

# Prayer Alert

ISSUE 37-2022 | Friday 23 September 2022  
[www.prayer-alert.net](http://www.prayer-alert.net) | [editor@prayer-alert.net](mailto:editor@prayer-alert.net)

-----

**Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the autumn rains because He is faithful. (Joel 2:23a)**

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

## Praise Reports

[The Queen's evangelistic sermon](#)

[Britons held by Russians released](#)

## British Isles

[A prayer for King Charles](#)

[College refuses Christian booking](#)

[Leicester: Muslim-Hindu fighting](#)

[Scotland fighting addiction](#)

[Christian charity helping vulnerable youth](#)

[Business energy prices cuts](#)

[Recession and raised interest rates](#)

## Europe

[Ukraine: cargo ships leaving](#)

[Putin's chest pains and intimidation](#)

## Worldwide

[Horn of Africa: unprecedented famine](#)

[Israel: Nazareth Hospital](#)

[Hurricane Fiona](#)

[Global: Putin's political payoffs](#)

[New York: UN General Assembly](#)

[America: drug crisis](#)

[Suffering Church Week - 22 October](#)

## Praise Reports

### [The Queen's evangelistic sermon](#)

Her Majesty wanted to communicate love and hope through the hymns and Bible verses she chose for her funeral. Every word and song had been planned by Queen Elizabeth before her death. The ceremony resonated with the many millions around the world who watched and heard it. Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham, said, 'Our late Queen knew what she was doing when she chose the Bible readings for her funeral. An evangelist to the nation. Thank you, Ma'am.' Telegraph columnist Tim Stanley remarked, 'In an age of atheism and suppression of faith, perhaps the largest TV audience in history went to an unafraid statement of Christian belief. The Queen's gift.' The [Archbishop of Canterbury's six-minute sermon](#) (<https://youtu.be/g1AqR9rCQ0M>) quickly became evangelistic. 'Christian hope means certain expectation of something not yet seen. Christ rose from the dead and offers life to all, abundant life now and life with God in eternity. We will all face the merciful judgement of God: we can all share the Queen's hope which in life and death inspired her servant leadership.'

Praise: God for such a strong evangelistic message sent across the nations, likely to have been one of the most-watched events in history. (Psalm 99:3)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/we-will-meet-again-justin-welby-delivers-evangelistic-sermon-at-queen-s-funeral](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/we-will-meet-again-justin-welby-delivers-evangelistic-sermon-at-queen-s-funeral)

### [Britons held by Russians released](#)

Five British nationals captured by Russian-backed forces in Ukraine have returned to the UK. Aiden Aslin, John Harding, Dylan Healy, Andrew Hill, and Shaun Pinner have been reunited with their families after landing at Heathrow Airport. Ten detainees, including the five Britons, were released after Saudi Arabia brokered an exchange between Russia and Ukraine. The Praesidium Network confirmed the five men are now safely home. Mr Pinner's sister Cassandra told the BBC: 'We are just so happy he's home, safe and sound. He's in good spirits - just as funny as always!' She thanked those involved in organising his return and said she was 'just amazed this day has come'. In a video recorded on the plane, Mr Pinner said they had escaped 'by the skin of our teeth'.

Praise: God for the end of months of uncertainty and suffering for them and their families. (Psalm 109:30)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62991589](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62991589)

## British Isles

### A prayer for King Charles

Father, we ask You to give the King knowledge of Your ways; may Your Spirit guide all his decisions. May he rule with righteousness and justice. In his days may the United Kingdom flourish and peace abound. May he lead with a servant's heart and humility. And should his tasks and agendas appear to be overwhelming, Father, give him strength from heaven so that the role of leadership never tires him. May he not rely on himself but rely on You. Your Word reminds us that we can do all things through You who strengthens us. Therefore, Lord, we pray that King Charles will freely trust and lean on You. May he realise that You see things better than he ever will, and that he can do all things through Christ. Father, please help him to uphold our laws and rule with compassion and understanding in every situation.

