

Prayer Alert

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Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1a)

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

[Responding to tragedy](#)

[Practising hospitality](#)

British Isles

[Trussell Trust needs more donations.](#)

[Bombs, hotels and migrant centres shambles](#)

[Church of England launches initiative to reach young people with the Gospel](#)

[300,000 new homes target](#)

[Criminals in police forces](#)

[Highest interest rates since 2008](#)

[Prime Minister symbolises Britain's religious freedom](#)

Europe

[Ukraine: Situation report](#)

[Europe: Heightened media repression](#)

Worldwide

[USA: Violent extremism before US election](#)

[South Korea: Halloween horror](#)

[India: Diwali festival crowds die as bridge collapsed](#)

[Pakistan: News from Barnabas Aid](#)

[Global: Governments change](#)

[DRC: UN troops make 'strategic withdrawal'](#)

[Ethiopia: Warring parties agree a 'permanent cessation of hostilities'](#)

Praise Reports

Responding to tragedy

Yuriy Kulakevych, a leader in the Ukrainian Pentecostal Church, says Ukraine's churches were the first to respond when Putin attacked. While the government scrambled to mobilise defences, it was churches that began evacuating civilians from combat zones, offering them shelter in church buildings and members' homes. Within two weeks, many churches had exhausted their funds buying gas to transport refugees and food to feed them. With trusting relationships already forged, existing financial agreements allowed the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) to transfer money directly to the churches and ministries in Ukraine, while many organisations were still arranging logistics. By the fourth week of the war, the WEA had provided \$210,000 to Ukrainian church networks. The WEA is a church-focused alliance with a vision beyond the immediate relief efforts. They want to come alongside and strengthen the Evangelical communities in Ukraine and other countries as they serve people affected by the war.

Praise: God for the work of His church as they restore communities and lives, share His love and bring hope to desperate people. (Psalm 99:3)

More: <https://worlddea.org/news/19376/responding-to-tragedy-begins-with-a-strong-church/>

Practising hospitality

While volunteering at our church's free clothes closet, I interact with our visitors who struggle to put food on the table, pay rent or purchase basic needs. Although some of our shoppers allow their situations to define their lives, others share their stories of God's grace. They express gratitude for our ministry and the ministries of others in our community. While volunteering recently, I met a woman who wasn't just a recipient of our ministry. She volunteers to help others in need, sorting clothes, organising racks, and assisting shoppers. She admits she hasn't always made the right choices but knows she can't make it through life without her Saviour and Lord. She relies on our church's hospitality while boldly sharing her stories of how God is working in her life.

Praise: God for the help He is giving through the various food banks and free clothes closets and praise Him also for the prayers and encouragement of the volunteers. (Romans 12:13)

More: <https://www.godreports.com/2022/10/everyone-has-a-story-to-share/>

British Isles

Trussell Trust needs more donations.

The Trussell Trust needs people to raid cupboards for unwanted food to donate in the weeks before Christmas. Parcel costs have rocketed. Some food banks have seen the cost of a food parcel rise from £39 to £58. Many face a difficult winter with rising costs of heating and food. Food banks - many operating through churches - are expecting more demand than ever before, with volunteers giving out 1.3 million emergency food parcels over the next six months. The cost of providing vital food parcels to families in need has risen significantly as the cost-of-living crisis worsens. National Statistics data shows that the price of vital items usually included in the parcels has risen by 17% in a year. Lack of understanding contributes to food going to waste, or donations not being given. Trussell Trust have joined with Deliveroo takeaway service to ensure more donations get to the centres this Christmas.

