

Prayer Alert

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You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in You. Trust in the Lord for ever. (Isaiah 26:3,4a)

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!

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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

[Churches' messages to King Charles](#)

Pope Francis, who has met King Charles on numerous occasions, has sent this message to him: 'I assure Your Majesty of my prayers that Almighty God will sustain you with His unfailing grace as you now take up your high responsibilities as King. I invoke an abundance of divine blessings upon you as a pledge of comfort and strength [in the Lord](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/may-god-sustain-you-with-his-unfailing-grace-pope-s-message-to-king-charles)' (<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/may-god-sustain-you-with-his-unfailing-grace-pope-s-message-to-king-charles>). The Welsh Church's bishops said, 'We invite God's blessing on our new monarch, asking God to uphold him in the spirit of wisdom, service and faith for the years to come. The King has always been a good friend to our nation; we will hold him and the whole royal family [in our prayers](https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/bishops-ask-for-gods-blessing-on-king-charles-iii/)' (<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/bishops-ask-for-gods-blessing-on-king-charles-iii/>). The Archbishop of Canterbury said, 'Both Her late Majesty and His Majesty treat others as special because, for both, their faith is built on the same rock - the rock of Christ.'

Praise: God for Charles III's faith, and pray that he stays rooted and led by the Holy Spirit. (Psalm 23:3)

More: www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/national/21273805.archbishop-reflects-late-queen-new-kings-ability-bring-healing/

['It's like God is speaking our language'](#)

Most of us cannot imagine not having a Bible in the language we speak. But that reality for millions is pushing Bible translators to find new and faster ways to get scripture to every corner of the world. Wycliffe Associates is partnering with churches in distant countries and seeing an explosion of life-changing activity as a result. There are over 5,000 people working in Zambia right now, translating the Bible into 20 native languages. Bishop Henry Mumba's first memory of the Bible was hearing the gospel verse John 3:16. When CBN News visited, churchgoers in Mansa, Zambia, were reading and hearing the New Testament in Aushi, their mother tongue, for the very first time. After the Bible reading, there was dancing. 'It's like God is speaking our language.' Mumba said.

Praise: God for the lives being changed through Bible translation. May the whole world hear the message 'God loves you' in their own language. (Mark 16:15)

More: www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2022/september/its-like-god-is-speaking-our-language-zambian-christians-hear-the-bible-in-their-native-tongue-for-the-first-time

British Isles

[Upheaval for royal children](#)

The Prince and Princess of Wales will delay moving into Windsor Castle in order to avoid more upheaval for their children after moving house just a week ago. The couple had hoped to bring a dose of normality to their three children's lives by living in the four-bedroomed Adelaide Cottage on the Windsor estate and doing daily school runs to Lambrook School. For George, Charlotte and Louis, their first day at a new school was exciting, meeting new teachers and new friends as they embarked on their school careers. It was a milestone moment - the first time they have all been at the same school together. But now Queen Elizabeth's death means that they moved house, had their first day at a

new school and lost their great-grandmother, in the space of six days. The Prince and Princess of Wales will eventually move into Windsor Castle or one of the larger houses on the Windsor estate.

Pray: for the three small royals to be unconcerned with all that has been going on around them and be blessed with a sense of peace, security, and calm confidence. (Psalm 32:7a)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/09/10/changes-come-new-prince-princess-wales/

Preparing for the Queen's funeral

Early on 15 September a major rehearsal took place for the 4,500-strong military parade ahead of the funeral of the Queen on the 19th. The funeral will be the biggest parade of its kind in living memory. Pray for God to bless all the many preparations now taking place. On the 15th the King had a private day of reflection, not attending any public events. This provided him with a break from public duties while preparing for his new role. Other members of the royal family will represent the monarchy by lighting candles, viewing floral tributes and books of condolences in various cities. Pray for the royal family in the days before the funeral; may they be blessed with peace and stamina.

Pray: for God to protect the 500 heads of state and foreign dignitaries arriving on commercial flights and then bussed en masse from a site in west London to Westminster Abbey. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: www.theguardian.com/uk-news/live/2022/sep/15/queen-elizabeth-lying-lie-in-state-mourners-queue-miles-westminster-hall-london-live-news-latest-updates

Another family mourns

As groups of people streamed into London last week to offer tributes and tears to their Queen, another faction with heavy hearts filed through the capital's congestion. The group of supporters marching with the family of Chris Kaba, who was shot dead by armed police in south London on 5 September, was so large that a Sky News reporter broadcasting live mistook them for royal mourners. An embarrassing - and perhaps telling - mistake from a media so often accused of ignoring or misinterpreting the stories that matter most to black and brown communities. Chris Kaba, 24, who was engaged and due to become a father, was killed by a single shot fired by a Met police officer after a car chase in Streatham. The vehicle he was driving was flagged by a number plate recognition camera linking it to an earlier firearms incident. It has since emerged that the car was not registered to Kaba, but to someone else. In other words, this was a young, unarmed black man killed by someone paid to protect the public. Kaba's family understandably want answers. In a statement, they said: 'if Chris had not been black, he would have been arrested and not had his life cut short'. The police officer who shot him has been suspended.

