

Prayer Alert

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The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. (Psalm 28:7)

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

[Hundreds pray for the UK in Trafalgar Square](#)

On 29th July, Kingdom Impact Vision International (KIVI), the London Prayer and Worship Festival brought together hundreds of Christians from several denominations to intercede for revival in the UK, to worship and evangelise in Trafalgar Square. The event was preceded by evangelistic outreach in various surrounding areas. Gospel Singer Noel Robison led worship as well as performances from the Neema Choir from Uganda and the Spanish Community Choir. KIVI Ministries has organised similar events in towns across the UK, such as Margate, Walsall and Birmingham. They will also be joining Franklin Graham's evangelistic event in London on 26th August.

Praise: God for the move of His Spirit that is igniting more congregations to intercede for revival in the UK, may it continue to grow. (Hebrews 2:12)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/hundreds-gather-in-trafalgar-square-to-pray-for-the-uk>

[24/7 Prayer in Taiwan](#)

Rising tensions between China and Taiwan have reached a critical juncture. Taiwan faces almost daily Chinese military harassment. As concerns rise, Taiwan's Christians are taking to their knees. A prayer movement has united believers across Taiwan, inspiring 40,000+ revival prayer groups, including participants from China's underground churches. Each group has about 5 members, so the current total is about 200,000 participants. People meet 24/7 to pray for revival, unity, repentance, and protection over Taiwan, trusting that, through prayer, miracles happen, and a pathway to peace can be found. Rev. Peter Yang has pastored and planted churches in Taiwan since 1978 and he's never seen the kind of unity now on display. 'Every day, every week, I join pastors from other churches, other denominations, and we pray for our cities, for our nation, for other countries. It's amazing, it's clearly God's doing. Unity will be the legacy of this movement.'

Praise: God for His call to prayer that is being answered. (John 15:16)

More: <https://www2.cbn.com/news/world/40000-revival-prayer-groups-spring-taiwans-christians-face-beijings-belligerence>

British Isles

Texting with Jesus

Catloaf Software's 'Text with Jesus' app allows users to have real-time text conversations using Artificial Intelligence (AI) with digital Mary, Joseph apostles, prophets, and Jesus. Catloaf said technology gives new ways to interact with scripture and explore faith. Another ChatGPT based app offers 'Biblemate' claiming it answers any question using only the Bible and theological insights. However some Christians view this technology as heretical. Minister and technologist, Chris Goswami, welcomes the tool but emphasises that it should never be seen as Spirit-filled, highlighting the limitations of AI's spiritual understanding. Meanwhile an animal advocacy group used ChatGPT to modify Genesis with a vegan perspective, replacing animals as beings and the use of plants for clothing not animal skins. Catloaf said they're not looking to replace traditional Bible study but to offer a tool that makes Bible narratives immediate and personal.

Pray: for people to continue to experience and appreciate their spiritual relationship with God while recognising AI as an illustrative tool and nothing more. (John 4:24)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/new-ai-app-promises-texting-with-jesus-and-biblical-figures>

New oil and gas licences

Greenpeace activists unfolded 200 square metres of oil-black fabric over the home of Rishi Sunak and unfurled a banner saying 'Oil Profits or Our Future?' in front of the manor house, protesting against North Sea oil and gas drilling licences amidst a summer of escalating climate impacts. See (<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/climbers-drape-sunaks-2m-mansion-in-oil-black-fabric-as-pm-commits-to-fossil-fuel-frenzy/>) Christian Aid warned the Government that issuing 100s of new oil and gas licences 'flies in the face of climate science.' They went on to state that 'Now more than ever, UK's Government must show leadership and strengthen their climate plans to protect millions in low-income countries. Instead, these wrongheaded priorities on new oil and gas licences obliterate the UK's net-zero commitments and lets down people on the frontline of the climate crisis. The Prime Minister needs to put people and planet first.' Pray for the government to acknowledge the calls from environmental campaigners and recognise that there needs to be an end to North Sea drilling.

