

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 45-2022 | Friday 18 November 2022
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See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1a)

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

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Praise Reports

[Bible translation accelerating](#)

It has been another year of remarkable progress in Bible translation activity. Many areas of the work have seen significant acceleration. We see the favour and hand of God on translation projects and teams, enabling them to help create a world where everyone can know Jesus through the Bible. The number of language programmes that Bible translation teams are working on has seen its biggest leap on record, with new programmes starting at a rate of one per day. Also, Bibles and New Testaments have been launched at a rate of almost one per week. There is so much to be thankful for and be encouraged by. More people have God's word in their language. More languages have a Bible than ever before. More languages have a New Testament than ever before. All this means that God's word is available to millions of people in their own languages for the first time.

Praise: God for the work of Bible translation, enabling more individuals and communities to be transformed by the life-changing message of Jesus. (Psalm 99:3)

More: wycliffe.org.uk/home/resources/state-of-the-bible/

[Tearfund: helping the needy](#)

Tearfund works tirelessly to help communities escape the very worst effects of poverty and disaster. They believe that the same people facing these troubles also have the best ideas about the ways they can overcome them. So Tearfund listens and then helps people to utilise their resourcefulness and determination to overcome their circumstances. When disaster strikes, Tearfund and its local partners are usually already present, hard at work in those very places. They have been responding to emergencies since 1968, working alongside local churches and Christian organisations wherever possible. They know the people, they know the problems and so often they can see simple, inexpensive solutions.

Praise: God for the work of Tearfund and all it does to help communities hit by disasters to rebuild and then become more prepared and resilient should disaster strike again. (Psalm 109:30)

More: www.dec.org.uk/charity/tearfund

British Isles

Autumn Statement: tax increases for everyone

After a wild few months in the UK economy, the Government wants to raise more money to cover a big black hole in its accounts. Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor, has said everyone must pay more tax. Meanwhile, a group of economists have questioned whether the 'black hole' in public finances must be filled with austerity and tax rises. They said that the £50bn hole entirely disappears if debts [are calculated differently](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-63573989) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-63573989>). When Rishi Sunak was chancellor two years ago, he used a different accountancy rule to arrive at a government debt figure. Changing it back to what it was before the 2021 Autumn Statement completely removes the black hole, according to the economists' analysis, and will put government debt back on a sustainable footing. Pray for Jeremy Hunt and all members of the treasury to be wise regardless of the accountancy rules they choose to follow.

Pray: for this statement to tackle successfully the cost of living crisis and rebuild the economy. (James 1:5)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-63591754

Autumn Statement: protecting the poorest

The Chancellor announced targeted payments to help with the cost of living. The national wage will jump from £9.50 to £10.42 an hour from April; help for energy bills will be extended, but less generous. There will be cost of living support for pensioners, the disabled, and those on low incomes. Means-tested benefits, including Universal Credit, and pensions will rise in line with inflation. Social sector rent rises will be capped at 7% in the next financial year. However, the cap on social care costs due next October will be delayed by two years. A 'temporary' 45% tax on companies generating electricity will be applied from January, and windfall taxes on oil and gas company's profits will increase from 25% to 35% and extend until 2028. The NHS budget will increase in each of the next two years by an extra £3.3bn, and schools will receive £2.3bn extra in 2023 and 2024.

Pray: for the many people facing the rising costs of energy and food to be adequately helped by the latest budget, and financial projections designed to tackle escalating prices. (Proverbs 19:17)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cljev4jz3pjt

Migrants given diphtheria jabs

Migrants at the Manston Airport detention centre are to be vaccinated against diphtheria after dozens of cases were confirmed. Diphtheria is contagious, infecting the nose, throat and sometimes the skin, and can be fatal. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is working closely with the Home Office at the reception centre, where there are cases of diphtheria and other infections, including one unaccompanied child [who had scabies](https://inews.co.uk/news/manston-asylum-centre-dover-boy-scabies-up-all-night-inhumane-conditions-1943984) (<https://inews.co.uk/news/manston-asylum-centre-dover-boy-scabies-up-all-night-inhumane-conditions-1943984>). The UKHSA said accommodation settings should be considered 'high-risk for infectious diseases with a high prevalence of toxigenic diphtheria infection' and endorsed mass antibiotic prophylaxis and mass vaccination. Antibiotics and diphtheria vaccination are being offered to everyone at the centre and all who have moved on to hostels recently'. A national briefing was also sent to NHS staff to highlight 'the importance of early diagnoses.

