

Prayer Alert

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I will praise You as long as I live, and in Your name I will lift up my hands. (Psalm 63:4)

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

Media mission growth in Pakistan

Only four years ago, PAK7 international had a staff of three people, one in the UK and two in Pakistan. It is incredible to see what God has done. In 2022, through partners in Pakistan, they had 30 people working with them; by 6 October there were 19 more. While three of last year's interns moved on to new pastures, all 22 of the media school graduates are starting their internship programme and joining eight small production teams, ready to learn and grow. Internship is excellent training for young Christian media professionals, and is now giving a voice to young Christians in Pakistan. They have an incredible opportunity to make great programmes which will change the lives of generations of young viewers. Today's growth is vital for them as they step up production of high-quality Christian shows for their channel.

Praise: God for the way He is using technology and the media to grow His Church in Pakistan. Pray that the teams have all they need to continue this expansion. (Isaiah 52:7)

More: www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Qmt8N8BHY6_yKS1gDIWdQ

Avoiding employee burnout

Kintsugi Hope is a Christian charity making a difference to people's mental wellbeing. 'Kintsugi' is a Japanese technique for repairing pottery with seams of gold. The word means 'golden joinery'. This repair makes the object more beautiful, unique indeed: Instead of hiding scars it makes a feature of them. Kintsugi Hope wants mental and emotional health to be understood in supportive communities where people [grow and flourish](#), and is warning churches and Christian organisations about the danger of employee burnout. Faith groups are especially susceptible to burnout: because people are highly motivated working for God, more pressure is put on them. Kintsugi Hope is offering employers training on the problem. Also the World Health Organisation has published its first ever mental health guidance to employers to help them avoid employee burnout, and a new NHS scheme will provide therapists for the workplace.

Praise: God that Kintsugi Hope, the WHO, and NHS are all providing healing for employees with burnout and guidelines to help employers adjust their workplace culture. (Romans 12:2)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/churches-and-christian-organisations-urged-to-avoid-employee-burn-out

British Isles

PM urged to reconsider mini-budget

Liz Truss is coming under more pressure from some of her own MPs to rethink the tax cuts announced in last month's mini-budget. Paul Goodman, the editor of 'Conservative Home', a political blog, says MPs are considering alternatives to her as leader. Foreign secretary James Cleverly says Truss is sticking with her plan and removing her as PM would be disastrous. Her strategy was criticised when she attended a meeting of Tory backbenchers on 12 October. One MP accused her of wrecking 10 years of Conservative policies aimed at helping working people. Truss has repeatedly defended the proposed tax cuts, funded by borrowing, which were outlined last month. During PMQs she also pledged not to make any cuts to public spending. Pray for her as she presses on after a tumultuous first month in office. Pray for party divisions to be repaired with wise decisions. Pray for any necessary changes to be made and unnecessary options to be avoided.

Pray: for Mr Kwarteng as he prepares to set out his economic plan and independent forecast of the nation's finances on 31 October. (Proverbs 13:11)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-politics-63221738

Hope for the countryside: autumn festivals

This year, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles occur in October, preceded by the Feast of Trumpets in September. Along with the spring biblical festivals, these mark the agricultural and liturgical year, prompting us to remember God's deeds in history, give thanks for His material and spiritual provision, and pray for His blessing on the year to come, including on its harvest. They are also eschatological. 'Trumpets' looks to the coming of Jesus, the rising up of believers, the releasing of God's judgements, and the coming of His Kingdom (Revelation 8:6-11:19). 'Atonement' is fulfilled by Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 9:7-14), by the repentance and redemption of Israel (Zechariah 12:10-13:1), and the day of God's favour and vengeance (Isaiah 61:1-3). 'Tabernacles' looks forward to the final harvest and the Messianic kingdom (Zechariah 14:16-19). As we ponder our present times, give thanks that God is still working His purpose out.

Pray: for us to remember that the time is drawing ever nearer when Jesus will return and 'the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God'. (Habakkuk 2:14).

