

Prayer Alert

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Be unceasing and persistent in prayer. (1 Thessalonians 5:17, AMP)

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

[Jews leaving Ukraine for Israel](#)

War terror is causing millions to flee, including Jewish people who also face antisemitism from both sides. Boris, from Donetsk, said it was very dangerous to stay in an area being frequently shelled. He and his wife practically lived in the basement for fear. 'And when a shell hit a neighbouring house, we immediately began to gather our documents.' So the whole family has now been able to join their middle son, who had been urging them to come and live in Israel for the past five years. Nina, from Tbilisi, says being forced out of her country added to her heartache following the death of her husband. But she is now hoping for a little rest, and a better life, in Israel, where she has relatives.

Praise: God that prophecy is being fulfilled as Ukrainian Jews make Aliyah (returning to Israel). (Isaiah 51:11)

More: www.ezrauk.org/pages/Stories/TheWarPushedMeOutOfMyCountry.html

[USA: campaign to restore public prayer and expressions of faith](#)

A new drive to uphold the right to pray and express religious beliefs in public settings has been launched. First Liberty Institute Texas announced the 'Restoring Faith in America' campaign seeks to defend the right to display the Ten Commandments, nativity scenes and other faith affirmations, as well as to protect the right to pray openly. Christian football coach Joe Kennedy was sacked from Bremerton High School for praying on the field after games. A lawsuit was filed against the school district: the Supreme Court ruled in Joe's favour, and he was reinstated. His attorney for the case is encouraging Americans to 'take a knee' with Coach Kennedy as he returns to the field in September, supporting public affirmations of faith.

Praise: God for the First Freedom Challenge, may it spread across the USA and encourage people to express their faith in public.

(Romans 10:17)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/us-campaign-launched-to-restore-public-prayer-and-expressions-of-faith

British Isles

[NHS serial killer scandal](#)

Nurse Lucy Letby killed seven babies by force-feeding them with milk or injecting them with air or insulin, and seriously damaged six others who she tried to murder. Dr Stephen Brearey, the lead consultant on the unit where Letby worked, first raised the alarm in October 2015. The first five murders happened between June and October 2015, and - despite months of warnings - the final two were in June 2016. Dr Brearey said senior managerial hospital staff were worried about reputational damage to the organisation. Instead of acting on his warnings, he and his colleagues' lives were made very difficult. There is 'no apparent accountability' for what NHS managers do in trusts. There will now be an inquiry into the magnitude of the event and the questions raised: should NHS managers be regulated in the same way as doctors, and should they be held to account?

Pray: for greater oversight of NHS managers, and for trusts to adopt a 'freedom to speak' policy, so that staff can raise concerns, be listened to, and know that actions will be taken. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-66578698

Fewer students taking RS A-level

The number of students choosing Religious Studies in A-level has fallen, following warnings of a lack of teachers. More than a quarter of pupils have been given either an A or A* - down by 9% compared with 2022. The fall follows a campaign to recruit a new generation of RE teachers, with the Religious Education Council warning that due to shortages in specialist teachers some schools in the Midlands and northeast are struggling to offer the A-level subject. For two decades, A-level RS has had growing numbers of entries and impressive results, opening a world of opportunity, particularly for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, providing access to top universities and careers in law, journalism and teaching. That legacy is now threatened. A teacher training bursary scheme and a fair allocation of resources to the subject would help to reverse this trend.

Pray: for the Religious Education Council of England and Wales to ensure that RS continues to thrive as it has done in previous decades. (Proverbs 22:6)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/number-of-students-taking-rs-a-level-drops-after-20-year-climb

God Loves You tour

Less than half of the population across England and Wales call themselves Christian. In a largely secular society, where more than one-third claim no religion at all, Franklin Graham is sharing the hope of Jesus Christ in the God Loves You tour on 26 August in London. This is the culmination of months of prayer, planning, and training to equip the local churches. The event is free to attend and will be held at the ExCel London. With over 900 churches partnering in this outreach, more than 125 buses will bring thousands to London, some coming from several hours away. The Lord has placed a burden on Franklin's heart to proclaim Jesus Christ across the UK, and that sense of purpose and evangelistic passion has continued to grow [over the years](https://godlovesyoutour.org.uk/about/) (<https://godlovesyoutour.org.uk/about/>).