Pray: for God to send King Charles into his destiny victorious and long to reign over us. (Psalm 100:3)

More: <https://www.eauk.org/what-we-do/prayer-centre/prayer-for-king-charles>

### College refuses Christian booking

The High Court has been told that Christian Concern was blocked from holding a conference at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge because its values were 'not compatible with the values of the college'. Christian Concern has accused the college of refusing permission because it believes that marriage should be between a man and a woman, and has alleged discrimination, which the college denies. The case arose after a Christian Concern representative tried to book conference facilities for 100 people on behalf of Wilberforce Academy - an initiative for young, professional Christians. Andrea Williams commented, 'Anyone who knows what we teach and stand for can see that our "general beliefs" are simply Christianity. The widespread silence of the Church on moral issues for decades has allowed activists to paint mainstream Christian beliefs as beyond the pale. We must return to speaking the truth with courage and rebuild Christian institutions - exactly what we do each year through the Wilberforce Academy.'

Pray: for the court to agree with the Equality Act 2010, that Christian belief in marriage as between one man and one woman is protected. (Genesis 2:24)

More: [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/15/christian-group-blocked-holding-conference-cambridge-college/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/15/christian-group-blocked-holding-conference-cambridge-college/)

### Leicester: Muslim-Hindu fighting

After a cricket match between India and Pakistan on 28 August, aggressive crowds chanted hate slogans and began fighting in Leicester in what has since become weeks of violence. By 18 September Hindu-Muslim disorder had escalated, with violent acts against places of worship and people of faith. Many say the increasing influence of Indian politics (the BJP) and underlying social-economic tensions are being intensified by radical groups. On 20 September 47 people were arrested after masked men protested outside a Hindu temple. Riot police with helmets and shields attempted to move them on as protesters threw firecrackers and bottles. Amos Noronha, 20, was jailed for ten months for possession of an offensive weapon in connection with the violence. People are frightened to leave home; some factory workers have downed tools to go home and protect their families. Some are fearful of neighbours they've grown up with. See also <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/19/mayor-blames-leicester-hindu-muslim-unrest-on-social-media-disinformation>

Pray: for the Leicester and Birmingham police teams as they engage with young people, community leaders, and various groups in the area to restore peace. (Titus 3:2)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/leicester-religious-tensions-hindu-muslim-b2172017.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/leicester-religious-tensions-hindu-muslim-b2172017.html)

### Scotland fighting addiction

Scotland has been marked by the devastating impact of drug and alcohol addiction in many ways. Today, the nation is at the forefront of addiction related issues and deaths in Europe, with health, economic, and educational repercussions, and social challenges for families and communities in urban and rural environments. The widening mental health crisis, socio-economic challenges, and limited clinical support exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic have led to the highest increase in addiction issues in over ten years. But we are a nation with hope. For decades, Christian organisations have invested tremendously in the building of in-person and online spaces for drug addiction recovery. Within the last decade, over 2,300 individuals have been directly treated and successfully recovered from their addictions through faith-based recovery programmes, with thousands more impacted in some way. The Scottish government has appointed a minister for drugs policy and increased funding to reduce addiction.

Pray: for the funding to increase the success of Christian programmes for addiction recovery across Scotland. (1 Corinthians 6:12)

More: [www.eauk.org/assets/files/downloads/Stories-of-Hope-addiction-recovery.pdf](http://www.eauk.org/assets/files/downloads/Stories-of-Hope-addiction-recovery.pdf)

### Christian charity helping vulnerable youth

Christian charity Benefact Trust has awarded a grant of £67,000 to XLP, a London charity that uses music and the arts to bring harmony into the lives of young people growing up in communities with a lack of opportunity. It will use the grant to supply youth workers with recording studio equipment to use in the hearts of communities. They aim to create safe spaces for young people who struggle daily with issues like family breakdown and gang violence. Jonathan, one of the youth workers on the project, said, 'Music is an incredible way to experience freedom when opportunities around you feel chained up and you can't see a way out.' XLP works with over 2,500 young people across nine inner-city London boroughs, empowering young voices to seek positive futures. It was set up in 1996, in response to a stabbing in a school playground.