Pray: for the investigation which is being carried out into Chris Kaba's shooting to uncover the truth and bring positive results. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/as-the-world-mourns-the-queen-christians-must-remember-theres-another-family-who-needs-our-prayers/13837.article

Council asks 'affluent' residents to help others

An appeal fund has been started by Buckinghamshire Council to help people facing a cost-of-living crisis. It is working with the charity Heart of Bucks; about £17,000 has been raised to date. Martin Tett, its Conservative leader, said the county had some 'relatively affluent' people; he was asking them to make a donation for those struggling to get through the winter. Through the Helping Hand programme, advice, financial help, and information is being offered to people 'to cover the food and energy costs to households in crises. He said, 'In the council area not everyone is literally down to their last farthing. If you can afford it, if you can help other people, to help them get through the winter, particularly struggling pensioners and people on very low incomes, we'd like you to consider making a donation towards our crisis fund.' The council also has Welcoming Spaces programmes, opening libraries for people to spend the day somewhere warm.

Pray: for other councils to unveil plans that help people through this crisis. (James 2: 15,16)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-62832339

Kickstart fracking revolution?

Liz Truss is being urged to relax the limits on earthquakes caused by fracking to kickstart an energy revolution. She is poised to end the fracking freeze, to make Britain energy independent by 2040. Fracking businesses are lobbying for limits on seismic activity to be substantially increased to kickstart the industry. Currently drilling must stop if tremors of 0.5 occur. Experts say those occur naturally and are often imperceptible above ground. Cuadrilla want equality with other industries. Geothermal energy can create earthquakes of higher magnitudes than 0.5. The USA allows magnitude 4 tremors. A 2012 report said magnitude 3 tremors were 'felt by few people'. But when Cuadrilla's Lancashire test caused a 2.9 tremor, homes shook and objects fell off of shelves. A petroleum geologist at Newcastle University said fracking had thus far not been a major source of earthquakes; coal mining had caused many times more.

Pray: for Ms Truss to be wise in all decisions made around fracking and achieving realistic energy independence in the future. (Proverbs 1:5)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/09/13/truss-told-increase-earthquake-limits-kickstart-fracking-revolution/

Therese Coffey and Liz Truss: moral issues

A charity has criticised the decision to make Catholic MP Therese Coffey the secretary of state because of her views on abortion. The newly-appointed deputy PM voted against extending 'pills by post', allowing women to take abortion pills at home, instead of a clinical setting. Ms Coffey said she would never condemn someone for having an abortion, but she would rather they did not have the procedure. The British Pregnancy Advisory Service said that a health secretary who would place their personal beliefs above expert clinical guidance is **concerning**' (<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/charity-criticism-of-catholic-therese-coffey-appointment-over-abortion-stance-utterly-unsurprising>). Meanwhile, Liz Truss said she shares the values of the Christian faith but is not a practising religious person. She abstained or was absent from parliamentary votes on legalising suicide and abortion, and voted to impose abortion on Northern Ireland. She also voted for same-sex marriage.

Pray: for God to shape our politics and political decisions with Godly values, and speak through His Christian parliamentarians when they are debating issues. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

More: christianconcern.com/comment/liz-truss-is-the-new-prime-minister-lets-look-at-what-this-means/

Isle of Man and Guernsey: politics

400 Isle of Man teachers are demanding a pay rise and have stopped covering breaks or setting or assessing work to cover other teachers' absences. They are balloting on industrial action, including strikes. The department of education has made a pay offer which would see island teachers paid 1% more than their counterparts in England. It was rejected. Pray for the Manx government to come to an agreement with teachers so that schools are kept open and safe and young people receive [consistent education](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-62871644) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-62871644>). A policy review by Guernsey's Home Affairs Committee found staffing essential services could only be maintained if more people immigrated there. There need to be government changes to allow extensions to short-term employment permits' and review birthright privileges, as well as removing recruitment restrictions and building more houses for migrants to live in. Proposed changes will be debated next month.