Pray: for thousands of lives to be changed, and for all the participating churches to successfully disciple every single Christian in their new life with Jesus in the coming weeks. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

More: godlovesyoutour.org.uk/event/london/

NHS: staffing crisis

NHS staff shortages include nurses, midwives, GPs, hospital doctors and mental health workers. Staff leave because of low pay, stress and reduced job satisfaction. Recruitment and retention is a growing problem in this major staffing crisis. In July the government published a long-term workforce plan. Many are sceptical about whether it will lead to a sufficient increase in staff numbers. If it is successful, there will be 300,000 extra doctors, nurses and health professionals by 2037 by training, retention and reform. Criticisms of the plan include shortening medical degree courses from 5-6 years to four years and the general vagueness around who will train the expansion in medical students. There is also uncertainty over funding after the first five years of the 14-year plan. The total absence of any mention of pay and its importance in retention is the elephant in the room.

Pray: for the weaker points of the workforce plan to be strengthened by wise and informed consultations between the NHS and the Government. (Proverbs 15:22)

More: nhsfunding.info/symptoms/10-effects-of-underfunding/staff-shortages-2/

NHS: 'unsafe' A&E

Senior doctors accused NHS Grampian of ignoring safety concerns about emergency departments. They spoke out because they felt they could not deliver safe levels of care. Grampian's two A&E departments have no senior registrars on shift to make key decisions about patients for the majority of weekend night shifts. A number of senior doctors spoke anonymously to the BBC about conditions in these departments. Documents show that medics have been raising concerns since 2021 with NHS Grampian and the Scottish government. They have submitted a formal whistleblowing complaint about the situation as they are witnessing avoidable deaths, ongoing harm with unacceptable delays to the assessment and treatment of patients who may be suffering from serious conditions like stroke or sepsis. NHS Grampian said they recognise emergency departments are under tremendous pressure both there and across Scotland. They worked hard to expand the workforce, but consultant numbers are not yet at full capacity.

Pray: for increased recruitment of qualified doctors to enter higher specialist training so that there cease to be gaps in work schedules. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-66580741

Asylum-seekers put on barge despite safety fears

The first asylum-seekers have been transferred to the controversial Bibby Stockholm accommodation barge. Dozens of others had their transfers cancelled after issues were raised, including mental and physical health. The Care4Calais charity said none of the people they supported - disabled, torture survivors and modern slavery victims - had been moved. In a report, a long-serving firefighter called the Bibby Stockholm a 'major life risk' and warned that most fire engines in the nearby area are 'on call' only, slowing down response times. The fire brigades' union has written to the home secretary, raising concerns over an emergency response and demanding an urgent meeting but have not received a reply. Also, authorities and firefighters have issued formal warnings about inadequate fire evacuation protocols for the vessel, which contains 222 cabins lining narrow corridors over three decks. Asylum-seekers who arrived before March will transfer from hotels, not directly from Dover. Their notification documents do not state clearly that the Bibby Stockholm is a barge.

Pray: for health reviews by medics to ensure that being on the barge will not retraumatise people who survived dangerous boat journeys, and for safety reviews regarding fire hazards. (Psalm 91:1)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bibby-stockholm-berge-first-asylum-seekers-portland-b2388822.html

Europe

Europe: rise in Islamic tensions

Recently we have seen waves of Islamic unrest across France; Muslims engaging in street skirmishes in Spain; and Muslim migrant-related assaults in Germany. Hundreds of Muslims in an English mosque, holding Qurans high, have pledged their allegiance to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and praised martyrs who 'bled red' for the 'axis of resistance'. Two Austrian Muslim teenagers confessed that they intended to attack a Christian school and 'restore the caliphate'. When confronted in court on 16 July, they admitted, 'We wanted to shoot all the Christians in the classes.' When asked what they would do if police intervened, they said they would have surrendered: 'Allah forgives, and killing Christians takes us to paradise' (<https://anglicanmainstream.org/jihad-in-austria-christians-must-die/>). Meanwhile, Sweden has elevated the threat level from three to four on a scale of five due to recent Quran burnings (<https://www.gzeromedia.com/in-60-seconds/europe/sweden-at-higher-risk-of-terrorism-after-quran-burnings>).

