

# Prayer Alert

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[www.prayer-alert.net](http://www.prayer-alert.net) | [editor@prayer-alert.net](mailto:editor@prayer-alert.net)

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**My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in Your deliverance. (1 Samuel 2:1)**

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!

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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

### [Qatar: World Cup players dedicate goals to God](#)

Ecuador, one of four Latin American teams in the 2022 World Cup, is drawing attention not only for its impressive start to the tournament but also for the way the players are celebrating their goals. On 20 November former West Ham player Enner Valencia scored twice, securing the win against host team Qatar. Both goals were dedicated to God as the players came together to form a circle and fall to their knees before pointing and looking up to the sky to celebrate. It is understood most of the team's players are Christians, with several videos on social media showing them praying before each match.

Praise: God for this Christian display of thanks and giving glory to God in a strict Islamic nation. (Psalm 150:2)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/world-cup-ecuador-s-players-dedicate-all-goals-to-god](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/world-cup-ecuador-s-players-dedicate-all-goals-to-god)

### [Letitia Wright talks about Jesus](#)

BAFTA actress Letitia Wright, who has starred in Black Panther, Doctor Who, and Black Mirror, is also vocal about her faith in a devotional YouVersion Bible app. She posted about her faith on Instagram and has turned down certain roles in her career. In an interview, she explained how her faith sustains her in her career and that she had temporarily stopped acting for a few months to focus on God. She said that her faith in Christ has kept her alive, but some people advise her to keep it to herself. 'I've had people tell me to stop talking about Jesus and to keep things private that the world may not agree with. I'm not trying to force anything on anyone. I'm sharing my truth because I probably wouldn't have been able to cope without Jesus. If someone saves you and brings light and love into your life, you want to share that, not hide it.'

Praise: God for the truthful and honest expressions of faith Letitia continues to express in her life and career. (Romans 1:16)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/letitia-wright-i-ve-had-people-tell-me-you-should-stop-talking-about-jesus](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/letitia-wright-i-ve-had-people-tell-me-you-should-stop-talking-about-jesus)

## British Isles

### [Christian climate activists](#)

Christian climate activists have been protesting at Church House, Westminster, to highlight the Church of England's strategy of continuing to invest in fossil fuels. They also left handprints of fake blood and oil on the walls of offices of BAE Systems, Britain's arms manufacturer, to protest against their policy of supplying weaponry to conflicts; this increases the vulnerability of people living on the front lines of climate change. These actions follow the conclusion of COP27, which is being widely criticised for the presence of representatives from oil and gas companies. The activists believe the Church should show moral leadership in rejecting profits from investments in companies that continue to fuel climate suffering. Also, behind government decisions to double down on fossil fuel development (sign off new oil exploration licences and allow big energy companies to rake in record profits) lies a network of companies and organisations which are profiting from this destructive path.

Pray: for the Church and the nation to recognise the need to act and speak out against systems and organisations that are accelerating climate change. (Psalm 106:3)

More: [christianclimateaction.org/category/news/](https://christianclimateaction.org/category/news/)

### Bank fraud victims

Police are texting 70,000 people, warning them that they may have been victims of a banking scam in the UK's biggest anti-fraud operation. The Met have charged a Londoner with running an international service of fake phone calls to victims, who have lost thousands of pounds. Detectives only have victims' phone numbers and are asking people to act if they receive their messages. Police commissioner Sir Mark Rowley said the proactive counter-fraud investigations involved 'industrialised fraud'. There could be 200,000 UK victims of fraudsters pretending to be a bank and warning of suspicious activity on their accounts. A London address is the centre of fraud on a global scale. Police have the numbers of victims but not their names and addresses. Genuine messages from police were sent on 24 or 25 November, directing victims to register at the Police Action Fraud website. Texts on any other day should be regarded as fraudulent.

Pray: for every criminal in this organisation to be located and convicted, and for victims to have recompense. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63736573](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63736573)

### UK: femicide

A femicide census of men's fatal violence against women during 2019 and 2020 found that, overall, men are killing one woman every three days in the UK. Between 8% and 12% of these killings were by strangers; all other femicide was by men who were current or former partners. These killings by a person known to the woman revealed appalling police failings. The organisation Counting Dead Women reported that the number of women killed by a male in 2021 is higher than the numbers in 2019 and 2020. They say this may increase when they receive responses to their FOI requests to the police. It remains unknown what is behind the increase, but the organisation will be paying close attention to intimate partner femicides and the role of separation. Despite acres of news coverage, politicians' statements, and tweaks to the laws, the femicide figures remain unchanged.