Pray: for the Home Office and the NHS to stop these diseases in their tracks and manage safer migrant environments. (Jeremiah 30:17)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-63608414

Legal action against council over prayer ban

Birmingham City Council issued a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to deter people from gathering outside an abortion clinic with placards and pictures to protect patients from being harassed and intimidated when entering. 40 Days for Life Birmingham are concerned as the order makes it illegal to pray outside the clinic. They are taking the council to court, saying, 'Through this action, we are not asking anyone to agree with what we believe; others have the right to disagree. We ask for justice, despite our different beliefs. It is disproportionate and unnecessary to ban prayer connected to abortion in an area near a Catholic church and to ban the words "baby" or "mum" in text or imagery.' The PSPO comes after the Government voted for nationwide 'buffer zones' outside abortion clinics. Anyone breaching them faces up to six months in jail for a first offence and up to two years for several offences.

Pray: for a public consultation which includes council, doctors, abortion clinics, and pro-lifers to ascertain what is accurate and legal. (Micah 6:8)

More: gatewaynews.co.za/legal-action-brought-against-birmingham-city-council-over-prayer-ban-outside-abortion-clinic/

Bird flu: birds of sea, land, and air

Avian flu has brought devastation to our wild and sea birds. From Cornwall to Scotland, gannets, terns, gulls and puffins have died in thousands as the deadly disease spread through breeding colonies. Cases in farmers' flocks, too, have risen exponentially. Last year's annual record was quickly exceeded as a new, more lethal strain emerged. Thousands of poultry birds, including many turkeys, have been culled. This disease, devastating for farmers, veterinary, other staff and businesses, adds pressure to public and private finances. As it becomes commonplace, like bovine TB in cattle and wildlife, it has the potential to harm people. Hosea warns, 'Therefore the land mourns and all who live in it languish; together with the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing'. (Hosea 4:3). Pray for farmers and others on the frontline tackling it.

Pray: for the hearts of people to awake, and for leaders to take heed, speak out the warning, and turn back to the Lord. Cry mercy from the Lord on our land and all who dwell here. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

More: hopeforthecountryside.uk/seedssofarprayer/

Bird flu: supermarkets ration eggs

Asda is limiting customers to two boxes of eggs and Lidl is allowing three, due to rising costs and bird flu. Waitrose is monitoring customer demand. The UK is facing its largest-ever bout of this highly pathogenic disease. When there is a confirmed outbreak on a poultry or egg farm, all birds in the area are destroyed. The outbreak is compounding existing shortages as producers cut back on output or leave the industry due to increased costs. Russia's invasion of Ukraine raised farmers' energy bills and the costs of chicken feed, hens and packaging. There are 36.7 million egg-laying birds nationally, but there is capacity for over 44 million. Also, retailers are not paying farmers a fair price. The price of twelve supermarket eggs has risen by 50p, but farmers only saw a price rise of 5p to 10p.

Pray: for all retailers to increase the price they pay to farmers to allow them to make a profit rather than mass destocking or leaving the industry. (Isaiah 61:8a)

More: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/11/17/supermarkets-ration-eggs-customers/

UK is 'turning its back on the world'

Christian Aid says rich countries are not doing enough to fight the pandemic. They have ranked twenty rich countries' efforts to support rolling out Covid-19 vaccines globally. The worst nation is India; the UK is the second worst. Christian Aid said that the richest countries have a responsibility to improve global access to Covid vaccines, tests, and treatments, given their wealth and high vaccination rates. Governments financed research and development of these products and should not leave pharmaceutical companies to monopolise supply and price. But, amid a collision of international crises, the UK is turning its back on the world and undermining efforts to produce more vaccines, tests, and treatments in lower-income countries. By holding back the global pandemic response, the UK is hemorrhaging moral authority amongst international partners. Only one in three people in Africa - under one in four in low-income countries worldwide - have completed a course of vaccinations.