Pray: for the Prime Minister to consider investing in other sources of energy. (Ezekiel 34:18)

More: <https://mediacentre.christianaid.org.uk/new-oil-and-gas-licenses-flies-in-the-face-of-climate-science-christian-aid-warns/>

Weather impact on harvesting crops

Meteorologists predict wet weather until September see (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-66362004>), and this has a very real impact on farmers. The Farming Forum reported, 'In this post, we shed light on the critical issues faced by farmers and their potential implications on cereal crops. Excessive rain has caused significant losses to the wheat harvest. When grains become wet and drop to the ground, they become challenging to collect efficiently. This leads to an increase in wastage and financial strain for farmers. Wet conditions make it almost impossible to harvest, so farmers must use specialised, incredibly costly headers, making it labour-intensive and time-consuming. High moisture content in wheat and grain makes it difficult to preserve quality. Cereal with 16% moisture content risks contamination by mycotoxins, a potential health risk. Moist cereal crops blown over by wind creates mould growth. This threatens the quality of the cereals and poses health risks for both humans and livestock.'

Pray: for farmers to find sustainable solutions as climate patterns become unpredictable. (Pr.19:20)

More: <https://thefarmingforum.co.uk/index.php>

England and Wales: Over 90% of crimes unsolved

Home Office data for England and Wales revealed the proportion of crimes that resulted in a charge or summons was 5.7% over the 12-month period from April 2022 onwards. 2.3 million crimes were dropped without a suspect being found. The charge rate for sexual offences was 3.6%, with rape at 2.1%, and 6.5% of robbery offences. Yvette Cooper said that over 90% of crimes are going unsolved with more criminals being let off and more victims being let down. The Home Office said, 'Since 2010, our communities are safer. Neighbourhood crimes including burglary, robbery and theft are down 51% and serious violent crime is down 46%.' Pray for more individuals from fields such as business fraud investigations and child protection to be recruited into the police force. Pray for the government to fulfil their promise to improve public confidence by getting their resourcing right so that they catch more criminals.

Pray: for the current 'Beating Crime Plan' to successfully digitally enhance policing in England and Wales through the proposed national online platform. (Psalm 82:3-4)

More: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/crime-unsolved-data-labour-b2384679.html>

Foreign aid cuts risk hundreds of thousands of lives

A Foreign Office internal government assessment reveals poor countries are being short-changed from the £900m Overseas Development Assistance Budget as other UK government departments raid the aid budget to spend it in the UK. A £30 million cut to aid for South Sudan this year will leave 27,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition, potentially causing 3,000 deaths. Aid to that region has shrunk by 1/5th since 2017 and they are one of the frontline states suffering the hardest climate crisis - which the UK caused historically. The report also reveals that the 49% cut to UK's Pan Africa aid budget significantly impacts women's sexual health across Africa. Thousands more women will die in pregnancy and childbirth while the number of unsafe abortions will increase by about 185,000. The Foreign Office said the cuts are temporary, to meet savings targets and will increase in the future as a commitment to support Ukrainian refugees ends.

Pray: for aid agencies to meet the needs caused by extreme poverty with food and healthcare, and for the Foreign Office to quickly restore the foreign aid budget. (Leviticus 25:35)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-charities-warn-uk-s-foreign-aid-cuts-risk-hundreds-of-thousands-of-lives>

Bank of England Interest rate rise

On August 3rd, the Bank of England's base rate rose again to 5.25%. The last time it was 5.25% was in 2008. The Bank expects inflation to fall below 5% in the final quarter of 2023, while the government pledges inflation will be 5% or below by 2024. The Bank's increase influences the cost of borrowing, making mortgages more expensive, while at the same time offering greater returns on savings accounts. The theory is that raising interest rates makes it more expensive to borrow money, so people have less to spend, reducing demand and inflation. Meanwhile, rising interest rates, higher energy costs and squeezed consumer spending have weighed on retailers with Wilko homewares now on the brink of collapse, putting 12,000 jobs at risk. They have filed a notice of intention to appoint administrators after failing to find enough emergency investment. Wilko has 400 UK stores. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-66395824](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-66395824)

Pray: for the government's positive plans to be realities, for God to provide support for households already finding it difficult to pay their mortgage and for food price inflation to end. (Proverbs 29:7a)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/business-66386519>