Pray: for Deliveroo to reach the 74% of Brits with unopened food that could be donated to food banks and pray for more people to be aware of this donation service. (Proverbs 19:17)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/trussell-trust-urges-people-to-raid-cupboards-for-donations-in-the-lead-up-to-christmas-as-cost-of-parcels-rocket>

Bombs, hotels and migrant centres shambles

Petrol bombs exploded at a Dover migrant centre causing 700 refugees to be transferred to Manston centre, a short-term holding facility for up to 1,600 people for 24 hours. But there were already 4,000 on the dangerously overcrowded site with some migrants threatening to self-harm and hunger strike and unrest spreading across the camp. Dozens of [charities](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63450034) (https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63450034), sent an open letter to Ms Braverman (who had referred to the refugee crisis as an invasion) saying, 'You refer to this country's proud history of offering sanctuary, so we ask you to make this happen with fair, kind and effective systems for refugees. Deal with the backlog in asylum cases, create safe routes, respect the UN convention on refugees, and give refugees a fair hearing, however they get here.' The next day hundreds of migrants were moved to hotels as the government was accused of presiding over a 'shambles'. Meanwhile a group of migrants were reportedly mistakenly taken from Manston and stranded in central London, cold, hungry and [without accommodation](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63489901) (https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63489901).

Pray: for immediate action to ensure the men, women and children, having made dangerous and traumatic journeys, have their basic needs met in a safe environment. (Proverbs 14:31)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/shambles-migrants-moved-from-overcrowded-centre-as-222-children-put-in-hotels-are-missing-12736129>

Church of England launches initiative to reach young people with the Gospel

The Church of England has joined forces with Christian charity Youthscape to help parishes connect with young people. The £1.29m project is being rolled out to 450 churches across the country after being trialled in Blackburn, London and St Albans. 'It's really a hopeful approach to engaging with young people in a parish, looking into strategies and confidence building,' the Church of England's Vision and Strategy team said, 'It's about working with the church leaders to help them develop what might be the right next steps in their context.' Churches will have access to a five-session Youthscape training course to help volunteers and youth workers formulate plans to work with young people in their parishes. Sometimes it's the simplest things that don't require a lot of money but require you to look and have insight into how young people are living in the parish and look at where they might be able to engage with them.

Pray: for this initiative to succeed as churches touch youth in more diverse ways. (Mark 16:15)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/church-of-england-launches-initiative-to-reach-young-people-with-the-gospel>

300,000 new homes target

Housing Secretary Michael Gove has said the government is still committed to a manifesto pledge of building 300,000 homes every year by the mid-2020s. Former PM Liz Truss had cast doubt on the aim, saying she wanted to scrap 'Stalinist' housing targets. But Mr Gove - who returned to cabinet after Ms Truss's resignation said he wanted to build more homes, both for ownership and to rent, and that new developments should have the consent of local communities. He also warned meeting the target would be 'difficult' due to the economic circumstances. 'We need to be straight with people: the cost of materials has increased because of the problems with global supply chains and also a very tight labour market means that the capacity to build those homes at the rate we want is constrained,' he said.

Pray: for God to help leaders make the tough decisions while helping the vulnerable. (Galatians 6:2)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-63445365>

Criminals in police forces

Paedophiles, rapists, a murderer, and a neo-Nazi all managed to join the police due to a widespread failure to screen out dangerous and corrupt officers. Hundreds, if not thousands, of serving officers have criminal records, are linked to gangsters, or pose a risk to the public, watchdogs warned on November 1st. Analysis of personnel files found it was far too easy for misogynistic, corrupt, or predatory officers to join up and stay in uniform. They include Benjamin Hannam, a neo-Nazi who was recruited by Scotland Yard despite featuring in a recruitment video for a banned far-Right group two days before he applied. He became the first constable to be convicted of terror offences after an anonymous hacker told the Met that he was a member of National Action (white supremacists) and recruited others to a group that backed the murder of MP Jo Cox.

