

Prayer Alert

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Without faith it is impossible to please God, (Hebrews 11:6a)

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!

Join the Team!

Prayer Alert is produced by a voluntary online team spread across England. If you appreciate what we do and are computer confident, with editing and proofing skills, we would love to hear from you! Please hit reply, introduce yourself, and we will be in touch.

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

Blessings,

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert Team

Praise Reports

[Canada: Mohawk Bible published by chief's great-grandson](#)
[One Way Ministries – move of God](#)

British Isles

[British Asian Christians call for peace in Manipur](#)
[Pray for bankrupt Birmingham](#)
[Church's statement over RAAC school closures](#)
[A generation of children's mental health](#)
[Escaped criminal: prisons scandal](#)
[Average price of a home falls by £14,000 in a year](#)

Europe

[Finland: Christian MP on trial for Bible tweet](#)
[Russia: Baptist leader targeted after praying for peace](#)

Worldwide

[USA: shot children need more than bullet holes healed](#)
[Burkina Faso: 'Will we survive another 24 hours?'](#)
[China: Christianity now banned](#)
[Asia: Russia / North Korea alliance worries USA](#)
[Kenya: Africa climate summit](#)
[Nepal: growing trend of attacking churches](#)

Praise Reports

Canada: Mohawk Bible published by chief's great-grandson

The first translation of the Bible into the Mohawk language has been published in Canada. Portions of the Bible in Mohawk were published in 1715 in a book of Morning and Evening Prayer, but this is the first time the entire Bible has been in print in the language indigenous to North America. Harvey Satewas Gabriel has studied his native language all his life and dedicated 40 years to his goal. In a recent interview, 84-year-old Harvey said, 'You never get tired of working with the Word of God'. Translation of and engagement with the Scriptures is strategic and valuable for revitalising language and culture. The Canadian Bible Society hopes that having the whole Bible in print will make a positive contribution to the life of the Mohawk church.

Praise: God for the years of work that went into making this dream a reality and pray for the work of Bible translation to reach every tribe, people group and nation. (Psalm 119:105)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/dream-of-a-mohawk-bible-realised-by-chief-s-great-grandson

One Way Ministries – move of God

'We believe that what we are seeing is a legitimate move of God. We are seeing revival across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. We are seeing thousands of non-believers come to Christ each month and thousands of believers becoming pillars of faith in their communities. We heard from the Lord to start planting house churches because persecution was coming, so that's what we did. Several years later, we have over 4,000 house churches planted and thousands of people saved / actively making other disciples. We believe this is only the beginning. We believe that where there is faith, there will be a move of God. One Way Ministries International is a ministry focused on the Great Commission that isn't satisfied with mediocre results. We have a large vision and great faith in the God we serve. He will always do exceedingly and abundantly more than we think or ask for (Ephesians 3:20).'

Praise: God for all who do what Jesus told them to do: preach, baptise new believers, minister to the sick and needy, make disciples, and plant house churches. (Mark 16:15)

More: www.onewaymin.com/move-of-god

British Isles

British Asian Christians call for peace in Manipur

British Asian Christians are issuing an urgent [call for peace in Manipur](https://www.prayer-alert.net/pray/regions/worldwide/item/16364-india-violence-against-christians-unchecked) (<https://www.prayer-alert.net/pray/regions/worldwide/item/16364-india-violence-against-christians-unchecked>) as the area grapples with escalating violence and persecution. They are calling on people to join a peaceful protest in London next week. They said, 'This unified effort, driven by the desire for justice and equality, seeks to shed light on the discrimination faced by Christians in the region.' They are calling for 'people of faith or no faith, who have good conscience and are moved by the recent attacks to come together and call for change.' The violent persecution of Christians, which began four months ago over land rights and jobs, has been brought to the attention of British MPs, and a meeting in Parliament to discuss the situation is scheduled for later this month. Prime minister Modi is accused of ignoring the situation and not doing enough to quell the violence, earning him a vote of no confidence.