Europe

Ukraine: War coming back to Russia

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has warned war is coming back to Russia after drone attacks on the capital Moscow. Mr Zelensky said attacks on Russian territory were an 'inevitable, natural and absolutely fair process' of the war between the two countries. Russia's defence ministry said three Ukrainian drones were downed on Sunday, with two crashing into offices. Vnukovo Airport, near Moscow, was briefly shut. In a video address Mr Zelensky said that Ukraine was getting stronger. 'Today is the 522nd day of the so-called Special Military Operation, which the Russian leadership thought would last a couple of weeks,' he said. 'Gradually, the war is returning to Russian territory - to its symbolic centres and military bases; an inevitable, natural and absolutely fair process.' Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said again on the 30th July that Moscow would have to use a nuclear weapon if Kyiv's ongoing counter-offensive was a success.

Pray: for the Russian population to realise that the Special Military Operation has not been the just and righteous action - as they have been told. (John 8:32)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66352765>

Ukraine: Female front line fighters

Ukrainian women are signing up in growing numbers to defend their country. There are 60,000 females fighting Russia - amidst strong Ukrainian sexist attitudes. 42,000+ have military positions with 5,000 on the front line. Andriana is a Ukrainian special unit sergeant preparing to return to the front line. Many Russian texts and videos report Andriana's 'death' in graphic detail. 'They published that I died with no legs or hands,' says Andriana. 'They are propaganda professionals.' Female troops also face battles of sexist attitudes within their own ranks. Ukrainian society has a strong opinion that girls join the army to find a husband. Andriana says women have also told her about cases of physical abuse. We can't imagine the scale as few female soldiers will discuss this, so Andriana co-founded Ukrainian Women Veterans Movement, which campaigns for equal rights for female military personnel, and for reforming Ukrainian army legislation to bring it in line with NATO's.

Pray: for military personnel to realise war doesn't have a required gender to defend their people and their country. (Galatians 3:28)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66254964>

Worldwide

Israel: Attacks on Christian communities

President Herzog acknowledged that 'ultra-nationalist Jews attacking Christians is on the rise'. Attacks of stones, eggs and rotten fruit are regularly thrown into Jerusalem's New Polish House. Aggressors broke into the sisters' private property at nighttime, smashing pots and damaging the front door. Also, several dozen Breslov Hasidic extremists have entered a Catholic church eight times in the early hours, praying and alleging, incorrectly, Elisha's tomb is there so they can claim Jewish rights over the church property. Police removed them. In a video, Dormition Abbey's abbot was escorting the German federal minister of Education by the Western Wall when he was asked by an Israeli official to hide the cross he was wearing; saying the cross is 'really big and inappropriate for this place. It's a Jewish place, you must respect that.' Pray for God to encourage Christian communities and for church leaders to respond wisely and appropriately to opposition.

Pray: for those with different religious identities to co-exist peacefully, for authorities to address the root causes of anti-Christian reactions and prosecute those guilty of crimes. (Matthew 5:9)

More: http://x5i6o.mjt.lu/nl3/PT_QKrhZ0e5bEbvMEU6GNA

Kazakhstan: Points for prayer

Some say 'to be a Kazakh is to be a Muslim'. Most Kazakhs follow a version of Islam influenced by shamans and indigenous practices. Other Muslim countries send Muslim missionaries to Kazakhstan, successfully converting even ethnic Russians to Islam. After the Soviet Union broke up, the number of mosques grew from 46 to 2,300 in 2020. The government keeps Islam moderate and is the only Central Asian state where Islam has no special status. Pray for freedom from historic spiritual bondages. Kazakhstan's cultural and religious diversity provides many opportunities for evangelising. A number of Kazakh Uzbeks and Uyghurs are turning to Christ and taking the gospel back to their own people. Christianity is still largely an urban phenomenon, but churches and missions (Baptists, Korean groups, Western agencies) are recruiting for village ministry. Pray that the Gospel might be shared in the listeners' language, in the many towns and villages of this sprawling land.