Pray: for God to increase and bless the work of XLP and all charities working to combat gang violence and disadvantage. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-charity-turns-up-the-volume-to-hear-vulnerable-young-voices](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-charity-turns-up-the-volume-to-hear-vulnerable-young-voices)

### Business energy prices cuts

UK businesses, hospitals, schools and charities will have their energy bills cut by half their predicted level under a support package that fixes wholesale gas and electricity prices for six months from 1 October, shielding businesses from crippling costs. The scheme will be reviewed after three months and possibly extended for vulnerable businesses. Government officials have not said how much the package will cost taxpayers: Cornwall Insight estimates £25bn. Energy-intensive industries, like steel manufacturing, could close because of energy costs surging after Russia's invasion. Household bills would be limited to £2,500 annually until 2024 under a separate scheme. Business analyst Simon Jack said few businesses plan with only a six-month time horizon. There will be some whose plans to cut production, close premises and let staff go will not change in spite of this intervention. Retail and hospitality organisations see this as giving them a fighting chance over the commercially crucial Christmas trading period.

Pray: for firms which need support for a longer period to receive all that they need in the year ahead so that jobs are protected, and companies remain competitive. (Luke 6:38)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-62969427](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-62969427)

## Recession and raised interest rates

The Bank of England has raised interest rates to 2.25%, the highest level for 14 years. This will make it more expensive to borrow, which should - theoretically - encourage people to borrow less and spend less. It should also spur people to save more. However, there is also a risk that it can drag on growth, harming the economy. The bank's monetary policy committee, which sets rates, believes that the economy is already shrinking, which would officially push the UK into recession (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-62991376>). The Bank of England has also warned that the government's energy price freeze will push up inflation in the medium term. With energy bills rising less sharply, households will have more money to spend on other goods and services (although some people are already having to skip meals due to rising bills).

Pray: for the bankers and finance ministers who have set budgets and interest rates to ensure that they are cost-effective in the coming weeks and months. (Proverbs 19:17)

More: [www.theguardian.com/business/live/2022/sep/22/pound-dollar-bank-of-england-interest-rates-andrew-bailey-ftse-stock-markets-cost-of-living-business-live](http://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2022/sep/22/pound-dollar-bank-of-england-interest-rates-andrew-bailey-ftse-stock-markets-cost-of-living-business-live)

## Europe

### Ukraine: cargo ships leaving

On 24 August a total of 33 cargo ships carrying 719,549 tons of foodstuffs left Ukraine, under a deal brokered by the UN and Turkey. Although the pace of exports has risen in September, volumes are well below last season's levels. Ukraine also has a rail link to Moldova that could be used to carry ten million tons of freight a year. See (<https://farmpolicynews.illinois.edu/2022/08/thirty-three-grain-cargo-ships-have-left-ukraine-while-dry-weather-weighs-on-u-s-china-and-european-production-prospects/>) On 2 September American media reported that Ukraine says Russia is using cargo ships to ferry weapons to the Black Sea. Kyiv has asked Turkey to block passage of sanctioned vessels making journeys from Syria through straits controlled by Ankara. See also the world article on the Horn of Africa.

Pray: for God to open many paths across land and sea to meet the needs of many in Africa and the Middle East who are highly dependent on Ukraine's wheat. (Proverbs 3:6)

More: [www.euronews.com/2022/09/15/ukraine-crisis-grain-exports](http://www.euronews.com/2022/09/15/ukraine-crisis-grain-exports)

### Putin's chest pains and intimidation

Vladimir Putin delayed his TV address to Russia to be urgently treated for 'chest pains'. The eventual speech the next day warned of Russia's use of nuclear weapons and mobilising troops. The delayed broadcast allegedly happened only because doctors had urgently treated him. Comments surrounding his health have intensified in recent months. Russia's General SVR Telegram channel routinely claims that 69-year-old Putin suffers from illnesses such as cancer or Parkinson's disease. His mental and physical wellbeing have been in sharp focus since he invaded Ukraine. In the delayed announcement he ranted about purging Ukraine of 'neo-Nazis' and wanted referendums in occupied regions. But for thousands of Russians watching TV at home, the most notably worrying elements of the broadcast was the ordering of 300,000 army reservists into battle and preventing 25 million reservists from fleeing Russia. This news has shocked and alarmed even his closest confidants.

