

Prayer Alert

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You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You. (Psalm 9:10b)

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

[Colombia: welcoming refugees](#)

'Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.' (Isaiah 1:17) In Colombia, churches are playing a key role in welcoming and supporting the millions of refugees who have fled political and economic turmoil in Venezuela. Churches are able to reach out to remote communities where local authorities and humanitarian organisations are not working and build trusting relationships with refugees. With support from Tearfund, churches are providing quality services and activities, including trauma healing groups for women who have experienced violence. 'It is the first support that I found here in Colombia for migrants like us', says Julie, a Venezuelan refugee who attends a trauma healing group. 'When I arrived at the church, I found peace that I previously did not have. When I got to the church, I saw that it was like my family.'

Praise: God for the compassionate communities who are operating trauma healing groups for the hundreds of Venezuelan refugee women. (Matthew 5:9)

More: www.tearfund.org/stories/2022/08/the-crucial-role-of-local-churches-in-humanitarian-response-work

[PPE welcomed by Tanzanian health minister](#)

A huge consignment of life-saving personal protective equipment (PPE), shipped to Tanzania through medical.gives, is being deployed to protect health workers from a deadly new Ebola threat. The consignment was welcomed by health minister Ummu Mwalimu and presented by Mags Gaynor, a representative of the Irish government, which donated the equipment. The handover came days after Tanzania was put on alert and health surveillance was stepped up when neighbouring Uganda confirmed 35 infections and seven deaths from a strain of Ebola for which there is no vaccine or drug treatment. Medical masks, gloves, scrubs and other items are being issued to health staff working in areas of Tanzania deemed at the highest risk of an Ebola outbreak. PPE is also being issued to staff helping to combat Covid-19. Fifty million PPE pieces, worth £25 million, have been donated to Christian hospitals in east and southern Africa by the Irish government.

Praise: God for the safe and timely arrival of the PPE. Pray that the country will succeed in preventing an Ebola outbreak. (1 Peter 4:10)

More: www.barnabasfund.org/gb/news/ppe-shipped-to-tanzania-by-medical-gives-helps-fight-against-ebola/

British Isles

A torrid week in politics

The day after the Prime Minister said she was committed to the 45p income tax cut which Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng had announced ten days earlier, he reversed the decision, saying the plans had become a 'distraction from our overriding mission to tackle the challenges facing the country'. A few hours later former culture secretary Nadine Dorries accused the Prime Minister of 'throwing her Chancellor under a bus', and called for a general election (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/10/03/nadine-dorries-calls-general-election/>). Having backed Liz Truss for Tory leadership, she now said the PM 'must take to the country' if she wants a new mandate, adding that there was 'widespread dismay' that much of the work she had done while in office was now on hold. Meanwhile, Cabinet minister Penny Mordaunt called for benefits to be increased in line with inflation - a move promised under Boris Johnson's government. Liz Truss has said her priority is 'growth, growth, growth' and she will challenge anyone trying to stop it.

Pray: for Tory bickering and ambitions to be replaced with harmony and humility, for wisdom to shape budget forecasts, and the most financially needy to have their needs met. (Luke 22:26)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-politics-63139415

Energy: significant risk of winter gas shortages

Ofgem has said that the UK is facing 'a significant risk' of gas shortages this winter due to Russia's war with Ukraine. It could possibly enter a 'gas supply emergency', leading to supplies being cut to the power stations using gas to generate electricity. This would place firms at risk of running out of money because of huge charges they must pay if they cannot deliver electricity. SSE, which operates four gas-fired power stations in the UK, is concerned that gas-fired power stations face millions of pounds worth of penalties 'caused by events outside their control'.

Pray: for gas-fired power stations to be able to provide vital flexible cost-effective electricity generation through challenging periods. (Psalm 50:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-63118574

Energy: fracking challenges

When asked if he would allow fracking in the back garden of his home in Somerset, business secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg said, 'Yes, of course I would, particularly if I get royalties'. Fracking has been a controversial subject within local communities and amongst MPs due to its association with minor earthquakes. In 2019, at oil and gas exploration company Cuadrilla's Lancashire fracking site, over 120 tremors were recorded. Most were too small to be felt. The government recently published a new review from the British Geological Survey, considering any changes to the science around the practice. The report concluded, 'Forecasting the occurrence of large earthquakes remains a scientific challenge for the geoscience community.' Mr Rees-Mogg also said that the UK would build a prototype nuclear fusion power plant - 'the first of its kind' - in Nottinghamshire by 2040.