More: hopeforthecountryside.uk/seedsofprayer/

Archbishop urged to scrap transgender guidance

Following Nigel and Sally Rowe's recent legal victory against the department for education, which led to a £22,000 settlement for legal costs and a commitment from the Government to [reform its transgender policies](#), they have urged the Archbishop of Canterbury to scrap the 'Valuing All God's Children' (VAGC) guidance in CofE primary schools. This says children as young as five should be affirmed if they want to identify as the opposite gender. The Rowes want the archbishop to do this so that staff and children in schools are properly safeguarded and protected from harmful transgender ideology and practice. They also want to meet him to discuss these points and what the CofE can do about them. Recently a charity considered 'a reliable source on transgenderism for CofE schools' was found to be offering chest binders to children without parental knowledge.

Pray: for all who are tasked with making life-changing decisions to have God's wisdom and compassion. (Genesis 18:19a)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-parents-call-on-archbishop-to-scrap-cofe-transgender-guidance-in-schools

Covid: protect elderly from rising levels

Covid is on the rise again, so those feeling unwell should avoid vulnerable friends, colleagues and relatives as a precaution, say experts. 1.3 million (one in 50) have Covid, with a 'marked increase' in infections among over-70s. There are no new restrictions, but people are being reminded to take extra care. There are fears of a flu and Covid 'twindemic' this winter, and those who qualify for free jabs should get them. NHS are sending reminders out to over six million people in at risk groups. Pray for very high levels of vaccine uptake across the UK. Covid hospitalisation rates are at their highest level in months. The NHS is asking people with respiratory infection symptoms to wear a face covering.

Pray: for the ill to avoid contact with elderly people or those who are more likely to have severe disease because of their ongoing health conditions. (Psalm 71:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-63170006

Private renters stuck in dangerous homes

Tenants who complain of dangerous or potentially deadly faults in privately rented homes are being let down by councils. When landlords fail to fix hazards - including serious faults that pose an immediate risk to health - councils have a legal duty to act. But the number of times councils use enforcement powers is far lower than the number of reports made. In the last five years 135,687 hazards were recorded, including 42,654 which posed an immediate risk to safety, but council action was only taken on 25,243 occasions, while less than 1% of the registered faults led to a prosecution. The housing charity Shelter said the whole system was 'a car crash'. The private rented sector is home to 11 million people: many are young professionals who are close to buying, but there are also families and older people who will be renting for many years.

Pray: for councils to see this crisis as a priority and crack down on rogue landlords to ensure a fair deal for renters and safe healthy homes for everyone. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62390187

Hospital waiting lists hit record high

The number of patients waiting for routine hospital treatment in England has reached seven million, and 387,257 have been on the list for over a year. One in every 18 has waited more than a year to begin treatment, and 2,646 people (down from 23,778 in January) have been waiting over two years. Ambulance waiting times are also high, and the number of people waiting longer than twelve hours in A&E for a bed after being seen by a doctor also reached a new high of 32,776. Of 255,055 urgent cancer referrals made by GPs in August, only 75.6% saw a specialist within the two-week target time, the second worst performance on record. Patients hospitalised with Covid have more than doubled since September to over 10,000.

Pray: for the doctors, nurses, technicians, ambulance drivers and all NHS staff under huge pressures, partly caused by under-staffing. (John 14:27)

More: news.sky.com/story/patients-waiting-for-routine-hospital-treatment-in-england-hits-record-high-12719263

Dangerous language in politics

Nicola Sturgeon has been accused by Nadhim Zahawi of using 'really dangerous' language after she decried the Tories at last week's Scottish National Party conference. Addressing whether she would prefer a Labour or Tory government, Ms Sturgeon said, 'I detest the Tories and everything they stand for, so it's not difficult to answer that question'. On Labour politicians, she commented, 'Being better than the Tories is not a high bar to cross right now. I think we need to see more of a radical alternative from Labour rather than just a pale imitation'. Ian Murray, Labour's shadow Scottish secretary, said the next electoral contest in Scotland will be a UK general election between this rotten Tory government and a new energised Labour Party fit to govern the country. Pray for our politicians to demonstrate the Kingdom values of honour, righteousness and integrity, and that they all will be united with God-given insights.