Pray: for church-planting programmes that develop informed, well-trained, godly leaders and for this very young mission movement to grow and spread. (1 Peter 2:2)

More: <https://operationworld.org/prayer-calendar/07-31/>

USA: Parents refused funds for religious schools

Six Jewish parents and two Jewish schools are suing the California Department of Education over their refusal to allow families whose children have special needs to use federal and state funds designated for such students to attend private religious schools. The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is representing the plaintiffs, said that California's campaign against Jewish children with disabilities and the schools they want to attend is shameful and unconstitutional; adding, 'We argued in court that the government cannot exclude religious people and schools from a public benefit simply because they are religious.' Plaintiffs Chaya and Yoni Loffman said, 'We want to educate our son in a safe, supportive learning environment that meets his unique needs and upholds our shared religious beliefs.' The court is expected to issue a ruling in the case of Loffman v. California Department of Education in the coming months.

Pray: for the court to recognise that preventing parents from sending children to a school of their choice violated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. (Amos 5:24)

More: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/court-hears-plea-of-parents-seeking-to-send-kids-to-jewish-schools.html>

Sudan: Sinking deeper into civil war

The International Criminal Court has opened another war crimes probe after three months of war between feuding generals. 87 bodies were buried in a mass grave by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group prompting a UN warning of possible new massacres in Darfur. The ICC has been investigating crimes in Sudan's Darfur region since 2005. The UN Security Council charged former leader Omar al-Bashir with genocide and crimes against humanity - murder, rape and torture. Allegations of similar atrocities have mounted during recent fighting. UN officials are calling for the warring sides to face accountability. About 3,000 people have been killed and three million displaced since violence erupted between Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglos. The UN warns history could repeat itself - the people of Darfur have lived with uncertainty, pain and the scars of conflict for almost two decades.

Pray: for the atrocities to end and that the government, generals and paramilitary of Sudan will submit to the new war crimes probe. (Ecclesiastes 3:17)

More: <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/rest-of-africa/region-worries-as-sudan-rivals-harden-positions-4304490>

Iran: Hijab enforcement tensions

The Iranian authorities are doubling down on policing and severely oppressing Iranian women and girls for defying the return of the morality law which insists women and girls wear headscarves in public with police patrols enforcing obedience. Social media is showing women being violently assaulted by officials and the people helping them to escape are being targeted by the police firing tear gas See (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/07/iran-international-community-must-stand-with-women-and-girls-suffering-intensifying-oppression/>) At the same time, a clampdown on religious minorities also needs a prayerful response. Over 50 believers were arrested on unknown charges immediately following the reinstatement of the morality police. 'The reason for this sudden surge in nationwide arrests of Christians is unclear at this stage,' Article18's advocacy director Mansour Borji says. 'What is obvious is that Iran has begun a fresh crackdown on civil liberties, and the traditionally vulnerable groups, like Christians, are on the front line of those targeted.'

Pray: for God to remove fear from vulnerable women, girls, Christians and all who stand for justice and cover them with His protection and fill them with His peace. (Psalm 140:12)

More: <https://www.mnnonline.org/news/hijab-enforcement-heightens-tension-in-iran/>

Nigeria: Bishop dismissed Islamising fears

Speaking to Aid to the Church in Need, Bishop Kukah of Sokoto, who criticised previous governments' failure to curb extremist violence and protect Christians, welcomed the new president, Bola Tinubu, and vice-president, Kashim Mustapha, despite fears over them both being Muslims. Bishop Kukah said he has known Tinubu for 20 years and has worked with Kashim Shettima. Referring to the fact that Tinubu is married to a Christian, Shettima said a man who has not Islamised his family will not Islamise Nigeria. Bishop Kukah stressed that politicians should not be assessed by their religion but by their capacity and competence and how they see justice, fairness, and equity, adding 'Of course, I would like a Catholic president, but he would not govern Catholics, he would govern Nigeria.'

Pray: for Nigeria's people to be governed by leaders with integrity who will build a better country without any religious prejudice or persecution. (Exodus 18:21)

More: <https://acnuk.org/news/nigeria-bishops-rejects-anxieties-new-president-will-islamise-nigeria/>

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