Pray: for a world where everyone who wants access to a Covid-19 vaccine will receive it. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-aid-accuses-the-uk-of-turning-its-back-on-the-world-in-covid-vaccine-roll-out

Europe

France / UK: English Channel crossings

Britain and France have now agreed to unite to stop illegal migrants from crossing the Channel. Interior minister Suella Braverman said Britain faced an 'invasion' from people in small boats, saying, 'It is in the interests of the UK and French governments to solve this problem together. There are no quick fixes, but this arrangement means we can have more gendarmes patrolling French beaches and ensure UK and French officers work hand in hand to stop people smugglers.' There will be 40% more UK-funded officers patrolling French beaches in the next five months. A task force will focus on reversing the rise in Albanian nationals and organised crime groups exploiting illegal routes. British officers will work in French-led control rooms and on the ground to improve coordination and intelligence sharing. There will be drones, detection dog teams, CCTV, and helicopters to help discover and prevent crossings, plus reception and removal centres in France to prevent journeys to the UK of economic migrants.

Pray: for this investment to discourage and deter dangerous journeys. (1 Peter 3:8)

More: www.reuters.com/world/britain-france-sign-migrant-deal-monday-2022-11-14/

Ukraine / Russia: grain Initiative

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, a major exporter of grain, led to the blocking of all grain shipments until an agreement called the Black Sea Grain Initiative was signed in Istanbul between Ukraine, Russia and the UN. This agreement will expire on 19 November unless renewed. Renewal negotiations were being facilitated by the UN throughout October until the 29th, when a drone attack on Russian naval ships prompted Russia to suspend participation. Talks resumed on 2 November, with hopes to extend the agreement for a year. On 17 November Ukraine's minister of infrastructure said the initiative would be prolonged, but only for 120 days.

Pray: for global food security to be strengthened for the developing world, and for all parties to agree to extend the 120 days' limit to end ongoing uncertainties. (Ephesians 4:3)

More: lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1143013/Black-Sea-Grain-Initiative-renewed

Worldwide

Israel: Netanyahu to form government

The veteran politician has the official mandate to form a new government, paving the way for his comeback as the head of what is widely expected to be the most right-wing coalition in the country's history. However, the 73-year-old promised to serve all Israelis, 'those who voted for us and those who did not - it is my responsibility'. After unprecedented political gridlock forced five elections in under four years, Netanyahu's Likud party and its ultraorthodox and ultranationalist allies received a clear majority in parliament. He must now build a coalition with his allies and quickly wrap up the negotiations. His next moves will be closely scrutinised as unease mounts in some quarters over his policy plans and the goals of his controversial governing partners. Violence has soared between Israel and the Palestinians recently, causing the deadliest period in years in the West Bank, with near-daily army raids and increased attacks on Israelis.

Pray: for all changes to be according to God's just principles and purposes. (Psalm 125:2)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/13/israels-netanyahu-tapped-to-form-next-government

Global: G20 summit

World leaders met for the annual G20 on 15-16 November, intending to discuss global economic plans. On the second day Volodymyr Zelenskiy presented proposals for a 'Ukrainian formula for peace' which was followed up on his telegram channel. He said, 'Ukraine has always been a leader in peacekeeping efforts, and the world has seen it. If Russia says it supposedly wants to end this war, let it prove it with actions. We will not allow Russia to wait, build up its forces, and then start a new series of terror and global destabilisation. There will be no Minsk-3, which Russia will violate immediately after the agreement. There is a Ukrainian formula for peace for Ukraine, Europe and the world, and a set of solutions, when implemented, really guarantee peace. Ukraine offers the leading states of the world to be co-creators of peace together with us.'

Pray: for the G20 leaders to get behind the proposals and for the UN Charter to be implemented, so that Russian troops withdraw, hostilities end, and the war finishes. (Romans 14:19)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/live/2022/nov/15/g20-summit-2022-live-updates-bali-ukraine-volodymyr-zelenskiy-to-address-world-leaders

India: prayer needs

India's religious diversity is under threat from the spread of religious intolerance as well as government policies and laws. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh arm of the BJP promotes a Hindu nationalist agenda and is dividing communities on religious grounds, leaving the nation's religious minorities unsettled about their future. Pray for India's government today: transform their hearts to treat every individual and community with respect and to protect their right to freedom of religion or belief. Pray also that the appointment of India's first president from an indigenous community, President Draupadi Murmu, will bring positive changes for all India's indigenous communities. Heavenly Father, we pray for Your protection over all the nation's religious minorities. We pray that those in power will respect and acknowledge the right of everyone to freedom of religion or belief. Where there is unrest, bring peace, and where there is persecution, we ask for impartiality.

