

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 38-2022 | Friday 30 September 2022
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Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are His deeds, and His righteousness endures for ever. (Psalm 111:2,3)

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

[Parents win case on trans school guidance](#)

Nigel and Sally Rowe took legal action against the Department for Education after they and their six-year-old son were labelled 'transphobic' by a CoFE primary school for refusing to 'believe' in transgender-affirming policies. The Rowes had raised concerns after two boys aged six were allowed to come to school identifying as girls. The school said it did not 'require formal medical / psychological assessment and reporting when a pupil seeks to be treated as transgendered' and was working with Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust (TPHT). TPHT has now been shut down over safety concerns for thousands of children who have been referred there. The Government has settled the case after the Rowes won High Court permission for a judicial review of government transgender policies. They believe that 'a child of primary school age does not have the mental ability to work out what it is to be transgender.'

Praise: God for all the safeguarding processes that will now be put in place for impressionable young children. (Proverbs 22:6)

More: christianconcern.com/news/parents-win-government-commitment-to-reform-trans-school-guidance/

[UK's first-ever free Christian book festival announced](#)

A Gloucestershire town is preparing to host the UK's first-ever free Christian book festival. It will include special guest Sophie Neville, who starred in 'Swallows and Amazons' as a young girl before finding her Christian faith. Stroud will welcome 15 different Christian authors to its new event Book Blest. The authors hail from all corners of the UK, but it was a local man who thought of the idea: Brendan Conboy, author of 'One God, Many Names'. The event, to be held at Stroud Baptist Church on 4 and 5 November, will include sessions for children, teens and young adults, and more mature readers. Mr Conboy said, 'We hear so much nowadays that the Church is dead and irrelevant. This festival is an example of how the Church is alive and forward-thinking.'

Praise: God for this opportunity to discover and enjoy the many creative avenues of Christian literature. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/uk-s-first-ever-free-christian-book-festival-announced

British Isles

British finance fears

The Chancellor's biggest tax package in fifty years has sparked fears within businesses and banking. Also, in an unusually outspoken statement, the IMF (which works to stabilise the global economy, and also funds countries in need of economic rescue) has openly criticised the tax cuts plans, warning that they will likely fuel the cost-of-living crisis by increasing inequality and pushing up prices. While the Government said the measures will kickstart economic growth, markets are raising alarms, plunging the pound to a record low of \$1.03 on 26 September. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) says the government's 'short term' economic policy will [tip millions more into poverty](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-charity-says-government-s-short-term-economic-policy-will-tip-millions-more-into-poverty) (<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-charity-says-government-s-short-term-economic-policy-will-tip-millions-more-into-poverty>), and former Bank of England governor Mark Carney accused the Government of 'undercutting' key economic institutions. The bank will now buy £65bn government bonds to try to protect pensions.

Pray: for the Bank of England and Treasury to work wisely together to deliver suitable financial strategies which support low-income adults and increase benefits in line with increased inflation. (Proverbs 24:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-63070485

Prayer for the economy

We pray for peace to cover this nation. We speak hope instead of despair, prosperity instead of lack in finance and the economy; stability to markets, and wisdom to all those making decisions and directives. We agree with James 2:13 ('Mercy triumphs over judgement'), and repent where our nation as well as our own actions have brought Your judgement upon us. We repent where debt is an accepted norm of society; we repent where we withheld when You asked us to give; we repent where there has been mismanagement, greed and corruption within the very structures of our society, and we ask forgiveness for every place where we as a nation have not stewarded well the resources You gave us. We ask for Your revelatory wisdom to those working at the Treasury and Bank of England. We ask that You connect what needs to be connected and disconnect what needs to be disconnected, so that this nation will be blessed in the year ahead.

Pray: for the fabric, foundation, gift, call, DNA and Godly mandate of this nation to recover the fullness of its God-given identity and purpose. (Psalm 33:12)

More: mailchi.mp/pftn/economy-1?e=be117c6125

Defender of the Faith or defender of faith?

Recently King Charles assured faith leaders from various religions that he would work to protect [the space for faith](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11220769/King-Charles-tells-religious-leaders-Buckingham-Palace-protect-space-faith.html) (<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11220769/King-Charles-tells-religious-leaders-Buckingham-Palace-protect-space-faith.html>). He stated his duty was 'to protect the diversity of our country by protecting the space for faith and its practice through religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs to which our hearts and minds direct us'. As a member of the Church of England, his beliefs had love at their heart, so he would respect those who follow other spiritual paths, as well as those who seek to live in accordance with secular ideals. His mother, at her coronation, swore to do her utmost to maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, doing all in her power to maintain the Protestant reformed religion and maintain and preserve the settlement of the Church of England, and its doctrine, worship, discipline and government, as established by English law: [see https://www.royal.uk/coronation-oath-2-june-1953](https://www.royal.uk/coronation-oath-2-june-1953)