Pray: for the Government to be wise as it makes tough decisions about the level of seismic activity to be allowed at sites. (Proverbs 12:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-63121832

Possibility of a new Covid wave

On 2 October health leaders advised vaccination and began calling for a return to mask-wearing, as hospitalisations for Covid rose by 37% in a week to 7,024. They said ministers needed to address staffing shortages urgently, even though the Office for National Statistics said it was too early to say if an autumn wave had begun. The Nuffield Trust revealed that record numbers of nurses were quitting the NHS, with one in nine leaving their jobs. The Royal College of Nursing has called for nurses to have access to the highest-quality PPE. Covid is killing over 300 people a week, and a new variant has been detected. A rise in cases is expected as winter approaches. Acting now to prevent further hospitalisations and deaths is crucial as new variants are causing a slight increase in infections. We can only detect Covid variants by PCR testing, and with no free tests plus economic pressures, people have become quite relaxed about coronavirus. [See also https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/health/new-covid-symptom-overtakes-fever-28138644](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/health/new-covid-symptom-overtakes-fever-28138644)

Pray: for healthcare leaders to be watchful and ready to actively prevent the virus spreading, and for the Government to address the NHS staffing and funding problems. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/01/latest-covid-surge-a-heavy-straw-on-camels-back-for-every-hospital-in-uk

Black blood donors urgently needed

The NHS needs more black blood donors to help people with sickle cell disease. The daily demand for donations to treat the blood disorder in England is 250, but only half of all hospital requests are being met with matched blood. Sickle cell mostly affects people of black heritage, and ethnically-matched blood gives the best treatment. The disease causes red blood cells to become sticky, blocking vessels and restricting oxygen supply, triggering excruciating pain. Sadeh needs all her blood replaced every four weeks. She says, 'Some days I struggle getting out of bed due to pain in my limbs, some days I wake up feeling great, some days I wake up in hospital, connected to machines and told that days have passed. Transfusions have saved my life many times over'. The NHS has launched a Black History Month campaign, highlighting to black communities that they have the power to treat sickle cell with life-changing blood donations.

Pray: for more black people to hear about the need for donations and respond so that everyone with the disease receives all the blood required to improve the quality of their lives. (3 John 2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63155204

Railway staff paid more than market rate

Striking rail maintenance workers are already paid almost a fifth more than those doing comparative roles, the industry regulator has said. Independent consultants looked at total rewards, including pay, pension costs and other measurable benefits, of 64,000 railway workers. The analysis shed fresh light on the bitter industrial dispute which has led to rail strikes across the country. Workers demanding double-digit pay rises already receive salaries 18% higher than 'market comparators'. Station staff salaries are 12% higher, and train drivers average £66,043 a year (the average UK salary is £31,876). Liz Truss is under growing pressure to follow through on her pledge to crack down on unions, amid fears that the rail network could shut down completely over Christmas. She had promised to bring in 'tough and decisive action to limit trade unions' ability to paralyse our economy'.

Pray: for the trade unions, Network Rail and Ms Truss to agree to spend public money sensibly to reduce the burden on taxpayers and end industrial action. (1 Timothy 6:10-11)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/10/06/striking-rail-maintenance-staff-paid-18pc-market-rate/

NHS and government targets

NHS bosses have told political parties not to impose any new targets on the beleaguered health service in their bid to win the next general election. They said the Conservatives and opposition parties should resist foisting new performance metrics on the NHS when it cannot deliver the hundreds it already operates under. The plea was made by hospitals, ambulance providers, mental health, community care and GP services in England, who said, 'Given the NHS's staff shortages, huge backlog of care and financial problems, the answer will not be found in politicians imposing oversimplified and unfunded targets that make convenient soundbites but have little bearing on reality and demoralise frontline workers.'