Pray: for agencies, police and the justice systems to recognise the danger to women when domestic violence, abuse and separation violence are present in a relationship. (Ecclesiastes 3:17)

More: [www.femicidecensus.org/men-still-killing-one-woman-every-three-days-in-uk-we-need-deeds-not-words/](https://www.femicidecensus.org/men-still-killing-one-woman-every-three-days-in-uk-we-need-deeds-not-words/)

### Bishop defends seal of the confessional - even for abuse

Bishop Paul Mason, the lead bishop for safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales, has defended the seal of the confessional even when a priest may hear disclosures of abuse. He said this after the biannual plenary meeting of bishops where a report by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) recommended that failure to report a disclosure of child sexual abuse should be a criminal offence, including disclosures made in the confessional. Bishop Mason said that it's an extremely sensitive and difficult area, and IICSA noted that they didn't come across priests who have described having had a paedophile in the Confessional. Bishop Paul said if we do have contact with these people, we have an opportunity to turn their lives around and report themselves to the authorities.

Pray: for God to convict those who perpetrate violence; may they confess their sins, have their lives turned around, and may God's presence cover and heal all victims of abuse. (John 16:8)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/catholic-bishop-defends-seal-of-the-confessional-even-for-abuse-disclosures](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/catholic-bishop-defends-seal-of-the-confessional-even-for-abuse-disclosures)

### Salvation season

From Passion for the Nation: "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields; they are already white for harvest" (John 4:35). We thank You, Father God, for every promise given to us for revival and awakening, and for those who have already come to know You. We thank You, Lord, for anointing us to preach good tidings to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and open the prison to those who are bound (Isaiah 61:1). We pray for a new season of evangelism, and for your people to see what You see. Raise up those who will speak to individuals and the crowds, and strategic evangelistic programmes. In this Christmas season, we pray God's word will be spoken with boldness and clarity, sensitivity and wisdom, and the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be heard. We speak the revelation of Jesus into the lives of individuals, families, communities and cultures.'

Pray: for the Christmas season to be a season of harvest as the spirit of revival covers this land with salvation, Jesus-centred conversations, and prophetic encounters. (Psalm 85:6)

More: [passionforthenation.uk/salvations/](https://passionforthenation.uk/salvations/)

### Tens of thousands of homes unsafe

After a coroner ruled the death of toddler Awaab Ishak was caused by exposure to mould at his home, housing secretary Michael Gove said that tens of thousands of homes are 'not in the state they should be in'. The government has now stripped the housing association involved, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH), of £1m in expected funding. Mr Gove said, 'We are not giving money to organisations that are operating incompetently.' Two-year-old Awaab died from a respiratory condition caused by the social housing he was living in. His family repeatedly raised concerns about mould with RBH, but no action was taken. Mr Gove said the Government 'should have moved faster' to improve things for social housing tenants in the immediate aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire. Legislation in 2023 would give additional powers to housing authorities and ensure the voices of tenants were 'heard more clearly'.

Pray: for housing providers who fail to address safety and quality concerns to be recognised, blocked from government funding, and compelled to make improvements. (Jeremiah 22:3)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63739367](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63739367)

## Scotland: schools shut

Scotland's first national school strike since the 1980s has taken place, with a one-day walkout over pay by teaching staff at primary and secondary schools, and also at many council nurseries. A revised pay offer was rejected. Education secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said that the employers' offer was fair, with rises up to 6.85% for the lowest-paid. Finding the money to give unions a 10% pay rise would mean some very hard choices for councils and the Scottish government. Teachers said they are asking for 10% to keep salaries in line with inflation - currently 11%. They are feeling the squeeze from this cost-of-living crisis. They think that they are working way beyond their 35-hour week, and the long holiday comes nowhere near making up for the amount of working hours put into the job. Many work during the holidays preparing for the next term. They find their job stressful, and feel the pay isn't fit for purpose.

Pray: for adequate time and money to be invested in children's education and Scotland's future. (Proverbs 16:16)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63734668](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-63734668)

## Europe

### Poland: Jesus video game

Polish video game company PlayWay SA has announced it will launch the first instalment of the world's first game that allows players to simulate the life of Jesus, including performing miracles and battling Satan. The prologue, I Am Jesus Christ, is a stand-alone game which serves as an introduction; it will be available from 1 December. The full version, which will be published in the second quarter of next year, will allow players to walk in the footsteps of Jesus 'from birth to resurrection', recreating key events from his life, such as the Last Supper. Players will be able to perform miracles and carry out quests, including a fight with Satan in the desert. Along the way, players discover Jesus's story from his perspective and will be able to cure the sick, help the needy and interact with over sixty characters, including Christ's disciples.