Pray: for the King of a Christian nation to understand that Christ alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and while respecting others' beliefs not to imagine we all worship the same God. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

More: www.christiantoday.com/article/defender.of.the.faith.or.defender.of.faith/139249.htm

Abortion landmark: ten million lives lost

It is estimated that on 24 September the ten millionth child would have been killed under the Abortion Act.. Last week the media reported that at 14 weeks' gestation a child can demonstrate their sense of taste. But this child has no meaningful protection in law for another ten weeks. Babies at 23 weeks, which could be delivered and go on to lead healthy lives, can be killed at the mother's discretion. Leading abortionists would like this to be offered all the way to birth. There are signs of encouragement for pro-life activists. The morals of abortionists like BPAS are being exposed. Fresh young pro-life campaigns are springing up. March for Life UK had record attendance. Each landmark, each record, each year is a painful reminder that we have not come far enough.

Pray: for more politicians to stand conscientiously and consistently for life for the not yet born, and for more Christian counsellors to work at crisis pregnancy centres. (Exodus 20:13)

More: christianconcern.com/comment/andrea-williams-uk-abortions-to-hit-10-million/

Church criticises Scottish government re prayer vigils

The Scottish government's chief legal officer has come under fire after saying that prayer vigils outside abortion clinics could be 'far more damaging' than verbal protest. Addressing the UK's supreme court about abortion clinics in Northern Ireland, Dorothy Bain KC said she believed 'standing in judgment' was just as psychologically damaging for women. She wants prayer vigils to be excluded from 'buffer zones' - areas where protesting or handing out leaflets are banned - outside abortion clinics. The Catholic Church has labelled Mrs Bain's remarks as 'absurd and alarming', and have condemned her comments. Everyone has the right to express and offer our opinion on religious belief, and more importantly, religious practice. The Church said, 'To be told they can't stand silently in prayer, in this case, outside an abortion clinic or a hospital that carries out abortions is really, frankly, chilling and extremely worrying.'

Pray: for Christians and people of all religious beliefs to raise concerns about the destruction of civil liberties. (Titus 3:1)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/scottish-catholic-church-says-dorothy-bain-s-comments-on-prayer-vigils-outside-abortion-clinics-are-absurd-and-alarming

'Toxic culture' of abuse at NHS hospital

An undercover reporter worked inside the Edenfield Centre caring for people held under the Mental Health Act who are at serious risk of harming themselves or others. With a hidden camera, he filmed staff swearing at patients, taunting and mocking them in vulnerable situations - when they were undressing - and joking about their self-harm. Patients were being unnecessarily restrained as well as being slapped or pinched by staff on some occasions. Some female staff acted in a sexualised way towards male patients. Ten patients were being held in small seclusion rooms, designed for short-term isolation to prevent immediate harm, for days, weeks or even months, with only brief breaks. Patient observations, a crucial safety measure, were being regularly missed, and records falsified. Seven members of staff were seen sleeping on shift. A consultant psychiatrist said the footage showed a 'toxic culture' among staff of 'corruption, perversion, aggression, hostility, and lack of boundaries', which were undermining patient recovery.

Pray: for all rogue staff members to be prosecuted, and for police, NHS, and CQC to ensure the future safety of every patient in a caring environment with first-class nursing 24/7. (Micah 6:8)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63045298

Truss may move UK embassy to Jerusalem

Liz Truss has told Israel's prime minister, Yair Lapid, she is considering moving Britain's embassy to Jerusalem. Downing Street said the PM reaffirmed her leadership campaign pledge 'about her review of the current location of the British embassy in Israel.' The two met in New York during their visit to the UN General Assembly. Lapid tweeted praise to Truss for considering the move, adding, 'We will continue to strengthen the partnership between the countries'. 2023 will mark 75 years since the re-establishment of the state of Israel. The recent announcement by the PM could signal a shift in the UK's foreign policy towards Israel. Britain has embassies in all countries' capitals except Israel's. There is a consulate in Jerusalem, but only for Palestinians and not Israelis.

