

Prayer Alert

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And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18)

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

[Police apologise to evangelist](#)

There's been another win for the Christian Legal Centre as Hatun Tash was awarded £10,000 and given an apology by the Met Police over two arrests that took place at Speakers' Corner, the home of free speech. The evangelist frequently witnesses to Muslims and in July 2021 was brutally stabbed, with no one yet charged. The apology concerns two other incidents, when Hatun was arrested despite her peaceful behaviour. Her story was covered in the Times on October 21st [See \(https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/met-says-sorry-for-arresting-christian-preacher-hatun-tash-6vs7x62wh\)](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/met-says-sorry-for-arresting-christian-preacher-hatun-tash-6vs7x62wh)

Praise: God that the Civil Actions Investigation Unit recognised the police's professional standards fell below an acceptable level. (Amos 5:24)
More: <https://christianconcern.com/news/police-apologise-and-award-christian-evangelist-10000-for-arrests/>

[Aid to Ukraine will not be stopped](#)

The UN and humanitarians have delivered aid to more people in the retaken areas, reaching 13.4 million people across Ukraine since the end of February. Despite the escalation of hostilities and challenges of helping millions of Ukrainians prepare for winter, Humanitarian Coordinator Denise Brown pledged that aid will not stop.

Praise: God for the ongoing work of the many aid agencies working in Ukraine and for the millions of people who are donating money and goods through Ukrainian appeals. (Proverbs 22:9)
More: <https://reliefweb.int/country/ukr>

[Two more former Chibok schoolgirls found](#)

Boko Haram abducted 276 Christian girls from Chibok School in 2014. Girls were whipped and forced into marriage. Some experienced mock executions for refusing to become Muslims. Yana and Rejoice, now young women with children of their own, were among the captives and were recently recovered with their children by the Nigerian Army. Yana Pogu has four children, two boys and twin girls. Rejoice Sanki has two children. They are undergoing medical examinations before being passed over to the care of the Borno government.

Praise: God for their rescue may they quickly recover from the physical, spiritual and emotional trauma of their ordeal. (Galatians 6:2)
More: <https://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/news/two-more-former-chibok-schoolgirls-found-in-borno-nigeria/>

British Isles

New PM and government changes

Rishi Sunak is the first British Asian prime minister and the youngest PM for over 200 years. During the past two weeks of Government ups and downs the parliament lunchtime church services continued with the themes 'A character of enduring faithfulness' and 'A character of enduring trust'. These services give opportunities for reflection in the midst of parliamentary uncertainty. We can pray for Rishi Sunak and all parliamentarians based on these themes, asking God to give them abundant grace towards each other. Where there was bickering, may there be forgiveness and peace. May each of them serve with integrity and honesty so that the nation can trust them. Pray that their words and deeds would please God, and should setbacks arise in these difficult times may they have heaven's wisdom to press on and achieve heaven's objectives for the UK. Ask God to give the strategies needed to move the nations in the right direction.

Pray: for wisdom for this new government as it undertakes to repair the UK's finances. (Romans 13:7)

More: <https://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/events/future/distinctive-christian-character/#more-2575>

NHS strike ballot over pay and funding

Healthcare leaders have been quick to call on Mr Sunak to relook at nurses' pay amid nationwide strike ballots. Thérèse Coffey was removed as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and Steve Barclay was reappointed. Responding to the announcement of Rishi Sunak as prime minister, Royal College of Nursing General Secretary and Chief Executive, Pat Cullen, said, 'Rishi Sunak must now decide if he wants to be the prime minister who cut the NHS and social care to the bone or one that invested in its people, patients and priorities. He is new to Number 10 but nursing staff recall this year's NHS pay cut was designed by Sunak from his Treasury desk. The NHS Providers chief asked for decisive action to tackle diminishing funding due to soaring inflation, staff shortages and treatment backlogs.

Pray: for the new government ministers to make wise decisions for the future of the NHS so that there will be no cause for future strike action. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

More: <https://nursingnotes.co.uk/news/sunak-urged-to-act-on-nhs-pay-and-funding-amid-strike-ballot/>

University staff could strike

Over 70,000 university staff at 150 universities could strike after the University and College Union members voted 'yes' to strike action in two ballots. Both ballots saw the union deliver large turnouts that exceeded the necessary threshold. The union now has authority to strike at practically every university and wants vice chancellors to enter negotiations immediately with improved offers to avoid the entire higher education sector being brought to a standstill. The union's higher education committee meets on 3rd November to decide their next steps to pressure employers into meaningful negotiations. The union's general secretary said 'University staff are crucial workers in communities up and down the UK. They are sending a clear message that they will not accept falling pay, insecure employment and attacks on pensions. They know their power and are ready to take back what is theirs from a sector raking in tens of billions of pounds.'

