

Prayer Alert

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As you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6,7)

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

[Israel: reaching unreached people](#)

The Chosen People and the Promised Land of scripture are testaments to God's promises. Despite limited natural resources, Israelis have developed thriving agricultural and industrial sectors in under twenty years. Home to Christian, Muslim, and Jewish sites, Jerusalem has been conquered and reconquered for 3,000 years. The Old City reflects ancient rifts between Palestinian and Jewish communities. Freedom of religion is a right, but Messianic Jews struggle for political recognition. Christians are often harassed by Jews and Muslims alike. 75% of Israel follow Judaism, barely 2% Christianity, and the rest Islam. However, the gospel is spreading, interest in the Word of God is increasing; powerful testimonies by Christian Jews abound as they minister to their brothers and sisters in ways that others cannot. House churches grow as God empowers evangelical leaders to spread the good news that 'the Messiah has come and is coming back soon'.

Praise: God for the many Jewish people now calling on the name of Yeshua the Messiah. (John 14:4)

More: <https://prayercast.com/israel.html>

[Pastor camps for a year on rooftop](#)

Corey Brooks, founder of New Beginnings Church, is a leading voice in the fight against the violence gripping Chicago's poorest neighbourhoods. He camped on a makeshift rooftop for 365 days, raising over \$20m for a new community centre. He said, 'We talk about trying to remove violence, trying to remove poverty; this community centre will help people change their lives. Giving them a place to accept responsibility, start trying to do things for themselves and get on their feet. It's going to be a great place, teaching trades and business, giving counselling, a place for transformation.' He braved wet, windy, cold nights and big storms; his mother died of cancer and his daughter welcomed a baby. He continued camping through it all.

Praise: God for Pastor Brooks' achievement. May he be able to raise the \$15 still needed to complete the building without running into debt.

(Philippians 4:19)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/chicago-pastor-camps-out-for-365-days-on-a-rooftop-raising-over-16m-for-a-new-community-centre

[Colombia: gang blocks church, pastor preaches outside](#)

Asking permission to preach was necessary for Leonardo. Not asking could result in death from Colombian guerrillas or paramilitaries. Pastors are obstacles to guerrillas' political ambitions, as young Christians are no longer attracted to their violent lifestyles. One Sunday gangs stopped him outside the church saying, 'Today no church preaching!' So with a speaker and microphone he preached outdoors to young boys. Very quickly his outdoor church grew to 70 adults and 53 children. Most had never heard the gospel, but they soon found faith in Christ and were baptised. Now Leonardo is training several others to preach. It is dangerous to share the gospel so openly, but he knows God is with him.

Praise: God for persecuted Christians who are living and evangelising in some of the world's most difficult mission fields as the Holy Spirit leads them. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: www.persecution.com/stories/colombian-pastor-preaches-outside/

British Isles

Albanian migrants recruited to UK drug gangs

Albanian drug gangs use French migrant camps as recruitment grounds. They pay the passage for those prepared to work in the UK drugs industry on arrival. Senior police and immigration officials on both sides of the Channel are worried by the growing number of Albanian middlemen facilitating crossings. Albanians accounted for 1/3 of the people arriving in small boats this year. They have the right to enter France as EU tourists for up to three months without a visa., and are urged on by social media adverts promising help. Posing as an Albanian migrant, a journalist contacted two people-smugglers advertising for clients on TikTok. Both responded within half an hour, with options to pay in France or in England, and guidance for getting to Belgium or France, where a fixer would make contact. The message from both of them was 'It's easy'.

Pray: for governments, security agencies, police and immigration officials to effectively identify and prosecute the criminals operating Albanian cannabis and cocaine networks. (Psalm 11:5)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-63488070

Politicians call for a boost to RE

A report has found recruitment for secondary school RE teachers was 20% below the level required. A Westminster debate was called by Conservative MP Martin Vickers, as many schools deliver the bare minimum of religious education. During the debate Conservative MPs spoke highly of RE and urged the Government to do more to protect it. Stephen Morgan, the shadow education minister, was appalled over government failure to introduce a national plan for RE, saying that an education in religion and worldviews is an important part of the school curriculum. The debate highlighted the importance of RE and the need for more specialist teacher training and recruitment.