Pray: for Liz Truss, as she demonstrates her understanding of the sensitivity of this issue while reaffirming Britain's relationship with Israel. (Genesis 12:3)
More: www.cufi.org.uk/news/liz-truss-confirms-she-is-considering-moving-uk-embassy-to-jerusalem/

Europe

Ukraine: Military Ministries International

Military Ministries International (MMI) are in various continents including Europe. In Ukraine they have been busy serving soldiers, military widows, and military families by providing daily internet prayer and Bible study times to different groups. There are several meetings with large numbers of soldiers for evangelism. MMI received food produce at the logistics centres and then distributed it to soldiers and widows. They were able to include a large group of military widows in the UN humanitarian programme this summer. A young American volunteer was baptised recently by an MMI pastor who sends a word of encouragement from the Bible individually to a few hundred people (mostly soldiers) and coordinates the ministry of the MMI chaplains. A very great encouragement for chaplains is the international daily MMI prayer through Zoom, which has been held since the war began. MMI requests prayer for God to give strength, wisdom and unity to all the military.

Pray: for soldiers and the people of Ukraine to put their hope in God, and for Him to bless the chaplains in their service, keeping them safe and protecting their relatives and homes. (Numbers 6:24-26)
More: www.mmi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/MMI-News-Summer-22.pdf

Italy: Meloni's quest for 'ring of power'

Giorgia Meloni, the favourite to become Italy's next prime minister, has a passion for fantasy author Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. She regards the legends of the rings of power as much more than fantasy. They inspire her worldview and politics. When she was elected to cabinet in 2008 she vowed not to be corrupted by the 'ring of power'. Later she posed for a magazine profile next to a statue of Gandalf, Tolkien's bearded wizard. The hobbits' attachment to their pristine Shire has been regarded as a rallying call for nationalism and rejection of modernism by generations of post-fascist youths. Although Meloni resents being linked to Italy's fascist past, her Brothers of Italy party embraces a slogan adopted by the fascists – 'God, fatherland and family'. See also <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2022/09/italys-election-leader-prime-minister-right-wing-extremist-is-a-very-weird-tolkien-obsessed-right-wing-extremist-tolkien/>

Pray: for Italy's economic struggles and migration crisis to be fairly and wisely dealt with by the new government, basing all decisions on facts not theories. (Proverbs 16:1-5)
More: www.france24.com/en/europe/20220925-inspired-by-tolkien-meloni-is-on-a-quest-for-italy-s-ring-of-power

Nord Stream pipelines: alleged sabotage

On 29 September a fourth leak was found on the Nord Stream gas pipelines, amid sabotage allegations that the two underwater pipelines running from Russia to Germany had been damaged by explosions recorded in the Baltic Sea. Russia and the West have traded blame over the mysterious leaks. The sea surface is bubbling up as gas escapes. While the pipelines were not operational during the alleged sabotage, they still contained natural gas. The incident raises fears of an environmental disaster. According to experts, the leaking methane will be the biggest burst of the potent greenhouse gas on record. 'Whoever ordered this should be prosecuted for war crimes and go to jail', said a university climate scientist.

Pray: for the five-mile exclusion zone to keep ships safe, for the escaping gas to be prevented from igniting above the water, and for leakages to be blocked quickly. (Proverbs 29:25)
More: www.euronews.com/2022/09/29/nord-stream-leak-russia-and-west-trade-blame-over-alleged-sabotage-of-undersea-gas-pipeline

Worldwide

Pakistan: malaria and other diseases spreading fast

Hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the floods in Pakistan are living in the open, exposed to swarms of mosquitoes and other hazards. Despite the efforts of government and relief organisations, families need more food, shelter, medical assistance, medicines, and clean water. Stagnant floodwaters, covering hundreds of kilometres, may take up to six months to recede. There are widespread cases of skin and eye infections, diarrhoea, malaria, typhoid and dengue fever. On 24 September the Sindh provincial government said makeshift health facilities and mobile camps had treated over 78,000 patients in just 24 hours. Malaria spreads quickly around stagnant waters. The UN said malaria, typhoid and diarrhoea patients in large numbers were entering medical camps and hospitals; more medicine and test kits are needed. Families are forced to drink and cook with unsafe water. They need to drink to stay alive.

Pray: for shelters, medicines, and clean water to reach flood-hit regions to halt the sickness tearing through Pakistan, and for financial aid for those without homes, crops or livestock. (Psalm 34:17)
More: www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistan-flood-victims-hit-by-disease-outbreak-amid-stagnant-water-2022-09-21/

Uganda: Ebola spreading fast

On 20 September, Uganda's health authorities declared an Ebola outbreak after a Sudan strain was confirmed in central Uganda. Five days later 36 people had Ebola, 26 had died, 399 contact cases were identified, and 104 were in follow-up. Symptoms take two to 21 days to develop. Uganda's excellent road infrastructure allows infected people to travel in any direction for some time before becoming symptomatic, making tracing known contacts significantly more difficult. Pray for the national task force, meeting every day. Pray for Doctors Without Borders (MSF) as they set up an Ebola treatment centre. Pray for WHO as it deploys medical supplies and provides logistics and more staff, to help Ugandan authorities to halt Ebola's spread. Pray for those setting up isolation units to have all the equipment and protective clothing they need. See also <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/uganda-is-racing-to-contain-a-deadly-ebola-outbreak/>