Pray: for Parliament and the British Asian Christian Association to successfully persuade Narendra Modi to bring justice and peace to Manipur. (Psalm 82:3)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/british-asian-christians-issue-urgent-call-for-peace-in-manipur

Pray for bankrupt Birmingham

Birmingham City Council has announced that it is bankrupt, and all new spending will stop, with the exception of money protecting vulnerable people and legal services. Following the bankruptcy announcement, Birmingham's faith leaders raised a 'Call to Prayer for Birmingham' outside the council house between 6.00 and 6.45 pm on Friday 8 September. Currently, the council's outgoings and legal liabilities are more than it can afford, and Bishop Desmond Jaddoo is calling all faith leaders to come together in prayer and to offer what help they can in this time of need. Bishop Jaddoo said, 'We've noticed that at times like this, the poor, the vulnerable, families who are struggling with the cost of living, our children will feel the impact this is going to have. It's going to exacerbate pre-existing hardships along with cuts in services. We are in this together, and we've got to come together to deal with this collectively.'

Pray: for the council to find the means to manage the figures properly and deliver good quality services to residents. Pray for community groups to be able to continue delivering key services. (Ecclesiastes 7:12)

More: <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/call-faith-leaders-pray-bankrupt-27662099>

Church's statement over RAAC school closures

As families navigate the start of school, the Church of England has released a statement following news that 156 schools are at risk of collapsing because a type of concrete known as 'RAAC' was used in their construction. 52 buildings could suddenly collapse, and action was immediately taken to make them safe by propping up the concrete. The other 104 are scrambling to put safety measures in place and stay open. Schools with RAAC and no safety measures prepared must close, with pupils relocated to temporary facilities or pandemic-style online learning reintroduced. The CofE education office, which is in contact with government ministers and the Department for Education on this matter, is ensuring that dioceses are aware of the situation where it affects their schools. It says, 'We are in close communication with them about any needed mitigations or contingency measures.' [See also https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-66681227](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-66681227)

Pray: for any disruption to education to be kept to a minimum. (Proverbs 16:9)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/church-of-england-releases-statement-over-raac-school-closures

A generation of children's mental health

Shelter states that two-thirds of families living in temporary accommodation (TA) have been there for over a year; some families have lived in TA for more than ten years. TA is usually overcrowded and of very poor quality. Children share beds with siblings or parents, with little to no space for belongings. Youngsters have no room to play safely or even learn to walk. Older children have no privacy, nowhere to do homework or have friends over. Parents struggle to feed their children nourishing meals without suitable cooking facilities, relying on expensive, unhealthy takeaways or what they can heat up with a kettle or a microwave if they have one. Children attend school tired, or late, or hungry; many travel long distances from their TA. Families are cut off from support networks. Families live in limbo. They move frequently. Uncertainty and insecurity hang over them. Their children's mental health suffers.

Pray: for the Government to improve public service support for vulnerable children in the health, social care and education sectors, and provide suitable housing as a fundamental need. (Psalm 103:6)

More: www.cih.org/blogs-and-articles/the-ticking-time-bomb-of-temporary-accommodation-on-a-generation-of-children-s-mental-health

Escaped criminal: prisons scandal

Khalife, a former soldier who was on remand at HMP Wandsworth, a category B prison rather than a high-security prison, escaped by clinging to the bottom of a delivery van. Professor Ian Acheson, a former prison governor and head of security at HMP Wandsworth, called it a 'catastrophic system failure that actually starts with the allocation of Khalife to Wandsworth'. He said: 'It's pretty odd because what you would expect in terms of the allocation process is that somebody who was charged with terrorist offences under the Official Secrets Act, who's an alleged fake bomb maker and is collecting information of use to terrorists, all of that package would lead you - I think reasonably - to conclude that this person is a flight risk, is an escape risk. The place that he should have ended up in, by all estimations, is Belmarsh prison. Wandsworth is filthy and infested with vermin; 44% of staff are off sick, and morale is awful.'

Pray: for the justice secretary to recruit a larger workforce and repair our prisons' poor conditions, so that escape becomes an impossibility and staff spirits are lifted. (Zechariah 7:9)

More: www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/sep/07/inquiry-to-establish-why-escaped-terror-suspect-was-not-held-at-top-security-jail

Average price of a home falls by £14,000 in a year

House prices fell at their fastest annual rate in 14 years in August as rising mortgage rates affected the market. 'We may be seeing a greater impact from higher mortgage costs flowing through to house prices,' said the Halifax director of mortgages. 'The market will continue to rebalance until it finds an equilibrium where buyers are comfortable with mortgage costs in a higher range than seen over the previous fifteen years.' First-time buyers have welcomed a fall in prices but face relatively high repayment costs, alongside other cost-of-living pressures such as higher prices in the shops. On the flip side, wage growth has helped affordability. Despite the fall in property values, the Halifax said that prices were only back to the level seen at the start of last year, and still £40,000 higher than before Covid.