Pray: for the leaders and policymakers to be committed to law and order, for peaceful resolutions where there are differences of opinions, and for justice in law courts. (Leviticus 19:15)

More: www.csw.org.uk/2022/11/11/prayer/5850/article.htm

Qatar: World Cup prayer request

Christians in Qatar are inviting the global church to join with them in praying for a move of the Holy Spirit during the World Cup, which begins on 20 November. The country is number 18 on the World Watch List. Although foreign Christians can worship in relative freedom, Qatari Christians are forbidden from having their own churches or even entering a church. Converts can also face extreme pressure from their family and community. Despite these challenges, the church in Qatar is growing - and there is the expectation that it will continue to do so during the World Cup. 'We're expecting a big move of the Holy Spirit during the World Cup,' says a church leader for expats and migrant workers. 'We already see the move of the Holy Spirit in Qatar. God is visiting people in their dreams. God is doing miracles. God is doing healings among the Qatari people.'

Pray: for God to bring changes so that Qatar grows towards being a place where locals and foreigners can live like Christ wants them to live, with no fear of repercussions. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

More: www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/qatar-world-cup/

China: protests continue despite restrictions

Despite increasingly repressive rule under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), dissent occurs regularly and is geographically widespread, according to a new analysis by Freedom House. It recorded 668 instances of dissent in China from June to September, as people spoke out against stalled housing projects, labour rights violations, fraud, Covid policies, and state violence, among other grievances. The analysis found that ¼ of cases involving people who engaged in dissent faced authorities' reprisals - including violence, intimidation, detention, and censorship - illustrating CCP's efforts to restrict organised collective action. Contrary to what China wants the world to believe, individuals throughout the country are standing up to Beijing's machine of censorship and repression to make their voices heard. More Chinese are courageously exercising their fundamental rights to free expression and assembly. Some are achieving concessions from private companies and local officials, which is troubling to the increasingly oppressive party.

Pray: for protests and social media to achieve justice in the face of fraud, clashes, corruption, disputed land rights, banking scandals and state violence. (Zechariah 7:9)

More: freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/CDMNov2022FINAL_0.pdf

North Korea: prayer needs

Pyeongyang, North Korea's capital, once called 'Jerusalem of the East,' can no longer claim that title as the Juche doctrine is now its religion, with the Kims as its deities. Christian church information is limited. It survives as an underground church where meetings are held in secret. If members are caught, they will go to prison or a labour camp. Intense media control means that few North Koreans have heard the name of Jesus. The government dictates people's lifestyle through generic provisions and limiting personal differences. Much of North Korea is underdeveloped., and natural disasters and military spending have strapped the economy. In the past fifteen years, two million people have died due to food shortages. The country relies on foreign aid to feed its people. North Korea is accused of torture, slavery, public executions, forced abortions, infanticides, as well as detaining possibly as many as 200,000 political prisoners.

Pray: for God to deliver a nation long enslaved by a brutal regime, for the Church to persevere and multiply, for an end to persecution, and for the truth to replace brainwashing. (John 8:32)

More: prayercast.com/north-korea.html

Somalia: drought and deaths

11-year-old Dahir's brother died of hunger. His two sisters are fighting sickness and malnutrition caused by drought. Authorities want the international community to recognise the crisis as a famine. 'I'm worried about my sisters. I wash them. I wash their faces', says Dahir, glancing at six-year-old Mariam, coughing hoarsely and complaining of headache, and four-year-old Malyun, lethargic with sunken eyes. Measles and pneumonia are rampant, killing many younger children with immune systems weakened by malnutrition. At hospitals' intensive care wards, doctors and nurses insert fluid drips into emaciated infants' arms and oxygen tubes into tiny nostrils. Children's limbs are dark and blistered as if severely burnt - a painful reaction to prolonged starvation. The hospital's head doctor said, 'The world is paying attention to Somalia's drought now. We see visitors from international donors. But that doesn't mean we are getting enough support. I hope it will come soon. It is a desperate situation.'

Pray: for relief to reach those seeking medicine, food, water and safety from al-Shabab. (Psalm 40:17)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-63597221

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Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with

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