for nations less affected by the drought to support those who struggle, and for all European leaders to work together in the current crisis situation. (Galatians 6:2)

More: www.aljazeera.com/program/counting-the-cost/2022/8/20/could-europes-drought-worsen-its-cost-of-living-crisis

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

Worldwide

Turkey / Israel: full diplomatic ties restored

Israel and Turkey have announced the return of full diplomatic ties between the two nations, including the reinstatement of ambassadors and consulate generals. This constitutes an important asset for regional stability and very important economic news for Israelis. Their relationship had deteriorated over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Erdogan has been a harsh critic of Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians. Turkey has also hosted several Hamas leaders, which further strained relations between the two nations. Many believe Erdogan's wish to renew these relations is a result of Turkey's economy floundering and his popularity dipping as a result.

Pray: for Erdogan to continue to move towards moderation, and for peace to reign. (Matthew 5:9)

More: www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/israel/2022/august/israel-turkey-agree-to-restore-full-diplomatic-ties

Iran: Baha'i persecution

Over 200 security forces entered Roshankouh village in northern Iran to demolish houses and farms belonging to members of the Baha'i faith. They blocked the roads leading to the village and arrested anyone who tried to stop them. They confiscated mobile phones and warned locals not to take photos or videos of them using heavy construction machinery to demolish buildings. Since early June, Iran has intensified its systematic campaign to suppress the religious minority, raiding households, shutting down businesses, arresting many, and putting Baha'i on trial, including three of the former leaders of the community. 50 Baha'i homes were demolished in the same province; the authorities confiscated the assets of 27 Baha'i families who had lived there for several generations, claiming that the money they earned was 'unlawfully earned'. 20+ Baha'i businesses were closed in July. Very little Christian love and witness to them exists, although some Persian Christians have begun to reach out to them.

Pray: for God to raise up more Persian Christians to walk alongside the Baha'i, sharing the love and salvation of Jesus Christ and bringing many into His kingdom. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: www.iranintl.com/en/202208024706

USA / South Korea military exercises

In recent years, the United States and South Korea have cancelled some of their regular drills and reduced others to computer simulations, to create space for diplomacy and allay Covid-19 concerns. But after North Korea dismissed South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol's offer to exchange denuclearisation steps and economic benefits, the USA and South Korea began their biggest combined military training in years on 22 August, heightening their defence posture against the growing North Korean nuclear threat. The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises, which will continue until 1 September, include aircraft, warships, tanks, and potentially tens of thousands of troops. They could draw anger from Pyongyang, which has pushed its weapons testing activity to a record pace this year while repeatedly threatening conflicts with Seoul and Washington amid a prolonged stalemate in diplomacy. Some say North Korea sees the exercises as rehearsals for an invasion.

Pray: for North Korea to step back from raising any further tensions in the area. (Romans 12:18)

More: news.sky.com/story/us-and-south-korea-begin-biggest-military-training-in-years-amid-growing-north-korean-nuclear-threat-12678970

Sri Lanka: believers persevere amid struggles

Sri Lanka is in talks with the International Monetary Fund about a bailout package. IMF officials will visit them this month. The country's economic meltdown triggered protests, and President Rajapaksa fled the country. Now the former president will return. International Media Ministries (IMM) partner with believers and churches in Sri Lanka and are working to help the country and the church to live regular lives in the midst of upheaval. They are developing Gospel media resources to expand the vision of what Christianity is and spread the Gospel using the 'Open the Gospels' project. They also want to put the 'Heritage' project into languages that are regionally important. IMM are requesting prayer for God to strengthen and encourage the Sri Lankan Christian community. Pray that IMM partners can access daily life essentials like food and clean water. They are saying, 'God hasn't left us; we have hope.'

Pray: for God to help His Church to persevere with their vision to touch lives with the gospel even though they are having to face many difficulties. (Galatians 6:9)

More: www.mnnonline.org/news/believers-persevere-amid-sri-lanka-struggles/

Lebanon: helping the persecuted

In the midst of persecution God is providing spiritual and financial support to Christians: spiritual investment is eternal, while the financial support is temporal. Help the Persecuted (HTP) addresses real needs with Gospel-centred, sustainable methods like an agricultural project in Lebanon that goes beyond providing physical needs. The community created around this farm is hearing the Gospel being shared along with food distribution. One member tells of being strangled by her radical Al-Qaeda husband and in that moment she saw Jesus. He reached out his hand and said, 'I love you.' She didn't know who he was, but shortly afterwards learned about the person she saw in her vision. She gave her life to Jesus and fled alone to Lebanon. She knows he will never leave or forsake her. We can praise God for the work of HTP and need to continue praying for their protection and finances.

Pray: for God to continue to grow this ministry as it provides spiritual and physical support for those who leave everything and everyone to follow Christ. (1 John 4:4)

More: <http://stories>

Sudan: court hearing for Christians accused of apostasy

Four Christians in Darfur accused of apostasy will have their first court hearing on 30 August. The prosecutor and investigator will present evidence, after which the judge will decide whether to continue the case or acquit the defendants. The four were arrested on 22 June following a raid on a Baptist church, accused of apostasy and subsequently released on bail. They were physically mistreated during their detention. They are charged under Penal Code Article 126, which criminalises apostasy, even though that article was abolished in 2019. Due to fears of community and police harassment, the four believers remain in hiding. There continue to be other reports of harassment of Christians in Darfur. Please pray for the judge to dismiss the case against them, and for physical and emotional healing.

Pray: for Christians in Darfur to be strengthened and encouraged. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

More: x5i6o.mjt.lu/nl3/AtZmDGISV8e1YaRsqRHd8w

Mozambique: Islamists behead Christians

On 30 July Islamist militants beheaded two Christian men during an attack on a minibus in northern Mozambique in Cabo Delgado. IS of Mozambique, known locally as al-Shabaab, claimed responsibility for the killings: its statement declared, 'By the grace of God Almighty, the soldiers of the Caliphate killed two Christians, beheading them, and shooting them with weapons.' In June IS beheaded several Christians in Cabo Delgado, and another during a raid on a Christian village in Nampula. Cabo Delgado is called 'the Land of Fear' owing to persistent brutal violence meted out against both Christians and moderate Muslims over several years. Pray that the Lord will comfort the family and friends of the Christians so brutally murdered. Ask that the violence perpetrated against Christians and moderate Muslims by IS militants will come to an end, that the LORD will rescue His people from their powerful enemy, from their foes who confront them.

Pray: for all in northern Mozambique to enjoy peace and security. (Psalm 18:17-18)

More: mailchi.mp/barnabasfund/prayer-focus-update-september-2022

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