Pray: for the tight affordability to continue to reduce house prices even more so that first-time buyers can gain a foothold on the housing ladder. (Isaiah 1:17a)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-66728391

Europe

Finland: Christian MP on trial for Bible tweet

In April 2022, Finnish MP and former government minister Päivi Räsänen was declared **innocent of all charges** (<https://www.prayer-alert.net/europe-pa-site/item/15139-finland-i-am-dismayed>) over her beliefs on sexuality, but the prosecutors appealed the verdict. The latest trial involves expressions of her Christian faith in a tweet, in a church pamphlet twenty years ago, and in a 2019 radio interview. She is accused under the 'War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity' for 'agitation against a minority group'. She says it is a very important verdict for freedom of speech and religion in Finland, which has consequences across Europe. Räsänen's tweet challenged her church leadership for sponsoring a Pride event, and included a picture of a Bible verse from Romans. The prosecutor said she wasn't putting God in the dock, but rather those who interpret what the Bible says: 'You can cite the Bible, but it is Räsänen's interpretation and opinion about Bible verses that are criminal.' The court will deliver a verdict by 30 November.

Pray: for Päivi to know God's peace as she awaits the court decision, and for expressing Biblical teaching to be allowed and not criminalised in Finland. (Amos 5:24)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/finnish-mp-s-trial-told-bible-verse-tweet-was-insulting

Russia: Baptist leader targeted after praying for peace

Yuri Sipko, a retired pastor and former president of the Baptist World Alliance, fled Russia when the authorities attempted to arrest him for publicly praying for peace in Ukraine. He decided to do this after his participation in an online prayer vigil for Ukraine at an event hosted by Mission Eurasia. From an undisclosed location in Europe, he said, 'The law makes it a crime to call the war a war and forbids anyone to call for peace in Ukraine. But I prayed for peace and said it is a crime to drop rockets and bombs on the Ukrainian people'. He evaded capture on 8 August and has since been placed on a most-wanted list for disseminating false information about the invasion. 'It is a terrible thing when the word "peace" is outlawed. Everything is upside-down in Russia', he said.

Pray: for people to recognise that the state threatens evangelicals and there is no religious freedom under Putin. (Proverbs 29:7)

More: baptistnews.com/article/russian-baptist-leader-targeted-flees-home-after-praying-for-peace/

Worldwide

USA: shot children need more than bullet holes healed

Firearms are the most common cause of death for people under 17, outranking traffic accidents. Gun-related deaths amongst youths have doubled in ten years. Pew Research found gun deaths among under-18's in the USA rose by 50% between 2019-2021. It is not just the physical wounds that need treating. Experts who work with gunshot victims say that children who have been shot are much more likely to be shot again because they go back to the same places and the same people. That child not only gets traumatised physically, but also mentally. Young victims need help getting back on the right track - that means enrolling in school, finding new friends, and getting a job - to break the cycle of violence. Dr Katie Donnelly has launched a youth violence intervention programme. Instead of treating gun-shot wounds as isolated incidents, it takes that horrific moment in a young person's life and turns it into a starting point for change.

Pray: for the success of youth violence prevention teams and youth programmes to change children's lives, change their families' lives and change communities. (Romans 12:2a)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-66601294

Burkina Faso: 'Will we survive another 24 hours?'

Burkina Faso is shaken by political conflict and military coups. 'Attacks against Christians are common. Many don't know if they will survive another day. They see loved ones beheaded, raped or reduced to sexual slavery', said Father Rouamba. He said that Christians are affected on a daily basis by the appalling actions of Al-Qaeda and IS. Terrorists began targeting Christians in Koupela Province, east Burkina Faso, around Pentecost this year. 'If people refuse to convert to Islam, they are forced to leave, but as the roads are blocked, they are left to wander around in the forest with no possessions, and many die due to lack of food. These are real tragedies that are not reported in the media.' Father Rouamba wants to set up support units, offering spiritual and psychological support. Christians who had, to some extent, abandoned religious practice before the crisis are returning to their faith at a time when terrorists are trying to extinguish Christianity.