Pray: for the NHS to be given a realistic set of performance measures, with government assistance to streamline the total. (Psalm 37:28a)

More: www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/oct/06/nhs-bosses-plead-with-politicians-no-more-targets

Europe

UK joins European Club of Nations

44 European leaders gathered in Prague on 6 October for the first meeting of a new political community. Most of the countries already belong to other organisations including the EU, NATO, the Council of Europe (upholding human rights), and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (arms control, freedom of the press, and free and fair elections). But the latter two are ineffective at [reining in Russia](https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2022/10/05/what-we-know-and-dont-know-about-the-european-political-community) (<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2022/10/05/what-we-know-and-dont-know-about-the-european-political-community>). EU's foreign policy chief spoke of building 'a European political community without Putin'. Liz Truss will join EU and non-EU leaders plus Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky by video. She said the 'club' is not an alternative to the EU, but added that after Brexit the UK should be involved in discussions that affect the entire continent.

Pray: for leaders to discuss areas of shared interest and bring about God's purposes. (Romans 8:28)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-63151813

Finland: thousands of refugees

Flee, or face conscription: that is the choice that has led thousands of Russians to flee to Finland and other nations after Putin announced he is mobilising reservists. Finland will soon limit Russians' entry on tourist visas; border crossings are up 80% from normal. Finland is largely Lutheran Christian. However, 'Christian' in Finland is often just a label, not a reflection of a vibrant, abiding relationship with Jesus. Pray that the opportunity for outreach in love to these new refugees in Finland will be a wakeup call, and for a new Holy Spirit flame to be lit. Pray for Finns leading comfortable lives to see their need of a Saviour.

Pray: for the Finnish border to remain open to receive refugees for as long as needed. (Psalm 119:114)

More: prayercast.com/finland.html

Ukrainians who don't flee

Not all Ukrainians desire to start a new life abroad. There are tens of thousands of Eastern Ukrainians in refugee camps, schools, kindergartens or government buildings, hoping they will be able to return home once the war is over. They refuse to think that there will be no homes to return to. These refugee camps are everywhere in Transcarpathia (in the far west of Ukraine) which, at the moment, is a place of safety. The Carpathian Mountains separate them from Putin's bombs. Pray for the safety of the brave Europeans visiting refugee locations with food, clothes and household needs.

Pray: for the refugees to experience love and acceptance wherever they are staying. (Psalm 32:7)

More: mcusercontent.com/ffd99da83edd4244458b59317/files/aa2d22bb-a914-843f-97c2-e7c44436ff0f/Canopy_136_English.pdf

Russia: Putin ridiculed by powerful allies

The withdrawal of Russian troops from important Ukraine towns has prompted two powerful Putin allies publicly to ridicule the war machine's top brass. Chechnya leader Ramzan Kadyrov said, 'Nepotism in the army will lead to no good. The commander of Russian forces should be stripped of his medals and sent to the front line with a gun to wash away his shame with blood.' Such public contempt for those running Russia's war indicates the growing level of frustration among Putin's elite with his war tactics. The powerful mercenary Yevgeny Prigozhin congratulated Ramzan's comments, saying, 'Ramzan - you rock man! All these ***** should be sent barefoot to the front with automatic guns.'

Pray: for criticism, public contempt and conscription to destroy the Kremlin's carefully controlled narrative forever and instigate Putin's fall. (Psalm 141:10)

More: www.reuters.com/world/europe/two-putin-allies-ridicule-russias-war-machine-public-2022-10-03/

Worldwide

Thailand: 23 children killed

Duangphan Patphaothanun is wandering outside a childcare centre, clutching a bag full of toys. She wants to know when she can see her grandson, so she can place his most treasured possessions with him in his coffin. Three-year-old Pattarawut is among the 23 children who died on 6 October in an attack at the centre, in the north-east of Thailand. Panya Kamrab, a former policeman, killed at least 37 people, including his wife and stepson, before killing himself after a manhunt. His stepson used to attend the centre but had not been there for a month. The motive for the attack is not yet known, but police said Kamrab was fired from his job in June for drug use. More than 90 children usually attend the centre, but because of poor weather and a bus breakdown only 24 of them were there on Thursday. Only one child has survived.