Pray: for God to equip all health partners responding to the situation to do so with wisdom, as they employ strengthening measures in refugee camps and warn villages of threat. (Psalm 40:17)

More: reliefweb.int/report/uganda/uganda-ebola-outbreak-update-dg-echo-ministry-health-who-ngo-media-echo-daily-flash-26-september-2022

Nigeria: challenges and opportunities

Each zone in Nigeria has unique challenges and opportunities. Christian persecution increases, especially in the north. Some Muslim groups have killed thousands and destroyed hundreds, possibly thousands, of churches. Persecution unites Christians, driving them to the Lord in prayer. It also threatens the core of society and statehood. Pray for restoration and recovery for those who suffer from loss, or rape. Pray for forgiveness and freedom from a spirit of revenge. Pray that believers respond in the most Christ-like way possible, and for enemies of Christ to become His followers. In the south oil industries have polluted pristine agricultural land but only an elite (corrupt) few have benefited. Pentecostal churches are growing: may God give them sacrificial concern for the less privileged in the less-reached areas. Muslim missionary activity has intensified to win ethnic religions and backsliding Christians. Pray for cross-cultural outreach and true conversion of youth.

Pray: for an end to religious persecution in Plateau state. Pray for greater harmony between Christians and Muslims, and for a Christlike response to opposition. (1 Peter 3:14)

More: operationworld.org/prayer-calendar/09-22/#nigeria

Hurricane Ian worst in US history

On 27 September Florida's governor told millions, 'You must evacuate now'. By the 29th Hurricane Ian, the worst storm in US history, had devastated Florida with cars submerged, power lines downed, and rivers sweeping away homes. Storm surges of 18 feet are forcing water inland across 250 miles of coastline. At the time of writing a 140-mile wide system is crawling towards Orlando. 24 inches of rainfall is expected in the next 48 hours. The storm surge flooded Port Charlotte's hospital emergency room, and fierce winds ripped away the intensive care roof. Pray for the evacuated 2.5 million people, the 30,000 search and rescue teams, the ambulance and medical teams, and the 7,000 National Guards ready to help once the weather clears. The hurricane knocked out Cuba's entire electricity grid before reaching the USA.

Pray: for Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, now in states of emergency as Ian is expected to reach them by 1 October. (Psalm 107:29-30)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/09/29/hurricane-ian-florida-latest-news-tracker-tropical-storm-path1/

Iran: protests against government

Thousands of defiant protesters flooded Tehran streets on the ninth day after the suspicious death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while held in custody for not properly wearing the hijab headscarf. The regime cracked down with force, killing at least 41 and shutting down the web and social media for 80 million citizens, but outrage over Amini's death has only expanded. Officials claim Mahsa died due to underlying health issues; her family says that is not true. Women defiantly burn their hijabs and headscarves and cut their hair. The USA announced it will expand Iranian internet services to support free-flowing information. The internet is needed when protesters want to organise themselves and share footage of what is happening with the outside world. Also billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk is giving the country Starlink, a satellite constellation providing internet access to 40 countries - a true game-changer.

Pray: for Starlink satellite terminals to be safely distributed and secretly installed in places where the regime cannot detect them. Also pray for justice and women's rights to be established. (Psalm 12:5)

More: www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2022/september/defiance-protests-against-iranian-govt-continue-over-young-womans-death-islamic-regime-initiates-crackdown

Nicaragua: Ortega calls church a dictatorship

76-year-old President Daniel Ortega describes priests as 'killers' and 'coup plotters'. He accuses the clergy of working on behalf of 'American imperialism'. He said, 'In the church everything is imposed. It's a perfect dictatorship. If they are to be democratic, let Catholics vote for the pope, for cardinals, for bishops.' The church has been under increasing government pressure since Ortega accused it of backing the protests against his government in 2018. A crackdown against demonstrators killed hundreds. Pope Francis recently insisted on the importance of 'never stopping dialogue' with Nicaragua. God has brought many people to Himself amidst the nation's suffering. Numbers have increased through saturation evangelism, and local church outreaches. Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and hurricanes have led many to question life and eternity. War, conflict, and political struggles have turned many towards compassionate Christians and hope in Christ. Evangelicals have grown from 2% in 1960 to 30% today, and growth continues.

Pray: for Nicaragua's many evangelicals to be a genuine blessing to their nation, and for Ortega to know repentance and God's peace in his latter years. (John 16:13)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/29/after-pope-outreach-nicaraguas-ortega-calls-church-a-dictators

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Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with

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