Pray: for all political parties to make firm commitments to increase the provision of religious education in every school. (Proverbs 22:6)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/politicians-call-for-a-national-plan-to-boost-religious-education

CofE bishops discuss gay marriage

A recent meeting of the College of Bishops discussed the next steps of the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) discernment process. LLF entails churches discussing whether to allow same-sex marriage in the CofE. One bishop, Steven Croft, published a 52-page essay on 3 November, detailing why he is calling for the Church to back same-sex marriage. It was suggested that when bishops engage with the media, they honour their pledge to be open about their diversity of perspectives. Some want the Church to be more inclusive with regards to same-sex marriage: others believe allowing gay marriage in Church would depart from Biblical teaching. Their debates will be brought to February's General Synod for decision-making.

Pray: for God's Church to be directed by Him in all decisions they make, and not to be damaged or divided. (1 Corinthians 6:9)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/church-of-england-denies-speculation-it-s-banned-bishops-from-speaking-publicly-on-gay-marriage

NHS delays and strikes

At the end of September, 401,537 patients had waited over 52 weeks to start treatment. The total number of people waiting for routine hospital treatment is a record high 7.1 million. NHS England and the government have set a goal of eliminating all waits of more than a year by March 2025 (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/nov/10/record-71m-people-england-waiting-nhs-hospital-treatment>). Meanwhile nurses are about to strike nationally, for the first time ever, sending up distress flares about the state of their service. The majority of NHS members voted to strike for fair pay and safe staffing. Strikes will be at NHS trusts or health boards which meet relevant legal requirements. Many of the biggest hospitals in England will see strike action by RCN members, but others narrowly missed the legal turnout thresholds to qualify for action. Nurses worry they cannot care as they should (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/08/nurses-strike-pay-health-nhs-government>).

Pray: for the Government to negotiate an agreement that keeps hold of precious NHS staff and avoids the health service coming to a winter standstill that makes waiting lists longer. (Isaiah 61:8)

More: www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-nhs-nursing-strikes-2022-rcn-strike-ballot-results-released-091122

Just Stop Oil - serious protests

Just Stop Oil protesters demand climate change action. Their protests cover fossil fuels, renewable energy investment, and better building insulation to avoid energy waste. To make their point, they have thrown soup at National Gallery paintings, tried to disrupt Britain's Formula 1 Grand Prix, and closed the M25 using 'nonviolent civil resistance'. Dealing with these protests is extremely difficult for the authorities, despite arrests and court action. Just Stop Oil said it will demonstrate every day until their demand for no new oil or gas in the UK is met. A bill is currently going through Parliament to grant powers to prosecute someone interfering with the operation or use of key national public services on roads, railways, or air transport infrastructures. Since October the police have dedicated 10,000 officers to policing them, officers who would otherwise be dealing with local offences such as knife crime, safeguarding, or burglaries.

Pray: for new government legislation to successfully prevent dangerous disruption to people's lives. (Deuteronomy 16:20)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63543307

Justin Welby supports youth at COP27

The Archbishop of Canterbury has encouraged young climate activists attending the COP27 conference in Egypt. In a message posted on Twitter, Justin Welby said, 'You're the ones who are the future of this extraordinary planet, because you'll inherit it. So it is essential that you're included in the conversation on climate change, and that you take part actively. Your call for action must be listened to, by the most powerful'. Leaders from poor countries criticised wealthy governments and oil companies for driving global warming, using their speeches to demand that they pay up for damages being inflicted on their economies.

Pray: for world leaders, policymakers and delegates to recognise they must adjust their behaviour and end the delays in reducing carbon. (Jeremiah 2:7)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/your-call-for-action-must-be-listened-to-by-the-most-powerful-justin-welby-sends-message-of-support-to-young-people-attending-cop-27

Retailers' Christmas adverts

Christmas adverts have started on TV conjuring up sentimentality, nostalgia, and joy. But as the cost of living soars, some have opted for a more muted approach to campaigning this year. John Lewis's advert, featuring a foster family, was less about buying things and more about kindness to someone else who might need it. But some retail experts warned scenes of bountiful buffets in other ads were out of touch as families struggle with rising prices. Tesco and Lidl have both put an emphasis on price and affordability in their messaging, at a time when many families are facing rising grocery bills. 'There clearly is a more muted tone this year, which is fitting for the time we're going through,' said a spokesperson for Mintel.