Pray: for the UK university sector to negotiate a just solution that will prevent students having their higher education disrupted. (Jeremiah 29:11)

More: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/12581/University-staff-vote-for-UK-wide-strike-action-in-historic-ballot>

Twindemic this year

NHS England says up to half of all hospital beds in England could be occupied by patients with respiratory infections. The warning came as NHS bosses set out details of its plans to help the health service cope this winter, like rapid response teams for people who fall at home and 'data war rooms' to monitor work pressures. The usual seasonal viruses plus Covid will place huge strains on hospitals. It is important to be prepared as winter comes hot on the heels of an extremely busy summer. With the combined impact of flu, Covid and record NHS staff vacancies, we are facing more than the threat of a 'twindemic' this year. Pray for wise decisions to be made by the NHS in their preparations for winter. Pray for doctors' surgeries and rapid response teams to be able to keep patients out of hospitals.

Pray: for the success of the new scheme being rolled out that will support care homes to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions. (3 John 1:2)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-63307833>

Call for free school meals

Teaching organisations have asked the prime minister for free school meals to be given to children in households on universal credit. Jamie Oliver said the rule change would help 800,000 of the 'most vulnerable' children. However the call comes as government departments prepare for spending cuts, saying they had already expanded access to free school meals more than any other government in recent decades. A letter signed by leaders of 12 unions representing a million teaching staff, governors and school trustees across the UK warns the prime minister, the chancellor and the education secretary that 'hunger is a real issue in our schools, too many families are struggling to afford school meals. Families receiving universal credit, or any equivalent benefit should be eligible as an immediate first step. Not doing so would undermine all the education workforce efforts to tackle inequalities'.

Pray: for families in poverty due to international events to have adequate help from the government, churches and charities to feed their families and manage their limited finances. (Proverbs 19:17)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-63317926>

Northern Ireland - children waiting to see consultants

In 12 months, there has been an 184% increase of children having to wait over four years on consultant waiting lists and waits are longer for children needing help with mental health issues, speech and language therapy and autism assessments. The situation is 'alarming'. Many of the children could be 'experiencing pain and discomfort'. Parents' hearts are breaking as they watch their children miss out on vital parts of childhood while struggling to manage health conditions. Waiting lists for ear, nose and throat conditions are the longest. 10,000 children are waiting for a consultant-led outpatient appointment and 4,000 for surgery. In order to tackle the problem trusts are asked to provide additional theatre space, and paediatric surgeons from the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children will travel to other hospitals to perform children's surgery. Commissioned paediatric day case procedure theatre lists for general surgery are being re-established as a priority.

Pray: for the health minister to raise funding for this section of the NHS so that more can be done to reduce waiting times in children's services. (Jeremiah 33:6)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-63402456>

October retailers rebound

On Oct 27th Reuters reported that British retail sales rebounded this month, according to an industry survey. This contrasted with other, gloomier gauges of the consumer economy. 'The Confederation of British Industry's monthly retail sales balance rose, and retail sales grew at a firm pace this month. However, retailers continue to face a challenging environment due to rising costs, higher interest rates, and labour shortages,' said CBI economist Martin Sartorius.

Pray: for both small shops and large retail chains to be able to survive the challenges facing them in the run up to Christmas, as customers tighten their belts. (Leviticus 25:14)

More: <https://www.lse.co.uk/news/uk-retailers-report-rebound-in-october-cbi-ntiayie0yqwju74.html>

Europe

Europe: Most corrupt countries

According to Transparency International, Russia remains the most corrupt European country. High-ranking public officials commit illegal activities. Albanian businesses are bedevilled by corruption and low conviction rates. Austria has well-developed institutions and proactive legal systems. However, high-level public officials and the central government have experienced corruption recently. Belgium also has a well-developed institutional and legal framework to combat corruption, but is also one of the most corrupt European countries. Bosnia's political structures are the most affected by corruption. Bulgaria's government officials engage in embezzlement, unfettered violation by the government relating to procurement of public assets as well as misappropriation of public funds. Bulgaria is the most corrupt member of the EU. Croatia is in the top three corrupt EU members but recently is making efforts to combat corruption. The Czech Republic has widespread corruption across most public sectors. France's high-ranking officials and defence officers commit many corrupt activities.