Pray: for UK policing to have a cultural change with better screening to weed out dangerous individuals. (Proverbs 25:26)

More: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11380719/Sexual-predators-midst-Britains-police-forces.html>

Highest interest rates since 2008

The latest interest rate rise by the Bank of England means its benchmark interest rates have hit 3% for the first time since 2008. The interest rate affects mortgages, repayments on credit card debt and the interest paid on savings accounts. They have been rising since December in an effort to curb the rate at which the cost of everyday goods and services are rising. This latest rise follows economic turmoil under Liz Truss, though things have calmed slightly since Rishi Sunak took over and promised to issue a plan to repair the nation's finances later this month, but tax rises and spending cuts are expected. The Bank of England's outlook for the UK economy is a downturn lasting for two years and the unemployment rate will nearly double.

Pray: for the millions of homeowners facing monthly interest rates rising while struggling with the soaring cost of living and support on energy bills ending in April. (Psalm 40:17)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-63431894>

Prime Minister symbolises Britain's religious freedom

Rishi Sunak's rise to Prime Minister was on the front pages of most of India's newspapers. The Evangelical Alliance said his appointment would reflect Britain's religious diversity. 'As a nation, we celebrate freedom of religion and belief and it's important that we're able to recognise different people's religious beliefs and how they practise it. We should be encouraged that people are free to practise different beliefs, but in the same way, that we should stand for the freedom to practise our own religion.' There are calls for a period of a 'quiet, stable government' under Rishi Sunak. Christian Conservative MP John Glen who has known Mr Sunak since 2014, said he believes Sunak has the integrity, drive and intelligence to restore the UK's reputation after the political and financial turmoil of recent weeks.

Pray: for a government that looks after the most vulnerable, establishes a grip on the situations we face and acts wisely with the right motives and intentions. (Matthew 15:18-20)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/a-hindu-prime-minister-would-be-a-symbol-of-britain-s-religious-freedom-says-evangelical-alliance>

Europe

Ukraine: Situation report

Fighting and shelling continues in eastern and southern Ukraine, and strikes in other areas have caused additional destruction of civilian infrastructure and a large number of civilian deaths and injuries. The civilian toll has reached 14,000 confirmed deaths since the beginning of the war. Nearly 18 million people (40% of Ukraine's population) need humanitarian assistance, and the situation is expected to deteriorate further in the winter months. As villages and towns are being liberated from Russian occupation in Ukraine's ongoing counteroffensive, significant needs remain - and the Ukrainian advances may halt with the arrival of winter. Many communities still lack access to clean water, electricity, and mobile phone service. Many have limited food supplies. The clean-up and rebuilding effort will take some time. Pray for: The church and ministry networks across Ukraine and neighbouring countries who are mobilising to bring food, clothing, first aid and medicine; evacuation and temporary accommodation assistance; psychological and spiritual support; rebuilding damaged properties and preparing for winter.

Pray: for God to enable agencies to meet the needs of the 7 million internally displaced, the 7.2 million refugees in European countries and the 13 million stranded in affected areas. (Philippians 4:19)

More: <https://worldea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/WEA-Ukraine-Sitrep-October.pdf>

Europe: Heightened media repression

Russia's war waged against Ukraine has created devastating consequences for freedom of the press. Reporters have been killed and injured in the field and censorship not seen since the Soviet period's massive disinformation. Five journalists and media workers died from gunfire during the first month of Russia's offensive. The Russian military has targeted news sources in territories it occupies and bullies the local media to cooperate. The government has complete control of Russian news and extensive wartime censorship, blocking the media, and pursuing non-compliant journalists. Many are forced into exile. In 2021 Putin toughened the law, labelling the media as 'foreign agents'. This information control does not stop at Russia's borders. The Kremlin is imposing its version of the war on its neighbours, especially Belarus, where independent journalists have been persecuted since the 2020 controversial presidential election, and 20+ media workers languish in prison. ([Globally 59 journalists were killed and 524 imprisoned this year](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christians-urged-to-pray-for-the-media-as-59-journalists-killed-in-2022-alone-and-524-in-prison)). <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christians-urged-to-pray-for-the-media-as-59-journalists-killed-in-2022-alone-and-524-in-prison>