Pray: for the grieving relatives, struggling to come to terms with such an unexpected tragedy. (Matthew 5:4)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-63168077

USA: Florida disaster relief

Samaritan's Purse (SP) has disaster relief units in Florida, and volunteers are already working to help hurting homeowners after category 4 Hurricane Ian made landfall delivering 150-mph winds, torrential rain, and a massive storm surge that claimed dozens of lives. SP's North American ministries responded and have quickly established volunteer bases with two partner churches, but they need an army of volunteers. Pray for thousands more to step forward and help the families who have damaged homes. They are urgently needed to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to help those whose lives have been turned upside down. Teams are mudding-out flooded homes, removing downed trees and debris. Tractor trailers stocked with equipment and supplies are delivering to operation bases. The damage is incredible; people need prayers and support. Pray for all now hurting in Ian's wake, and for local churches facing their own losses while ministering to the suffering.

Pray: for God to touch and transform the many lives of those receiving and giving help, and also those working towards Florida's restoration. (James 1:12)

More: samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/hurricane-ian/

Somalia: brink of starvation

For three decades Somalia has lurched between disorder and anarchy. The government controls only bits of the country. The rest is in the hands of al-Shabab jihadists adept at blowing themselves up in crowded places. For many Somalis life is poor, brutish, and short. They live in the world's fifth poorest and eighth most violent country. Their life expectancy is the sixth lowest. Droughts and floods add to the misery. In 2011 failed rains contributed to the worst famine of the 21st century: more than 250,000 people died, half of them children. A decade later history may repeat itself. The worst drought in four decades is wilting crops and killing livestock. On 5 September government officials said an even greater catastrophe could sweep the country within days or weeks unless more help arrives. Over 18 million people can't find enough to eat; children are dying. Pray for hospitals to have enough nutritional supplements for children. See also <https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2022/07/25/somalia-is-on-the-brink-of-starvation>

Pray: for the government to be able to support displaced women and children (many men are fighting al-Shabab), and for adequate protection for international aid organisations. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-63116210

Ghana: slavery

Thousands of children are trapped in slavery in Ghana. Families are deceived and children are being trafficked to work in the fishing industry on Lake Volta, living under violent abuse and the threat of drowning. Courage Hope spent five years of his childhood trapped in slavery until a friend, IJM and police brought him to safety. Today, he leads a network of survivors, advocating for an end to child trafficking. Although he still finds it difficult to talk about it, he wants his story to lead to change and is working on an appeal to help stop child trafficking. His experience is a sobering reminder of the reality of child trafficking. But we have a powerful God who is able to work in and through us to bring about miraculous change.

Pray: for an end to child trafficking in Ghana today, as nothing is impossible for God. (John 8:36)

More: www.ijm.org/stories/hope

Turkey / Greece / Egypt: church-planting mission trip

During October Silk Wave church-planting teams will visit Turkey, Greece, and Egypt to restore worship and plant God's Word. 37 people will participate from two US Korean churches, with second-term young missionaries working in Istanbul with partners from Istanbul Mission Centre. They will visit gateway churches of the region to hear about the ministry and vision while seeking God's guidance on how each local church can work together evangelising and church-planting. In Greece the evangelism and church-planting is being pioneered through refugee ministries. In Cairo they will see the ministry of refugee children's schools and study how they can work together with the missions to the Islamic world which are working in Egypt. Silk Wave asks us to pray for all participants in the field to receive and obey Holy Spirit guidance in every event.

Pray: for the Lord to lead and protect everyone throughout this trip. (Joshua 1:9)

More: silkwavemission.com/board.php

Iran: exiled queen's message to the military

Iran's exiled Queen Pahlavi called on military forces not to allow the authorities to use them as 'tools of repression'. In an audio twitter message she addressed the police, army, Revolutionary Guard, paramilitary Basij forces, and plainclothes agents to imagine their own sisters, brothers, fathers and mothers before their eyes, urging them not to allow leaders to make them tools to suppress people. Describing the regime's crackdown on popular protests after the death of Mahsa Amini in police custody as 'brutal and inhumane', she said people from different walks of life and with different ideologies have risen up to eliminate the oppression. 'You are also from this nation, so be with this nation,' she said. Last month she released a similar message, lauding popular protests against 'forces of darkness' and decrying 'harrowing savage crackdowns' on nationwide rallies. Her son said, 'Multiple reports indicate strikes spreading from cultural and educational sectors to the service and industry sectors. Nationwide strikes and protests will bring this regime to its knees.'

Pray: for the third week of protests to achieve the citizens' objectives and bring about positive changes for female human rights. (Proverbs 31:8-9)

More: www.iranintl.com/en/202210061296

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