Pray: for Nicola Sturgeon and Liz Truss to be able to work together constructively for the United Kingdom. (James 1:19)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/10/09/nicola-sturgeon-accused-using-dangerous-language-saying-detests/

Europe

Ukraine: occupying forces close churches, arrest pastors

Russians are closing evangelical Protestant churches claiming 'only one faith would be tolerated - Orthodoxy'. They raided Grace Baptist Church while a worship service was being broadcast live. Viewers watched online while they halted the service, registered the names of all present, detained several ministers, and gave the pastor 48 hours to leave the city. They closed Melitopol's largest Protestant charismatic church with a 1,000-seat auditorium. They tore down its cross and turned the building into a 'cultural sports entertainment complex'. They are doing the same as they did when they seized and annexed Crimea: they raided places of worship, closed churches, banned missionary activity, fined people for leading worship meetings, seized religious literature, and forced religious communities to re-register with the state, refusing re-registration to the majority. Christians were also driven to the underground churches in the Soviet era, surviving seventy years of Soviet totalitarian rule - demonstrating that persecution can often strengthen the Church.

Pray: for the Christians remaining in occupied cities to be hidden from the enemy. May their faith flourish and grow underground. (1 Peter 4:16)

More: releaseinternational.org/ukraine-occupying-forces-close-churches-arrest-pastors/

Ukraine: heavy shelling and NATO aid

On 10 October Russian troops began launching a daily series of missile strikes, targeting civilians and energy facilities in populated regions to kill and create chaos. President Volodymyr Zelensky said, 'They want to destroy our energy system. They are incorrigible. The second target is people. Such a time and such goals were specially chosen to cause as much damage as possible. We are dealing with terrorists trying to wipe us off the face of the earth.' On 13 October Ukraine's allies from fifty countries meeting at NATO headquarters announced deliveries to Kyiv of advanced air defence weapons, including missiles and radars. The USA earlier made a similar pledge. One high-tech system from Germany is already in Ukraine. Kyiv hailed the summit as 'historic'. Hours later, while people slept, Russian shelling hit a five-storey residential building in Mykolaiv, destroying the upper two floors.

Pray: for God to strengthen the survivors of a particularly intense week of the heaviest Russian assaults in months. (Isaiah 40:31)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-63236367

Worldwide

Haiti asks for military help to curb chaos

Haiti is in such a bad political, economic and security crisis that the USA has urged its citizens to leave the country. The government authorised prime minister Henry to ask the world for military help to stop gangs paralysing the country and causing a major humanitarian disaster. Powerful gangs have blocked the country's main fuel terminal since September, crippling basic water and food supplies. It is not clear to whom the request for intervention has been sent, and in what form the help would be given. The UN said, 'We remain extremely concerned about the security situation in Haiti and the impact it is having on the Haitian people and on our ability to do our work, especially in the humanitarian sphere.' Eight people died recently from cholera, raising concerns of a potential health crisis. Pray for the USA to act on Haiti's previous request for a humanitarian corridor to restore fuel distribution.

Pray: for an end to violence, protests and looting food aid warehouses. Pray for UN peacekeeping troops to remove the fear and danger stalking Haiti's streets. (Psalm 121:1-2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-63181481

Iran: increasingly tense atmosphere

Security forces have killed at least 201 people in unrest following the death in custody of a woman arrested for breaking strict hijab rules. Now people honk car horns supporting any women they see not covered up. Protests against the security forces are in the evening and afternoon in different locations. At night, those who do not leave their houses shout 'down with the dictator' out of their windows in big and smaller cities. The protests are not just about women wearing the hijab; that was just the spark. They have always been about basic human rights. Iranians have always wanted what westerners might take for granted as a normal life. A protester said, 'We want life, liberty, justice, accountability, freedom of choice and assembly, a free press. We want access to our basic human rights and an inclusive government that is actually elected by the people through a proper election and that works for the people.' [See also](#)

Pray: for a veto on the hijab laws, and for sanctions from other nations to cause Iran's leaders to respect the human rights of Iranian citizens. (Proverbs 16:11)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-63227238

India: despised by men, loved by God

Throughout the Bible we read of God's love and mercy toward those who suffer from the horrific disease of leprosy. Leprosy might seem like a tale from the ancient past, but in Asia the disease is alive and afflicting multitudes of new people every year. Each year in India 130,000 new cases (350 a day) are reported. The plight for lepers is extremely grim. Low-caste people in India are called 'untouchables'. But even the untouchables consider lepers to be untouchable - lower than dogs on the social scale. As a result, they are forced out of society. Many commit suicide when they contract leprosy. It can strike anyone: accountants, housewives, rich, poor, young or old. They are despised and rejected by their fellow-men, their country, and their own families. Christian mission Asia Harvest is touching the lives of lepers with the love of Christ and the salvation he gives.