Pray: for the media outlets labelled 'extremist' to freely share content on social networks without being prosecuted, for truth to be reported and lies to be ignored. (Proverbs 11:3)

More: <https://rsf.org/en/region/europe-central-asia>

Worldwide

USA: Violent extremism before US election

A violent attack on Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's husband fractured his skull. He is recovering from surgery just a week before the midterm elections. A few hours later the government issued a bulletin warning of a 'heightened threat' of domestic violent extremism against candidates and election workers driven by individuals with 'ideological grievances'. Also, the US Department of Justice reported a man had pleaded guilty to making multiple phoned death threats against a Democratic congressman, stating he would come to Washington with a firearm. The political system is in a crucial moment. Republican and Democrat votes will determine who controls Congress next year. Republicans warn this is the last chance to put a check on Joe Biden's presidency. Democrats say American democracy is at stake because numerous Republican candidates refuse to accept 2020's election results. A violent wave is building. In the first three months of 2022, more than 1,800 incidents were documented.

Pray: for Capitol Police successfully to secure the homes of congressional legislators and protect the 435 Congress members travelling to and from Washington. (Isaiah 54:17a)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-63434960>

South Korea: Halloween horror

154 people were killed in a crush in South Korea's capital, Seoul. Twenty foreign nationals were among the dead, another 159 were injured. A jam of people developed as huge crowds gathered in a popular nightlife area for Halloween. Most victims were teenagers and adults in their 20s, the crush began in a narrow alley. A survivor said, 'Even if you stand still, someone pushes you from the front and someone from the back. Like a wave. I realised something was wrong. I managed to climb onto a high step. People were suffocating, screaming, getting squeezed, falling. There were just too many people. I was on the step just watching everything happening. They didn't know what to do and there was nothing I could do.' There was nothing anyone could have done to save others or themselves. Some victims were unidentified because they were below the age of 17 or without an adult ID.

Pray: for the physical and mental healing of everyone caught in the disaster and ask God to comfort all who have lost loved ones. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-63443868>

India: Diwali festival crowds die as bridge collapsed

Gujarat suspension cable foot bridge had been closed for refurbishment. Then a week after it re-opened during Diwali celebrations it collapsed, throwing hundreds into the water. 135, mostly women, children and elderly, died. Army, Navy, Airforce, NDRF and the Fire Brigade conducted a search operation to rescue people out of the Macchu river in the worst public safety tragedy to hit the country in recent years. As authorities investigate the incident, questions are being raised about how the narrow walkway collapsed and the role of Oreva, an electrical manufacturing company, tasked with maintaining the colonial-era structure. Nine people were arrested and are being investigated for culpable homicide charges. All are associated with Oreva and include two managers, two ticket clerks, two contractors and three security guards. Oreva was a clockmaker before diversifying into electronics. See also <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/01/india/india-gujarat-morbi-bridge-collapse-explainer-intl-hnk/index.html>

Pray: for any cheap shoddy labour, financial shortcuts or dishonest work contracts to be revealed and for the families of the bereaved to receive adequate government compensation. (Leviticus 19:15)

More: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/gujarat-bridge-collapse-prime-minister-modi-will-visit-morbi-on-tuesday/articleshow/95200673.cms>

Pakistan: News from Barnabas Aid

'With smiling faces they are praising God and giving thanks in their trials and sufferings,' reported a mission worker, describing Christians in the area worst affected by devastating floods in August and September. He was helping to distribute Barnabas-funded food, clean water and practical aid to remote Christian communities where no other aid had reached. Christian farmer, Chand, felt very blessed by God who had provided 'for His people through His people'. Pray that the joy of the Lord continues to be their strength during these trials. Praise God that Pakistan's Supreme Court has granted bail to three Christians accused of blasphemy. They were charged after distributing Christian literature and posting offensive material online. Pray that they will all now be acquitted or the cases against them dropped and pray for their protection from attack by zealous Muslims.