Pray: for police and local leaders to recognise potential dangers and hidden agendas in Muslim communities in these countries. (Proverbs 27:12)

More: prophecytoday.uk/comment/society-politics/item/2890-news-and-views.html

Russia: Wagner leader reported killed in air crash

Wagner mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin is presumed dead, having been named as one of ten passengers in a private jet that crashed north of Moscow. A key ally of Vladimir Putin, his private military company has played a key role in Ukraine following Moscow's invasion in February 2022. But his relationship with Putin soured after he ordered his troops to march on Moscow in a day-long rebellion against Russia's military leaders in June. The details of the crash are not clear, but claims that it was shot down have not been substantiated. The following day Putin said he had sent condolences to Prigozhin's family. His death will leave Putin stronger in the short term, removing a powerful figure who had played an important part in the war but had also been openly critical of Russia's military leaders.

Pray: that Putin's attitude to the war will continue to attract criticism and opposition. (Psalm 1:5)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-66596127

France: Paris outreach to Jews

Jews in Paris face enormous pressures from more and more antisemitism acts. The International Jewish Mission (IJM) is there this summer to reach out to Paris's Jewish community with the truth and hope of Jesus. Over 250,000 Jewish people live in Paris and its suburbs. IJM is seeking our prayers today for people like Harry. He still struggles to believe, because the horrors he and his family experienced during the Holocaust made him an ardent atheist. Since meeting Aurel from IJM and hearing the Gospel, he has softened a bit, admitting that he is not sure now if there is a God. He recently said to Aurel, 'I really wish I had your faith.' Aurel is leading the outreach, and knows God will help them connect with more Jewish people so they can hear about Jesus and be saved. Pray for God to open Jewish eyes and hearts as the Good News is shared with them.

Pray: for Jewish people to know and understand the truth of God's Word as Christians open the Scriptures with them through group and individual Bible studies. (Jeremiah 29:13)

More: www.imjp.org/paris2023

Worldwide

Global: Wave of Glory invitation

You are invited to join the Wave of Glory from 28 August to 17 September 2023, 21 days praying for a wave of the knowledge of the Glory of God to engulf the globe. The Lord loves it when we pray, fast and turn to Him. Our mission is to pray for a global awakening - that billions would find Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. Please also pray for a powerful and effective time as the World Prayer Assembly gathers from 3 to 6 October in Perth, and for the Wave of Glory to sweep across Oceania and Australia with salvation and deliverance across the region and across the Earth. Pray for an awakening for your nation, and for millions to find Christ. Pray for the wave of prayer to usher in billions of people, and it to grow daily. Pray for all who become followers of Jesus. See also <https://youtu.be/N2n-cG7ZXSsw>

Pray: for the billions who find Christ to grow in faith and numbers, so that this great harvest makes an unimaginable difference across the nations. (Habakkuk 2:14)

More: 21days.wpa2023au.org/

Nigeria: Fulani militant attacks worsen

Following the killing of 21 Christians and critical injuries to ten more in the Plateau by Fulani militants, believers are increasingly at risk and calling for action from leaders. The violence erupted when Fulani herdsmen set buildings alight in Heipang, an area where many displaced Christians from surrounding villages have been staying. Masara Kim, a Jos journalist, told a Catholic charity that after setting the houses ablaze, they aimed their assault rifles at those trying to flee from the fires. He said, 'About half of the victims were burnt beyond recognition. At least five of them were infants. It was a heartbreaking scene to witness. They were given a mass burial in a rain-soaked mass grave. These are poor villagers who do not even have money for food, much less for coffins. There were witnesses, but authorities failed to identify the perpetrators.'

Pray: for survivors who saw their family members murdered to receive God's comfort, and for the authorities to track down the criminals. (Psalm 31:14-15)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/fulani-militants-killed-21-christians-in-nigeria-calls-for-change-as-attacks-worsen

Guatemala / Ecuador: voting to end corruption?