Pray: for those suffering hatred for their faith to continue to draw closer to Jesus and not stop meeting together. (Hebrews 10:25)

More: acnuk.org/news/burkina-faso-will-we-survive-another-24-hours/

China: Christianity now banned

On 1 September, new rules came into force to limit all religious activities to official venues only and forbid displaying any religious symbols outdoors. All religious activity must be supervised by the state so that places of worship support the leadership of China's Communist Party. Release International's Paul Robinson says the new rules are tantamount to a complete ban on Christianity, but in fact Christianity in China is growing. The number of Christians in China has long surpassed the membership of the Communist Party. ChinaAid said they have not seen the Communist Party as bold as they have been this summer in playing God and twisting how the Gospel is taught. The only correct perspective in the eyes of the Communist government is worship of the state and placing faith in Xi Jinping.

Pray: for the international community to take note of escalating oppression from the Communist Party, and for God to continue to grow His Church in China. (Ephesians 3:10-11)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christians-in-china-face-further-crackdown-effectively-banning-christianity

Asia: Russia / North Korea alliance worries USA

Kim Jong Un will visit Vladimir Putin in September; the USA is concerned they will discuss North Korea providing Moscow with weapons to use in Ukraine. An arms deal makes transactional sense. Moscow needs ammunition and artillery shells. Pyongyang has plenty of both. Sanction-starved North Korea needs money and food after three years of border closures. Also, the breakdown of talks with the USA has left North Korea more isolated than ever. The US has warned of an arms deal between the two countries for some time: now, a leader-level meeting between Kim and Putin catapults this into the next realm. Russia's desperate situation means Mr Kim will be able to extract a high price. On 4 September, South Korea's intelligence service briefed that Russia's defence minister has suggested that Russia, China and North Korea hold joint naval drills, like those carried out by the USA, South Korea and Japan, which Kim Jong Un so detests.

Pray: for the USA to stop North Korean weapons from getting to Ukraine's frontline, and for Seoul to be protected from North Korea with advanced spy satellites and submarine weapons. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-66714546

Kenya: Africa climate summit

A climate summit in Nairobi has seen dozens of world leaders discuss climate solutions for Africa's 1.3 billion people affected by climate change. Africa is the fastest-growing continent, and the most vulnerable to climate change. 85% of the worst-hit countries in the climate crisis are African. The Daily Nation newspaper proclaimed this gathering 'Africa's moment.' Kenya's president Ruto came to power with climate change relief and accountability cornerstones of his foreign policy. Addressing the conference, he claimed, 'Climate change is crimping Africa's economic growth annually by 5 to 15%, despite Africa accounting for less than 4% of global emissions.' The intention was for delegates to come to see resource-rich African states as crucial stakeholders in the green economy. Africa's abundance of natural resources only receives 3% of global energy investments. The summit's outcome sees nations promising financial solutions to climate-induced food insecurity, finding technical resolutions to food scarcity and storage, and making African markets attractive to investors.

Pray: for wise decisions and sensible actions which successfully achieve projected climate goals. (Proverbs 12:15)

More: www.gzeromedia.com/what-africa-has-to-say-about-climate-change

Nepal: growing trend of attacking churches

Attacks on two churches in Nepal over the weekend were just the latest in a string of recent violence against Christians. The churches are in the province of Lumbini, which borders India. Photos and videos reviewed by International Christian Concern (ICC) showed broken windows and other signs of violence around the properties, including damage to fences and a broken motorbike. Another photo shared on social media showed two men, identified as pastors, being assaulted on the street. Locals smeared the pastors' faces with a sticky black substance in a cultural sign of hatred and disrespect. The Lumbini attacks are the sixth and seventh such attacks against churches in Nepal in two weeks. 'It's spreading like wildfire', a Nepalese civil society leader has told ICC. 'Perpetrators, seeing little to no response from the authorities in recent weeks, are encouraged to act more.'

Pray: for ICC and other mission agencies to encourage Nepal's police and authorities to uphold religious freedom, so that justice reigns and brings an end to Christian persecution. (1 Peter 3:14)

More: www.persecution.org/2023/09/05/two-nepalese-churches-attacked-in-growing-trend/

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