Pray: for political, economic and social interaction to be fair and just, even when resources are scarce and populations increase. (Proverbs 11:1)

More: <https://bscholarly.com/most-corrupt-countries-in-europe/>

Czech Republic: EU presidency and asylum relocation

The Czech EU presidency is proposing an annual minimum on the number of asylum seekers EU states are willing to relocate. The idea is part of bigger discussions on solidarity sharing, a concept eluding member states when it comes to EU-wide migration and asylum reforms. A Czech presidency paper is proposing either 5,000 or 10,000 voluntary relocations annually as suggestions to gauge what EU states are willing to accept. That debate feeds into an overhaul of the EU's asylum and migration laws proposed by the 2020 European Commission. The solidarity ideas are among many that have sought to create some sort of balance with what the EU has coined flexible responsibility. It is not immediately clear if EU states will agree to the Czech presidency idea. Should they fall short, it will be up to the next EU presidency under Sweden to try to find a solution.

Pray: for the European Parliament and the Council, representing member states to have compassion and benevolent insights in their discussions on asylum allocation targets. (Colossians 3:9-10)

More: <https://euobserver.com/migration/156344>

Worldwide

Ethiopia: Pray for change

In Ethiopia's first free and fair election last year, after decades of repressive rule, the Prosperity Party won. However, an opposition boycott and the war in the Tigray region that left many dead and two million people displaced overshadowed the election. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has now lifted a ban on opposition parties, released tens of thousands of political prisoners, and is opening up one of Africa's last untapped markets. Praise God that the Inter-Religious Council has declared a week of prayer. Pray that calls for peace will be amplified on all fronts as the prayers are broadcast on religious and secular television channels and pray that the ethnic battle will stop. Pray that the frightened people will receive encouraging counselling to release their stress and anxieties in productive ways. Pray that in the new regime, multitudes will hear the Gospel and many will accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. May they be trained to grow in faith through the efforts of the Churches.

Pray: for God's mighty authority and rule over Ethiopia. Pray for the current conflicts, religious and ethnic tensions and national issues to be resolved (Proverbs 1:33).

More: <https://www.win1040.org/prayercalendar/ethiopia/>

Global: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted (IDOP) is Sunday, November 6. It is observed every year around All Saints' Day when the Church traditionally remembers the saints of the Church, many of whom suffered torture and martyrdom for Jesus. IDOP recognizes those who have paid the ultimate price for their faith in Christ and reminds us that many are still paying that price today. This is a special time for us to pray for those who are persevering in the face of hardship, letting them know they are not forgotten and we are praying for them. Prayer Alert intercessors are invited to be a part of this special day by scheduling a few minutes to pray for Afghans, Ukrainians and the many others now arriving into new countries, and those still waiting to re-settle. For most Ukrainian's this will be seen as a temporary re-settlement. Pray for converts to Christianity in the Muslim world, who have been threatened and abandoned by their families because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Pray: for persecuted believers being hit especially hard right now by political turmoil and desperate economic situations, especially as winter approaches. (2 Timothy 3:12)

More: https://static.http.org/docs/2022/IDOP-Prayer_Guide.pdf

Global climate change - prayer for COP27

The next Climate Change conference, COP27, takes place 7-18 November in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt. God has given us dominion over the earth He created, so we have a duty to steward God's creation and pray for its healing. Let's pray for good implementation of the climate goals. Specific prayer points are: The boldness and integrity for nations to follow up on the promises made during COP26 in Glasgow. For honest and fair access to funds for nations affected the most by the impacts of climate change. i.e. a fund has been created but it is very hard for nations to access this fund for help. For a good transition from the UK, as the prior chair, to Egypt the new chair. That the voices of truth would be listened to and louder than the voices which are speaking for their own gain. Climate Intercrossers have released strategic prayers for COP27 (<https://worldprayer.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CIstrategicprayersCOP27.pdf>)

Pray: for all nations to submit more ambitious reduction targets. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