Pray: for God to give Putin's top political and security officials confidence to show him their discomfort over and lack of enthusiasm for his latest declarations. (Isaiah 5:20)

More: [metro.co.uk/2022/09/21/putins-speech-delayed-as-he-suffered-coughing-fit-and-chest-pains-17422072/](http://metro.co.uk/2022/09/21/putins-speech-delayed-as-he-suffered-coughing-fit-and-chest-pains-17422072/)

## Worldwide

### Horn of Africa: unprecedented famine

Unprecedented famine grips parts of Africa. Four years of droughts, Covid-19, and the Ukraine war have created dire conditions. In Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, one person dies from hunger every 48 seconds. Water sources and wells have dried up. Crops have failed, livestock have died, and 22 million people may starve. Many farmers only grow enough to feed themselves. Many relying on livestock see their animals die. Families forced to flee looking for food embark on very perilous journeys. The level of pain and suffering is devastating. Half of Somalia's population are experiencing crisis hunger levels. One in three children face chronic malnutrition. Before Ukraine's war Somalia imported 90% of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine, Ethiopia imported 42%. Kenya 44%, plus oil, iron, steel, and fertilisers. In late August, the first grain shipment from Ukraine brought 23,000 tons of wheat - enough for 1.5 million for a month, a drop in the bucket for needy millions. See also the Europe article on Ukraine cargo ships leaving.

Pray: for aid agencies, churches and NGOs to bring relief to the millions impacted by such a long struggle to survive. (Psalm 12:5)

More: [www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2022/september/shocked-to-my-core-unprecedented-famine-causes-widespread-suffering-in-east-africa](http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2022/september/shocked-to-my-core-unprecedented-famine-causes-widespread-suffering-in-east-africa)

### Israel: Nazareth Hospital

The European Evangelical Alliance prayer network has a prayer request from Nazareth Hospital, which began 160 years ago as a Christian medical mission. It has grown from a five-bed clinic to the town's main trauma and acute care hospital, employing 800 staff from all faiths in the region. Their Christian witness, mission and faith is important; their reach is felt across staff and the annual 250,000 patients. Talks with Israel's government to find a solution to the funding crisis have been unsuccessful, and many hospital departments have had to close. Despite all their efforts they believe the Lord wants this ministry to continue. They say, 'Please join us in urgent prayer for the hospital, that a solution will be found for our finances, that we will be able to pay our staff what they are owed, that the hospital will reopen, and that our Christian witness will continue for the next 160 years in Nazareth, or until the Lord returns.'

Pray: for the Lord to give the hospital authorities His wisdom, strength and guidance. (Isaiah 40:31)

More: [mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzGqQcQjzPgZndrwDJCLnGNKnNv](mailto:mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzGqQcQjzPgZndrwDJCLnGNKnNv)

## Hurricane Fiona

On 14 September a tropical depression at the Leeward Islands became Hurricane Fiona, the first Category 4 hurricane of 2022. It triggered widespread flooding and mudslides across Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and the Turks and Caicos, reaching Bermuda on the 22nd. Next it will pound Canada with damaging winds, flooding rain, storm surges, and coastal flooding. Serious threats are expected even if Fiona transitions into a non-tropical low: it could be one of the region's strongest storms in modern records. Pray for Puerto Rico, still without power and with over 450,000 still without water on 22 September. Pray for those repairing homes and infrastructure including collapsed highways, mudslides and blocked roads from uprooted trees and pylons. Pray for those preparing and delivering food rations, the injured, and those in mourning. May there be no diseases from standing stagnant water. Pray for farmers whose crops are ruined, and for [all the rescue teams](https://edition.cnn.com/2022/09/21/weather/hurricane-fiona-puerto-rico-dominican-republic-wednesday/index.html) (<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/09/21/weather/hurricane-fiona-puerto-rico-dominican-republic-wednesday/index.html>).

Pray: for the homeless, for people trying to recover belongings, and for those securing their homes in preparation for the oncoming onslaught. (Psalm 34:17)

More: [weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/2022-09-20-hurricane-fiona-forecast-bermuda-nova-scotia-newfoundland](https://www.weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/2022-09-20-hurricane-fiona-forecast-bermuda-nova-scotia-newfoundland)

## Global: Putin's political payoffs

Since 2014 Russia has secretly funnelled \$300 million to foreign political parties and candidates in at least 24 countries in Europe, Africa, and elsewhere to shape political events beyond its borders. Putin wants to weaken democratic systems and promote global political forces aligned with Kremlin interests. A senior US official, speaking to reporters on the condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence findings, said the administration decided to declassify some of the review's findings to counter Russia's ability to sway political systems. 'By shining this light on Russian covert political financing and attempts to undermine democratic processes, we are putting these foreign parties and candidates on notice that if they accept Russian money secretly, we can and we will expose it', the official said. Countries identified included Albania, Montenegro, Madagascar, and Ecuador. An unnamed Asian presidential candidate received millions in cash. Russia also used shell companies, thinktanks and other means to influence political events, sometimes to the benefit of far-right groups.