Pray: for retailers to be in touch with the struggling families wanting to present a traditional Christmas experience. (Colossians 3:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-63544312

Europe

Ukraine: Russia withdrawing from Kherson

Russia has ordered its military to pull out of Kherson, the only regional capital it has captured since invading Ukraine. Russia will entirely leave the western bank of Dnipro River, saying it wasn't possible to continue supplying the city. Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky said his country is moving 'very carefully' in response to the announcement, fearing a Russian trap.

Pray: for Russia's military to continue to retreat, and for Ukraine to receive all that is needed from the international community to reclaim all stolen land completely. (Ecclesiastes 3:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/world-63576212

Germany and Europe: infrastructure protection

Attacks on Nord Stream gas pipelines, on Poland's Druzhba pipeline (the most important oil pipeline from Russia to Western Europe), on submarine cables in France and the north Atlantic, and on the German railway show the need for increased protection of critical infrastructure. Loss of energy has extreme and immediate consequences for homes and industry. Three of the four Nord Stream pipelines, damaged by saltwater infiltration, are probably no longer usable. There have already been cyber-attacks on wind farms, and access to coal-fired power plants is being blocked by extremists. Most recently Russia damaged 1/3rd of Ukraine's power plants. Germany has allowed a Chinese shipping company to enter the port of Hamburg, giving China access to sensitive European maritime traffic information.

Pray: for the maintenance of basic services, protection from military/nuclear escalation, for planned attacks on energy systems to come to light in advance and thwarted. (Job 34:21-24)

More: sway.office.com/5i9J4UhPYZDp4wR5

Ukraine: survivors' agony as mass graves found

1,500+ new graves have been dug at a mass burial site near Mariupol in Ukraine. Over 4,600 graves have been dug there since the beginning of the war. Officials believe at least 25,000 people were killed in fighting there, and 5,000-7,000 died after their homes were bombed. Witnesses have seen Russian authorities removing bodies from destroyed buildings and taking them away for burial, over 1,500 according to new satellite images. From the start of the war Mariupol, a strategic target, was pounded relentlessly from the air and from the ground. Pray for the thousands of survivors who have now escaped the city, but do not know where their families' bodies are. Pray for those unable to get that information, and pray for those who suspect their loved ones are still buried beneath the rubble of their houses.

Pray: for those trying to find a place to bury a relative when all the mortuaries are full. Pray for those suffering from the horrors of war, death, mental and physical suffering. (Isaiah 43:2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-63536564

Worldwide

Iran: family fears for rapper's life

'Someone's crime was that her hair was flowing in the wind. Someone's crime was that he or she was brave and outspoken.' These lyrics could cost Iranian rap artist Toomaj Salehi his life. The underground rebel rapper was arrested and faces a death penalty. 14,000 Iranians have been arrested since September when an Iranian woman died after being detained by 'morality police' for not wearing her hijab properly. Salehi's uncle had a phone call from his friend saying 'Our whereabouts have been leaked'. Later fifty people raided Salehi's residence. He is accused of propagandist activity against the government, cooperation with hostile governments, and forming illegal groups to create insecurity in the country. His uncle has information he was tortured. He said, 'We still do not know anything about Salehi's health condition, or if he is alive'. Pray for the family.

Pray: for the uprising in Iran to achieve its goals and bring an end to the abrasive laws. (Ephesians 5:11)

More: edition.cnn.com/2022/11/06/middleeast/iranian-rapper-arrested-intl/index.html

Global: 'highway to climate hell'

UN chief António Guterres warned the COP27 summit that humanity must cooperate or perish. He warned world leaders, 'We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator.' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/science-environment-63330171> Rishi Sunak said the war in Ukraine and rising energy prices globally are no reason to go slow on climate change. They are reasons to act faster. Boris Johnson and Emmanuel Macron also urged world leaders to deliver climate justice. The UN said progress on cutting global warming emissions has been 'woefully inadequate' since COP26 last year. The planet has warmed 1.1C since pre-industrial times. Scientists say rises must only be 1.5C by 2100 to avoid the worst effects. Continuing current policies would cause a higher rise of 2.8C.