More: <https://worldprayer.org.uk/resources/climate-change-prayer-requests-for-cop27/>

Lebanon & Haiti: Cholera outbreaks

Lebanon is trying to contain cholera in its most vulnerable communities. 290 cases and 11 deaths were confirmed since October 6th. Cholera is a bacterial infection caused by contaminated water or food, it spreads quickly and can kill within hours through severe dehydration. It's completely preventable with clean water and sanitation access, usually provided by public utilities, but those empowered to deliver this have already made off with the money budgeted for the infrastructure. [see \(https://www.mnnonline.org/news/cholera-becomes-latest-crisis-to-overwhelm-lebanon/\)](https://www.mnnonline.org/news/cholera-becomes-latest-crisis-to-overwhelm-lebanon/) Haiti is also grappling with cholera, and the timing couldn't be worse. The previous outbreak killed nearly 10,000 people between 2010 and 2019. Now, over 1,700 cholera cases have been confirmed, half of them children, and 40 people have died so far. Haiti was already struggling under hostile gang takeovers in cities. A few medical centres try to treat cases, but they lack fuel, gangs blocking the seaport prevent fuel being released, bringing businesses and health facilities to a halt.

Pray: for Mission Aviation Fellowship, local churches, medics and others offering their services to the many people needing help. May they be protected from disease and violent gangs. (Philippians 4:13)

More: <https://www.mnnonline.org/news/haiti-grappling-with-cholera-at-the-worst-time/>

Canada: Quebec ties to King Charles III

On October 26th Canadian parliamentarians voted no to severing ties with the monarchy, after Yves-Francois Blanchet introduced a motion that sparked conversation in the House of Commons about the monarchy. His move follows 14 recently elected Quebec politicians refusing to recite an oath of allegiance to the King as required by Canadian law. Many Quebecers are in favour of Canada being a republic rather than a constitutional monarchy - a sentiment that is tied to the province's history of being a French-speaking region that was once under British colonial rule. Over the years Quebec politicians have continued to put forward policies that seek to define the province as distinct from English Canada. When tabling his motion Mr Blanchet said Canada's tie to the British Crown is 'archaic.' Opinion polls following Queen Elizabeth's death found 79% of Quebec agreed they should sever their ties with the Crown.

Pray: for Canada's democratic roots to continue to go deep into the Constitution Act of 1867 which offers extraordinary stability. (Romans 13:1,2)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-63393955>

Iran: 15 killed, 40 injured by ISIS

At least 15 people were killed and 40 others were injured in a terrorist attack at the Shahcheragh Shrine in the city of Shiraz. Two children were among the victims. Iranian security forces have arrested two of the suspected attackers, and a manhunt is underway to capture a third. The terror group ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack, releasing a statement through its affiliated Amaq news agency that said one of its members had 'targeted groups of Sunni refusal infidels inside the shrine with his Kalashnikov machine gun, causing the death of tens of them.' The attack happened on the same day that clashes broke out throughout Iran and thousands of people came to the burial site of Kurdish Mahsa Amini to mark 40 days since her death. Iranian news ISNA said it's unclear if the attack was related to the protests.

Pray: for terrorism, violence and unrest stalking Iranian communities to be replaced with peaceful neighbourhoods, human rights being honoured and religious freedom. (1 Peter 5:10)

More: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/10/26/middleeast/iran-terror-attack-intl/index.html>

Libya: A nation in turmoil

Libya's government has been unstable for a decade. The situation for Christians changed drastically after Gaddafi's regime fell. Weapons and Islamist ideologies such as Ansar al-Sharia, Nusra Front, and ISIS began hunting down Christians. The world will never forget ISIS beheading Coptic Christians on Libya's beach. We praise God that a Christian ministry was able to visit Libya for a week recently and was warmly welcomed as they encouraged many people and shone the bright light of Jesus Christ in this difficult-to-reach nation. Thank God for the global Christian communities and individuals who are praying for the Libyans with love and sympathy. May more avenues be opened for Christians to enter and encourage the persecuted Libyan church. Pray for Christians to gain greater religious freedom to spread the gospel and be able to follow Jesus openly and pray for the believers who are arrested and mistreated because of their faith.

Pray: for peace and stability, and for an end to the proxy civil war and the lawlessness, and may justice be restored (Proverbs 29:7).

More: <https://www.win1040.org/prayercalendar/libya/>

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