Pray: for all bringing true freedom in Christ to lepers to be encouraged and blessed in all they do. May the Lord Jesus be glorified in the lives of all who suffer with leprosy. (Romans 15:13)

More: www.asiaharvest.org/despised-by-men-loved-by-god-reaching-lepers-for-jesus-christ

Kenya: food crisis

'Our efforts have been fruitless,' said a Christian farmer in northern Kenya. 'Wild animals are invading our farms and eating everything - hippos, elephants, buffaloes. Families have been struggling with nothing to eat.' This is another problem added to the prolonged drought biting ever deeper. Crops fail, livestock perish, and the all-important water source, the Tana River, dwindles and dries up. Children in northern Kenya have already begun to die of hunger. Barnabas Aid is continuing to feed Christians in that area, where our fellow-believers are a minority and do not get help from the main aid agencies in the area. The rainy season, October to December, is forecast to be short and light across most of the country.

Pray: for lives to be saved with abundant relief for malnourished desperate families. (Proverbs 22:9)

More: mailchi.mp/barnabasfund/east-africa-food-crisis-help-christians-survive

Bahamas: price controls on food staples

Details have been outlined of temporary price control measures aimed at helping families to cope with mounting global inflation. The measures will affect 38 key staples such as eggs, bread, and sanitary towels. Prime minister Philip Davis announced the controls in a national address as part of broader measures to help the island nation, which imports many goods, to tackle the effects of rising price pressures globally. The controls, which limit price increases to 15% for wholesalers and 25% for retailers, will last six months, after which they will be subject to review. The prime minister remains confident that these additional measures will provide relief to Bahamian families. He also said the government would cut profit margins on price-controlled drugs and unveiled a \$6 million investment in defence vessels, as they do not have the resources to deal with waves of undocumented migrants.

Pray: for the actions to be successful in helping the people ride the storm of inflation. (Deuteronomy 15:11b)

More: www.reuters.com/markets/bahamas-introduce-price-controls-dozens-key-food-staples-2022-10-13/

USA / Philippines / Japan: military drills

2,500 US stealth fighters and Philippine marines have blasted imaginary enemies in combat drills, mock amphibious assaults, and other coastal tactics. These drills were the first joint large-scale military exercise under the newly elected president. His predecessor was an outspoken critic who threatened to cut ties with Washington and was against military exercises which could offend Beijing. Held simultaneously with these drills were exercises between US and Japanese forces around Hokkaido island, involving 3,000 military personnel. The USA said the drills ensured that it was 'prepared to respond rapidly to crises throughout the Indo-Pacific'. Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force said they would strengthen response capabilities. These drills came as Washington and Beijing engage in heated rhetoric over the status of Taiwan and claims to islands and waters in the South China Sea. See the next article, Taiwan billionaire.

Pray: for China to comply with a 2016 arbitration ruling (supported internationally) which invalidated Beijing's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea. (Romans 13:1)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/13/us-and-philippine-forces-conduct-live-fire-coastal-combat-drills

Taiwan: billionaire to create civilian army

Robert Tsao, a retired billionaire, is pledging one billion Taiwan dollars (£28m) to create a civilian army to help his countrymen and women fight China. The aim is to train up three million civilian 'warriors' - a seventh of the population - in three years. Office workers, students, shopkeepers, parents could all learn to pick up a gun; he wants 300,000 sharpshooters. He acknowledges the task is ambitious, but vows it could be done. Born in China but raised in Taiwan, he created the United Microelectronics Corp semiconductor company, making his fortune in an industry Taiwan is now globally known for. As a businessman, he had many dealings in China. An ardent student of history, he has been a high-profile voice in policy debates for decades. He is now among an increasing number of Taiwanese who feel they need to prepare for a possible invasion. See previous article, on military drills.

Pray: for the Taiwanese willingness to defend their country and establish peace in the area. (Romans 14:19)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-63196623

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