Pray: for this unusual introduction to the New Testament to spread the Gospel uniquely and engagingly. (Hebrews 13:8)

More: [notesfrompoland.com/2022/11/17/polish-game-studio-to-launch-jesus-simulator/](https://notesfrompoland.com/2022/11/17/polish-game-studio-to-launch-jesus-simulator/)

### Ukraine: gospel workers

In under two weeks, Russia's invasion of Ukraine became a full-fledged humanitarian crisis. The turmoil is affecting gospel workers in Ukraine and throughout the region in significant ways. The Slavic Gospel Association (SGA) reports a sense of excitement. Kherson, a very important city to Ukrainians, is now accessible. Battlefields are constantly changing, with villages and cities burned to the ground. People are hiding in their basements: drones, missiles, and rockets are attacking their infrastructure, and they are bracing for a terrible winter. A new SGA initiative, Heat and Hope, will provide heating, blankets, and food to Ukrainians. They work through over 240 local churches across the embattled regions. They will not only be centres of warmth when all else has been destroyed, but centres of hope. In the middle of a bitter cold winter, these churches are proclaiming the hope and love of Jesus.

Pray: for God to strengthen churches throughout Ukraine as they love their neighbours. (Psalm 96:3)

More: [www.mnnonline.org/news/ukraine-retakes-city-of-kherson/](http://www.mnnonline.org/news/ukraine-retakes-city-of-kherson/)

## Worldwide

### COP27: climate deal and disappointments

Luke-warm applause met a historic moment when a 'loss and damage fund' was agreed in the early hours of 20 November 2020 after a confusing and often chaotic 48 hours left delegates exhausted. This fund will see developed nations paying poorer countries for damage and economic losses caused by climate change, ending almost thirty years of waiting by poorer nations experiencing huge climate impacts. But there was disappointment over the lack of progress on cutting fossil fuels. 'A clear commitment to phase-out all fossil fuels? Not in this text,' said the UK's president of the Glasgow COP26 summit. The final overarching deal did not include commitments to 'phase down' or reduce use of fossil fuels. It also included ambiguous new languages about 'low emissions energy' - which experts say could open the door to some fossil fuels being considered part of a green energy future.

Pray: for the petrol states to adhere to agreements, for details of payments from rich to poor nations to be fairly worked out, and for the world to urgently cut fossil fuel use. (Psalm 37:27, 28)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63677466](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63677466)

### Indonesia: earthquake disaster

A magnitude 5.6 earthquake hit Indonesia, killing 271 with hundreds still missing 3 days later. Around 22,000 houses were damaged. 169,000 people were affected, 1,000+ injured, and 58,000 scattered to evacuee points. One village was buried under a landslide. Landslides and rough terrain blocked roads and damaged bridges, preventing rescuers for 24 hours from reaching survivors with excavators and equipment to move concrete and dig them out. Pray for patients needing immediate treatment or surgery; for the health ministry implementing emergency triage procedures; for frame tents, folding beds for carrying patients, operational kits, medicines, masks for adults and children, and body bags. See (<https://en.antaranews.com/news/261613/ministry-dispatches-health-workers-assistance-to-quake-hit-cianjur>) Six-year-old Azka Maulana Malik was rescued from the rubble of his family home three days after the earthquake destroyed the area. There are still 151 people missing. Pray that more people, not bodies, will be found in the debris, as monsoon rain hinders rescuers.

Pray: for people to clear landslides to reach the isolated communities with relief. (Psalm 72:12)

More: [www.vanguardngr.com/2022/11/6-yr-old-boy-survives-three-days-under-rubble-in-indonesia-earthquake/](http://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/11/6-yr-old-boy-survives-three-days-under-rubble-in-indonesia-earthquake/)

### USA: after-school Satan club

Golden Hills Elementary School in California is facing backlash from parents after promoting an after-school Satan club aimed at children as young as five. The controversial club is scheduled to hold monthly meetings starting in December. It was created by the Satanic Temple - not to be confused with the Church of Satan - as an antidote to the evangelical Christian groups cropping up in public schools. The organisation's website states, 'The Satanic Temple does not advocate for religion in schools. However, once religion invades schools, as the Good News Clubs have, the Satanic Temple will fight to ensure that plurality and true religious liberty are respected.' In this instance, the after-school club was created in response to the Good News Club, a weekly Christian programme for 5- to 12-year-olds at the school. Many parents believe the Satan club is a Trojan horse to promote devil worship in schools.