Elections in Guatemala and Ecuador are a test of democracy as both have a climate of corruption, tension and violence in politics. In Guatemala's election on 20 August, anti-corruption candidate Bernardo Arévalo won, despite Guatemala's court recently ordering his political party into suspension, triggering massive protests and unrest. He denounced the police raid that followed, stating it was an act of 'political persecution'. Also on 20 August Ecuador voted for a president. Rampant crime blamed on drug gangs, a struggling economy, and a rise in unemployment and migration are the top concerns of voters. The candidate standing against corruption and organised crime was assassinated on 9 August. There was no outright winner on the 20th. The runoff will be on 15 October, between leftist candidate Luisa Gonzalez and businessman politician Daniel Noboa. Noboa wants to implement harsh policies in relation to crime, and talks about security, which appeals to those unhappy with the current political system (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/21/ecuador-elections-headed-for-run-off-with-leftist-gonzalez-in-lead>).

Pray: for the new presidents successfully to challenge the entrenched corruption and turn around the economic crisis in both countries. (Romans 8:21)

More: edition.cnn.com/2023/08/20/americas/bernardo-arevalo-wins-guatemala-presidential-election-intl/index.html

Ethiopia: risk of another civil war

An airstrike in Ethiopia's Amhara region has killed 26 people, as detailed widespread killings of civilians broke out this month. Fano militiamen had flooded towns and cities in Amhara, briefly taking over several of them; they attacked police stations and garrisons, freed prisoners and intermittently took control of Lalibela airport. Early in August federal forces managed to push them out. Ethnic tensions and land conflicts lie behind Amhara's clashes. This fighting is Ethiopia's biggest security crisis since the civil war in neighbouring Tigray ended in November 2022, but there is now a state of emergency. Many had hoped Ethiopia was inching back towards stability and away from a conflict that caused hundreds of thousands of deaths. Prime minister Abiy Ahmed's reputation as a Nobel-prizewinning peacemaker is being shredded. He had hoped to reach deals with the IMF and the World Bank to rescue Ethiopia's war-wrecked economy (<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2023/08/15/ethiopia-risks-sliding-into-another-civil-war>).

Pray: for Abiy Ahmed to resolve the land conflicts with the Fano (Amhara militias) and bring about a peaceful ceasefire. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/14/suspected-air-strike-kills-26-in-ethiopia-amhara-region

Democratic Republic of Congo: IS-affiliated extremism

The Allied Democratic Force (ADF), which operates primarily out of the DRC, is a violent extremist group that is gaining power in Central Africa. The known IS affiliate is notorious for targeting Christians in its violent campaigns to establish an Islamic caliphate in the region. A widening recruitment network and an increase in funding overseas contributed to ADF's bloodiest year yet. While IS lost much of its power and control in Syria and Iraq, its affiliate groups in Afghanistan, the Sahel region, and Central Africa grew stronger. The ADF was listed as one of the worst terrorist groups in 2022. Pray for an end to ADF-led violence in this region. Pray for God to protect Christians throughout the DRC. Pray also for the group's funding and recruitment network to be cut off.

Pray: for the success of local and international bodies to completely uproot the ADF so that it is unable to regenerate. (2 Corinthians 13:11b)

More: www.persecution.org/2023/08/18/adf-gains-power-in-central-africa/

Kazakhstan: Christians need prayer and support

There are 4.9 million Christians in Kazakhstan in the mostly Muslim population. Since 2011, religious freedom has been restricted as government surveillance and control increases. When somebody becomes a Christian, they risk being locked up by their families, kept from other Christians, verbally and physically abused or cut off from family, community and financial support. The authorities monitor and raid meetings of Christian converts and may arrest and imprison their church leaders. The risk of being forcibly married to a Muslim remains an ongoing risk for women who become Christians: in rural areas, they are sometimes kidnapped for this purpose. Christian men are pressured by the state, and in the army, a highly controlled environment. It is difficult for Christians to earn a living; authorities can demand bribes from Christian business owners, and some keep their faith a secret. Converts and church leaders particularly risk losing employment.

Pray: for God to encourage church leaders and those who boldly follow Christ against their family's will; may they have all the support they need. (John 14:27)

More: www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/kazakhstan/

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