Pray: for the proposals to go through and take the island in the right direction out of their recruitment challenges. (Daniel 2:21)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-62901672

Europe

Ukraine: regaining territory but reservoir bombed

The Russians have fled vital supply hub cities, saying they have withdrawn 'to regroup' and 'bolster efforts' on the Donetsk front. Social media images reveal a chaotic retreat. Tanks, armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition were abandoned on the roadside, proving Ukraine's army can reclaim Russian-occupied territory. As well as gaining ground in the east, Ukraine is making gains in the south, causing Russian forces to [dig into defensive positions](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62860774) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62860774>). Putin, within Russia, enjoys a reputation of being invincible. After these embarrassing defeats, and having to ask other countries for weapons, his aura of invincibility is fading. It has not ended well for past Russian leaders who fought wars and didn't win them. Putin rarely admits to making mistakes [or U-turns](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62879367) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62879367>). After failing to hold Ukraine's cities, on 15 September he took revenge by bombing a reservoir. President Zelensky said, 'You are weaklings who fight civilians; the reservoir had no military value at all'.

Pray: for Ukraine's troops to overcome all resistance to their offensive and return the Ukrainian flag across their nation. (Deuteronomy 20:4)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62910245>

Russia: media turnaround

Russia's media have changed tack during the war: denying an invasion would happen, then talking of a 'special operation' not an invasion, to praising 'righteous denazification of Ukraine'. On 5 September pro-Russian bloggers and outlets played down Ukraine's advance, but the next day there was a more sullen tone from journalists. 'Don't expect good news today,' one source warned. Igor Girkin, who on his popular TV channel analyses troop movement, using open sources and informers on the ground, said, 'I don't expect any major success from Russia's army for the next 2-3 months. It will only be possible if the Kremlin stops flying on blue clouds around the planet of pink ponies, and finds the strength to face the truth and start fighting for real.' Girkin compared the situation to the Russo-Japanese war over Manchuria which humiliated the Russian Empire in 1905.

Pray: for Russian leaders to realise their denial of the Ukrainian identity isn't working, and for the mass media to accept their military is failing and give frank and truthful reports. (Ephesians 4:25a)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/13/how-are-pro-kremlin-russian-media-portraying-ukraines-victories

Worldwide

Thailand: Chinese Christian refugees

Sixty members of a Chinese church have submitted applications for asylum in Bangkok, after being denied refuge in South Korea. They had fled the communist regime to escape religious persecution. Pastor Pan's church has been on the run for years. He said the persecution is growing worse. The group remains stateless, jobless, and homeless, but not without faith. 'We're thinking of our children's future. We refuse to put their education in the hands of the Communist Party, to give them an atheist education, and to turn their backs on God. So we are willing to pay this price to flee China to allow them to keep going to church school and to know God. Although we don't know what we will encounter in the future, what our God gives us is the best. He will lead us through these issues; God always has the best plan and arrangement.'

Pray: for the refugees to walk in freedom after fleeing China, no longer being stalked, harassed, or receiving threatening calls and messages. (2 Corinthians 3:17)

More: www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2022/september/homeless-jobless-stateless-but-not-faithless-chinese-christian-exiles-denied-asylum-now-flee-to-thailand

Laos: pray for growth

'Those who believed Peter were baptised and added to the church - about 3,000 in all' (Acts 2:41). This passage reminds us that the early Church grew rapidly during a time of persecution. It is happening again in Laos. Small house churches are scattered throughout the country, and believers in Laos face continual persecution. Converts to Christianity are considered betrayers to their community's Buddhist-Animist traditions. Unregistered house churches are illegal. Communist authorities intensely monitor Christians. Yet, there is reason for hope. While only 2.5% of the 7.4 million population are evangelical, the yearly growth rate of the Church is 6.8%. Most of the house churches in Laos are led by faithful but untrained leaders, but this is not a limitation for a sovereign God. Pray protection over house church leaders who are targets of persecution; pray for believers to safely proclaim the Gospel to their neighbours and persevere with grace.