Pray: for the released intelligence on Moscow's intentions and actions to successfully destroy disinformation operations and safeguard countries. (Proverbs 20:17)

More: [www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/09/13/united-states-russia-political-campaign/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/09/13/united-states-russia-political-campaign/)

## New York: UN General Assembly

The 77th session of the UN General Assembly opened on 13 September 2022, with a high-level debate running from the 20th to 26th. This year's theme, 'A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges', acknowledges the shared roots of crises such as Covid-19, climate change and conflict, and the need for solutions that build global sustainability and resilience. Like all crises, these have unique and disproportionate impacts on women and girls. From harsher economic fallout to heightened risk of violence, women and girls are suffering in specific ways that require targeted solutions - a need that too often remains unmet. These crises are unfolding against the backdrop of a global backlash on women's rights, compounding forces that threaten to undo already insufficient progress. Pray for this session to generate more action towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls around the world.

Pray: for the global community to make progress with gender equality. (Romans 2:11)

More: [www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2022/09/in-focus-77th-session-of-the-un-general-assembly](https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2022/09/in-focus-77th-session-of-the-un-general-assembly)

## America: drug crisis

Cheaply-made fentanyl is made and distributed in rainbow colours by Mexican drug cartels to appeal to young children and teens. It is fuelling an addiction among American youth. The Drug Enforcement Administration says it is the deadliest drug America faces today. As Americans move further from biblical values, the effects are showing throughout the culture. Children are dying from fentanyl on school campuses while suicide, depression and anxiety rates are higher than ever before. 154 Americans die from fentanyl every day. Parents need to warn their children that fentanyl-laced pills are out there; more importantly, the youth of America need Jesus. They turn to drugs to fill voids and need to hear that God is the only one who can fill our voids and make us whole again. This is a growing national problem that will not be fixed until there are serious efforts to prevent drugs crossing the border.

Pray: for sheriffs and activists to successfully bring awareness of fentanyl to communities, and for the government to have wise strategies that block cartel activities. (1 Peter 5:8)

More: [www.charismanews.com/us/90170-drug-cartel-targets-children-with-new-fentanyl-pills](https://www.charismanews.com/us/90170-drug-cartel-targets-children-with-new-fentanyl-pills)

## Suffering Church Week - 22 October

Barnabas Aid invited people to join them for their Suffering Church Action and Awareness Week launch on 22 October at their new UK offices in Swindon. It also launched its new medical.gives project. The meeting provided an overview of the increasing suffering endured by Christians, and how we can understand the times we are living in. There were also updates on recent projects supported by Barnabas Aid, under God's guidance. If people were unable to get to Swindon, Barnabas Aid were livestreaming the event.

Pray: for many to catch the vision to pray fervently for God's persecuted church. (Matthew 5:10)

More: [mailchi.mp/barnabasfund/join-us-in-person-or-online-for-our-supporters-meeting-in-swindon-821363](https://mailchi.mp/barnabasfund/join-us-in-person-or-online-for-our-supporters-meeting-in-swindon-821363)

Please feel free to distribute Prayer Alert to anyone you feel will benefit from its ministry. All we ask is that you do not edit or change it in any way or charge for its use without contacting us first for written permission

Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with

The World Prayer Centre, Cornerstone House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG, England.

The views expressed in Prayer Alert and on our website are those of the authors, organisations and websites named, and are not necessarily those of the Prayer Alert Editorial Team, the Prayer Alert Steering Group or the World Prayer Centre or any of its employees or trustees. While we try to ensure that the information we provide is correct, mistakes do occur and we cannot guarantee the accuracy of our material. If you do notice any mistakes then please let us know.