Pray: for the parents' outcry and community criticism to succeed in preventing a club that promotes lies from taking place. (Revelation 22:15)  
More: [nypost.com/2022/11/21/parents-slam-sick-satan-club-for-children-as-young-as-5/](https://nypost.com/2022/11/21/parents-slam-sick-satan-club-for-children-as-young-as-5/)

### Algeria: laws restrict mission work

Officials in Algeria are making it increasingly difficult for missionaries to evangelise or challenge Islam in any capacity. Algeria's government-issued ordinances and restrictions on non-Muslim organisations attempting to attract Muslims to Christ are enforced with animosity, hefty fines, and the very real possibility of between three and five years in prison. Algeria's population is 99% Sunni Muslim. The laws against blasphemy, proselytisation, and worship make ministry work extremely difficult and can come at a high price. They criminalise any individual offending the Prophet or belittling the precepts of Islam through writing, artwork, speaking, or other mediums. Laws regulating worship keep Christians confined to approved worship spaces made purposely in places difficult to attend regularly. Pray that church leaders will be strong and wise while enduring hardship, and for opportunities to distribute Bibles throughout the country, especially in the south.

Pray: for the many who hear the gospel through social media evangelism. (Rom 10:14)  
More: [vom.com.au/algeria-laws-restrict-mission-work/](https://vom.com.au/algeria-laws-restrict-mission-work/)

### South Africa: churches observe anti-Israel day

The Anglican Church of South Africa has passed anti-Israel resolutions, including the call on members to observe Nakba (Catastrophe) Day, which effectively means believing that Israel has no right to be a nation. Nakba, the name applied by Palestinians to Israel's annual Independence Day, is normally marked by protests. The approval by Anglicans of such behaviour is a challenge to God's promises, as they allow themselves to be used as a mouthpiece of the 'father of lies'. It also goes against the grain of the growing movement of reconciliation between Jews and Arabs who follow Jesus (most Messianic congregations in Israel are mixed). The apartheid regime was defeated mostly thanks to South Africa's leading Jews: now clerics are accusing Israel of the same type of discrimination. Meanwhile, English Anglicans recently held a service of repentance in Oxford Cathedral for historic anti-Semitism perpetrated by Christians.

Pray: for the truth to overcome the unscriptural teaching that the Church has replaced Israel in God's purposes. (Isaiah 52:7)  
More: [www.godreports.com/2022/11/the-churches-observing-anti-israel-day/](https://www.godreports.com/2022/11/the-churches-observing-anti-israel-day/)

### Iraq / Lebanon: headed down a chaotic path

Governments in both Iraq and Lebanon struggle to function and pass legislation. Political parties tied to ethnic and religious groups vie for control. Iran-backed militias hold more power than the military. There are many parallels between Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq because the nation-state borders were drawn around them by colonial nations around a hundred years ago. Ethnic groups thrown together by these borders often find it difficult to make their own voices heard and cooperate. It is an ongoing process that is only successful if there has been a dictator or authoritarian government. There is government corruption. Young Iraqis are dissatisfied and are opening their eyes to opportunities for truth. South Iraq is seeing a time of harvest among the Shia community. Even though they face persecution by larger religious groups, they are boldly proclaiming the Gospel repeatedly to all peoples and all backgrounds or ethnic minorities or majorities in their communities. God is doing amazing things in the south.

Pray: for the churches in Iraq and Lebanon to grow and flourish, revealing the love of Jesus. (Acts 1:8)  
More: [www.mnnonline.org/news/iraq-and-lebanon-face-similar-challenges/](https://www.mnnonline.org/news/iraq-and-lebanon-face-similar-challenges/)

### Afghanistan: 'I drug my children to help them sleep'

In the second winter since the Taliban took over and foreign funds were frozen, millions are a step away from famine. Abdul says, 'Our children keep crying; they can't sleep. We have no food. So we go to the pharmacy to get them tablets to make them drowsy.' Ghulam has alprazolam tranquilisers in his tunic - they are used to treat anxiety disorders. Others are giving tablets which treat depression and anxiety. Doctors say that when given to young children who do not get adequate nutrition, these drugs cause liver damage, chronic fatigue, and behaviour disorders. Five tablets cost ten Afghanis, the price of a piece of bread. Ammar had surgery to remove his kidney to repay money borrowed to buy food for his family. 'I sold my five-year-old daughter for 100,000 Afghanis,' Nizamuddin says. 'That's less than half what a kidney goes for.' He bites his lip, and his eyes well up.

Pray: for the UN to come forward to prevent the humanitarian catastrophe that is unfolding in Afghanistan. (Matt 25:44-45)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-63733683](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-63733683)

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