Pray: for God to continue to equip churches with leaders, and for seekers to resist social pressures of Buddhism and place their hope in the one true God. (John 17:15)

More: prayercast.com/laos.html

Armenia / Azerbaijan: border flare-ups

Over a hundred Armenian soldiers are dead after border clashes with Azerbaijan, which lost fifty of its troops in the worst fighting since 2020. Armenia appealed to world leaders for help after Azerbaijan began advancing on its territory. The conflict between the former Soviet republics is over the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is Azerbaijani territory but populated with ethnic Armenians. Azerbaijan states that ethnic Armenians are illegally occupying its land. 30,000 people died in a 1991 conflict following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and ethnic Armenian separatists broke away from Azerbaijan. The six-week war in 2020 killed 6,500 people and ended with a Russian-brokered truce; Armenia ceded swaths of territory it had controlled for decades. Armenians are mostly Christian with military ties to Russia, while Azerbaijan is a Muslim country with ties to Turkey. On 14 September Armenia said a truce had been agreed but there was no confirmation from Azerbaijan. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-62828239>

Pray: for both sides to agree there can be no military solution to the conflict, and for fragile ceasefires to be replaced with established peace and stability. (Romans 12:18)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/13/what-is-behind-the-armenia-azerbaijan-conflict-flare-up

Libya: Christian's unfair death sentence

A young man who accepted Jesus in 2018 was arrested by militias and detained several times during recent years. They tried to force him to recant his faith. There is no rule of law; there are no official law-enforcement agencies. Libya has no law against apostasy, so converts are tried for treason. However, a court based its decision on a law enacted by the elected legislative body between 2012 and 2014, which states that an apostate from Islam must be executed if they do not recant. That law and others were cancelled by the current Tobruk-based parliament, elected in 2014. However, as part of a continuing power struggle, the Tripoli supreme court declared the Tobruk-based parliament illegal, allowing courts freedom to still apply the cancelled laws. The accused did not have legal representation during the proceedings.

Pray: for this brother to be at peace with the Holy Spirit's comfort, for the death sentence to be cancelled, and for a fair trial that gives him instant release and future safety. (Amos 5:24)

More: meconcern.org/2022/09/12/libya-convert-sentenced-to-death-for-apostasy/

Morocco: pray for the mustard seed church

A North African country of 37 million people, Morocco has enjoyed a degree of stability and peace. The King takes the lead in politics and religious affairs. He is attempting to spread wealth beyond the main cities, and to open a limited space for political discussion. Positive change is slowed by corruption, political repression, and unemployment. Young people and rural dwellers show their frustration in sporadic protests. Morocco is 99% Muslim. Christians number a couple of thousand, each one born into a hostile environment. Few Moroccans have heard the gospel; many have come across slanderous reports about the Church. Christian workers have been expelled. It is hard to gather Christians together for fellowship and discipleship. Pray for the King, and for fresh hope for the people of Morocco. Praise God for Morocco's Church, for expatriate believers, and for the internet and satellite TV which are lifelines for Moroccan Christians and seekers.

Pray: for the mustard-seed Church in Morocco to break up hard ground and grow. (Jeremiah 4:3)

More: lausanne.org/pray

Ethiopia: civil war

Drone strikes have killed ten civilians and wounded thirteen in the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region. Tigray hospitals are cut off from vital supplies, putting the wounded in more danger. The civil war in Ethiopia ignited again in recent weeks. The Tigray Liberation Front offered a ceasefire, but the Ethiopian central government has yet to respond. Unfortunately, some Christians within Ethiopia have advocated for continuing attacks. People calling themselves prophets have arisen among the evangelical leaders, who are quite strong across Ethiopia in their support of the government. They say, 'God is with you. Now is the time to move forward with the attack.' After many months of fighting there are ongoing challenges of electricity being off and banks closed. But churches have continued to meet. Under the pressure of hunger and lack of peace, they still worship and serve the Lord. They are like North Korean and Chinese Christians.

Pray: for peace in the Tigray region and unity in the Ethiopian Church. Pray for Christians to be able to differentiate between politics and faith. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

More: www.mnnonline.org/news/drone-strikes-kill-10-civilians-in-tigray-capital/

America: border crisis

US / Mexico border concerns are unaddressed; Americans are complaining. Judges and commissioners of 26 Texas counties have signed declarations of needing 'protection from the influx of violent Mexicans'. They want constitutional authority to protect themselves from Mexican 'paramilitary, narco-terrorist organisations that profit from trafficking people and drugs into the US and exploit insecure borders for their power and profit, harming local communities'. The counties say the Texas constitution allows them to 'defend themselves against invasion.' Both the Republican Party and the Texas Public Policy Foundation want Texas to declare an invasion by unprecedented illegal immigration. They argue that Mexican cartels and their extensive criminal networks across US cities are threatening the lives of Texans and Americans. Meanwhile Governor Abbott has directed officials to apprehend illegal border crossers and return them to ports of entry. He is the only Texas governor to build a wall on Texas soil.

Pray: for secure borders, peace, and unity - all built on God's truth, love, and wisdom. (Psalm 4:8)

More: ifapray.org/blog/invasion-at-the-border/

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