Pray: for God to strengthen the Barnabas Aid workers and all missionaries who are reaching out with God's love, and help where it is most needed. (Isaiah 40:31)

More: https://www.barnabasfund.org/resources/prayer-diary/2022/bfprayermov_dec22.pdf

Global: Governments change

Brazil's Lula da Silva's presidential election victory brings renewed hope for our largest rainforest as he pledged to combat climate change and reverse his predecessor's policies. Pray for Lula to keep his pledges to protect the Amazon. November 8th is the USA's midterm election day. Black, Hispanic, and young people are concerned about crime at [polling stations](https://globalextrémism.org/post/fear-and-elections/) (<https://globalextrémism.org/post/fear-and-elections/>). South Africa's new Zulu king (<https://www.voanews.com/a/south-africa-crowns-new-zulu-king-at-mega-party-6811154.html>), Misuzulu kaZwelithini, has been officially recognised as the head of the country's influential traditional monarchy by President Ramaphosa saying, 'You have picked up the mighty spear that fell. May your steady hand bring stability to AmaZulu kingship.' Pray that the new king and government unite to bring rural areas into prosperity. At the time of writing, Itamar Ben-Gvir, a fringe Palestinian-hating religious far-right extremist, will probably join Benjamin Netanyahu to form a far right coalition that would change the nature of Israel's [political system](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/1/far-right-ben-gvir-emerge-as-key-player-in-israel-election) (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/1/far-right-ben-gvir-emerge-as-key-player-in-israel-election>).

Pray: for city, state, and national political leaders to be filled with wisdom, understanding, discernment, and knowledge. Grant them favour from heaven to fulfil God's purposes. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

More: <https://www.prayerinstitute.com/prayer/a-prayer-for-leaders-in-government>

DRC: UN troops make 'strategic withdrawal'

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has withdrawn troops from the eastern military base of Rumungabo, ceding ground in the battle against the M23 rebel group. M23 resumed fighting and accused the DRC government of failing to honour an agreement to integrate its fighters into the army. The fresh clashes saw the rebel group make advances across North Kivu province. The loss of the key military base is a setback for DRC and a further blow to the security outlook in the conflict-hit east. Thousands remain displaced from the region. Kiwanja's fall is another humiliation for the government in Kinshasa. It raises serious questions, once again, as to how an extremely small rebellion can do this on their own. UN experts found solid evidence Rwanda had been providing military aid to M23 in eastern DRC. Rwanda's government has disputed the findings.

Pray: for the 90,000+ people who have fled their homes since fighting resumed on October 20th and for UN peacekeepers to stem the insecurity and chaos in the region. (Proverbs 11:14)

More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/2/un-peacekeepers-in-congo-make-strategic-withdrawal-from-key-military-base>

Ethiopia: Warring parties agree a 'permanent cessation of hostilities'

The Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) have agreed to permanently end hostilities, in a significant step toward ending the grinding war that has seen thousands killed, millions displaced, and millions more in urgent need of food assistance after two years of conflict. Tigray rebels will eventually 'disarm' and have agreed on a detailed program of disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration for the TPLF combatants, taking into account the security situation on the ground. There will be 'systematic, orderly, smooth and coordinated disarmament, restoration of services, unhindered access to humanitarian supplies, protection of civilians, especially women children and other vulnerable groups.' The peace process has been fitful until now. The African Union (AU) representative said, 'This is not the end of the peace process but the beginning of it.' An AU high-level partner will be tasked with monitoring, supervising and implementation.

Pray: for the international community to assist reconstruction in damaged areas in the north and do all to support the cessation of fighting to avoid a relapse. (Romans 12:17-21)

More: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/02/africa/ethiopia-cessation-hostilities-intl/index.html>

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