Pray: for the poor countries needing financial compensation from rich countries responsible for most emissions. (Lamentations 3:22-24)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63548466

USA: rare November tropical storm

Hurricane Nicole hit Florida on 10 November with 70 mph winds before being downgraded to a tropical storm. States of emergency remain, and evacuation orders are in place, with heavy rain and storm surges forecast. Nicole, which had also lashed Grand Bahama Island, will soon strike Georgia, South Carolina, and possibly other states. Storms of this size so late in the year are extremely rare: since 1853 Florida has only been hit twice. 45 of the state's 67 counties are under a state of emergency, and four counties are under mandatory evacuation orders. Over 100,000 customers are without power. Orlando airport grounded commercial operations.

Pray: for the rescue and recovery workers to reach everyone who needs help and for the safety of all under evacuation orders. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-63499056

Pakistan: political dangers

After an assassination attempt on ex-PM Imran Khan, the born-again Muslim, a political battle between him, the civilian government, and its military backers is spilling onto the streets. Khan is campaigning for snap elections and his return to power. The flurry of accusations, questions, and investigations after he had been shot in the leg does not bode well for political and social stability in the world's fifth most populous country, the only nuclear-armed Islamic republic. Within 24 hours of being shot, the physically fit 70-year-old went on camera to deny that he was the target of a lone-wolf attack; rather, he blamed it on a plot hatched by PM Shehbaz Sharif, the internal security minister, and a senior military intelligence officer. Without offering any proof, he demanded they all resign and encouraged his supporters to keep protesting. Pakistan has lost many leaders whose killings have never been properly investigated.

Pray: for this volatile situation to calm, and for peace to reign on the streets. (Daniel 8:25)

More: www.gzeromedia.com/after-imran-khan-attack-pakistans-fatal-political-threesome-escalates

Uganda: schools close due to Ebola

Uganda's education minister has decided to shut all types of schools from 25 November after 23 Ebola cases were confirmed among pupils and eight children died. The virus circulating in Uganda is the Sudan strain of Ebola, for which there is no proven vaccine, unlike the more common Zaire strain which spread during recent outbreaks in neighbouring DR Congo. Ebola is spread through bodily fluids; common symptoms are fever, vomiting, bleeding and diarrhoea. Outbreaks are difficult to contain, especially in urban settings. Ebola generally kills about half the people it infects. The decision to close all schools came because densely packed classrooms were making students highly vulnerable to infection. On 5 November the three-week lockdown on Mubende and Kassanda districts, which are at the centre of the outbreak, was extended. The measures include dusk-to-dawn curfews, banning personal travel, and closing markets, bars and churches.

Pray: for successful clinical trials of vaccines to combat the Sudan strain of Ebola. (Ecclesiastes 7:12)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/8/uganda-to-close-schools-early-after-eight-children-die-of-ebola

Haiti / Mexico: killing journalists

Fritz Dorilas is the eighth journalist killed this year in Haiti. There is surging gang violence, political instability and targeted attacks on the media. The capital's increasingly powerful criminal gangs battle for control in a political vacuum after President Moïse's assassination. Haiti has security and humanitarian crises after weeks-long blockades on key petrol terminals caused electricity and water shortages that exacerbated already-high rates of hunger. His killing came shortly after Romelison Vilsaint died during a Port-au-Prince protest when police threw tear gas and opened fire on journalists demanding the release of a colleague. Mexico has been plagued by journalists' killings since the government's war on cartels began. It is one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a journalist: 13 had been killed by the end of August. A web of violence, corruption and impunity has plagued Mexico and despite government efforts to protect journalists, [the situation has worsened](https://www.aljazeera.com/program/fault-lines/2022/11/9/silenced-the-killing-of-journalists-in-mexico) (<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/fault-lines/2022/11/9/silenced-the-killing-of-journalists-in-mexico>).

Pray: for governments to protect journalists who are trying to bring the truth to light. (Ephesians 4:25a)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/9/another-journalist-killed-in-haiti-as-violence-continues

Nigeria: religious freedom

Mubarak Bala, an outspoken Nigerian atheist, was sentenced to 24 years in prison after pleading guilty to blaspheming Islam. The landmark case placed freedom of religion and expression under new scrutiny. A BBC Africa documentary entitled 'The cost of being an atheist' revealed the challenges which atheists face regarding freedom of speech and thought. Many disengage from social media activities because emotions and outrage are high. Once people discover someone is not a Muslim, they target them. Despite being a minority atheists face discrimination, harassment and persecution in the Muslim north and also in the Christian south.

Pray: for the government to restore freedom of religion across north and south Nigeria. (Matthew 7:5)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-africa-63496455

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