

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 37-2023 | Friday 15 September 2023
www.prayer-alert.net | editor@prayer-alert.net

The Lord hears when I call to Him. (Psalm 4:3b)

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 researching news, writing, editing and / or 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

[A miracle that has changed lives](#)

[Vietnam: human rights defender released](#)

British Isles

[Sexual misconduct during surgery](#)

[New beginnings - seeds of prayer](#)

[80 sham firms call a residential street home](#)

[Colombian migrant dies in detention centre](#)

[More HS2 cuts being discussed](#)

[UK's housebuilders](#)

Europe

[Hungary: a Christian democracy?](#)

[Russia: Putin seeking military aid from North Korea](#)

Worldwide

[Morocco: prayer response](#)

[Morocco: aid response](#)

[Libya: at least 11,000 die after massive floods](#)

[Sudan: 104 higher education institutions destroyed](#)

[Afghanistan / Pakistan: Taliban Clashes with Taliban](#)

[Global: climate change and corruption](#)

[Hunter Biden indicted on gun charges](#)

Praise Reports

[A miracle that has changed lives](#)

Pastor Christopher Green stayed in a Dallas hotel as he was preaching there the next morning. As he came out of his room he saw a housekeeper and asked her what she would like God to do for her, as he was headed to church and would pray for whatever she needed. Without hesitation, she showed him a massive growth on her neck saying, 'They're not sure if it's cancer. They're doing a biopsy on it. Can you ask God to heal this growth?' He said, 'I felt the urge to pray for her immediately. I put my hand under her chin and said, "Such as I have, give her thee. In the name of Jesus, be whole right now."' As he said those words the growth shrivelled up under his hand. She opened her eyes, and said, 'It's gone, it's gone! It's gone!' That moment changed Pastor Chris' life, too. He realised that indeed, there is power in the name of Jesus!

Praise: God for the faith that releases the power of heaven on earth. (Acts 3:6)

More: godtv.com/lump-in-a-womans-neck/

[Vietnam: human rights defender released](#)

Human rights defender Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife Bui Kim Phuong arrived in Germany on the evening of 8 September after he was released from Gia Trung prison in Vietnam. Truyen, a Hoa Hao Buddhist and legal expert who provided pro bono legal assistance to families of political prisoners, victims of land grabs, and persecuted religious communities, was abducted by Vietnamese police in Ho Chi Minh City in July 2017. He was held in incommunicado arbitrary detention for nine months, and in April 2018 he was sentenced to eleven years in prison on charges of 'carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the government'. Serious concerns were raised for his safety and wellbeing on many occasions during his imprisonment, including in May 2019 when he went on hunger strike along with three other prisoners of conscience in protest of the grievous ill-treatment of a fellow prisoner. Five other activists were sentenced at the same time as Truyen: two of them were released into exile in June 2018, but the other three are still in prison.

Praise: God for the release of this courageous man: pray that justice will be done for others who have been similarly imprisoned on false charges. (Psalm 102:19-20)

More: www.csw.org.uk/2023/09/11/press/6067/article.htm

British Isles

Sexual misconduct during surgery

The British Journal of Surgery (BJS) reported outcomes from a survey regarding experiences of sexual misconduct during surgery carried out by colleagues over the past 5 years in the UK. The authors reported misconduct ranging from sexual harassment to assault and rape which had occurred among colleagues in the surgical workforce. Female surgeons more commonly both witness and are targets of such acts. Moreover, there were indications that among female respondents, trust in various accountable organisations to handle sexual misconduct is low. Needless to say, these results are both distressing and very disappointing. Surgery remains a male-dominated and highly hierarchical speciality where harassment and bullying are prevalent. The most common scenario is when a junior female trainee is abused by a senior male perpetrator. The junior doesn't report anything as the offender is often their supervisor and their future and career may suffer if they speak up. They also lack confidence that the NHS [will take action](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-66775015) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-66775015>).

Pray: for this and similar reports to be taken seriously by those within the surgical leadership and steps taken to end sexual misconduct between men and women in healthcare. (Proverbs 10:9)

More: academic.oup.com/bjs/advance-article/doi/10.1093/bjs/znad267/7264734?searchresult=1

New beginnings - seeds of prayer

September is when autumn begins, the academic year commences, parliament returns from recess, and farmers prepare for October's new farming year. By the end of September many animals will start preparing for their winter sleep. In rural life, in church, nation, and perhaps in our lives, we see much coming to an end and new changes and challenges beginning. Pray for those starting at school, college and university, for our government and the new parliamentary session (1 Timothy 2: 1-4), and for farmers. Pray for the Lord to open our eyes to look beyond the endings around us and see His new beginnings in our own lives, in rural life, in church and nation (Luke 24:31). Pray that He will show us when to let our own works, projects, programmes, organisations and institutions die so that He can do a 'new thing' (Isaiah 43:19; Philippians 3:12-14).

Pray: for believers to understand the need to die to self and live for Christ. (John 12:24)

More: hopeforthecountryside.uk/seedssofarayer/

80 sham firms call a residential street home

In three months more than eighty fake companies have been registered to properties in Henry Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, making it look like a thriving business hub specialising in wholesale clothing, with entrepreneurs from across Europe choosing it as their operations base. But the paperwork lies. Each business says it sells clothes and has a single company officer described as an 'entrepreneur' living in either Italy, Georgia, Germany, France or Morocco in dubious addresses like an empty Moroccan building lot or a French religious meeting hall. The mass registering of these firms is the work of criminal gangs using sham companies for money laundering or obtaining bank loans before shutting them down. Companies House charges £12 for registering an internet business or business merger. If the company's paperwork is properly filed and signed and the fee paid, it must be registered.

Pray: for the government to reform Companies House registration procedures so that criminals are blocked from using false addresses. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-66773673

Colombian migrant dies in detention centre

The family of a Colombian man who is believed to have killed himself at a Heathrow immigration removal centre say he begged for help and was willing to leave the UK. Frank Ospina died on 25 March, within a month of being detained, while he was waiting to be deported. His family say that he had no existing mental health problems. The BBC has been investigating conditions inside immigration centres, at a time when the Government is taking a harder line on migrants. Documents have shown mounting strain on detainees because of the delays in processing their cases, and also there was an incident in which a group of detainees tried to kill themselves three days after Mr Ospina's death. This news comes ahead of the publication of a report, due soon, into abusive behaviour by staff at the Brook House facility, a centre near Gatwick. A public inquiry was launched following a [landmark undercover Panorama investigation](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-41121692) in 2017: see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-41121692>

Pray: for the Government to look seriously at the procedures for dealing with detainees, and take action to improve the situation. (Ezekiel 22:29)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-66791416

More HS2 cuts being discussed

Downing Street has refused to guarantee that HS2 will run to Manchester as planned. Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt are in talks about scrapping the project's second phase due to spiralling costs and delays. The prime minister's official spokesman told reporters that 'spades are already in the ground on our HS2 programme, and we are focused on delivering it'. Asked whether Mr Sunak was committed to the line going to Manchester, he said: 'We are looking at the rephrasing of the work in the best interests of passengers and taxpayers'. Northern leaders reacted with fury to the news. Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham accused ministers of 'making the north pay for their failure'. The high-speed railway, currently under construction between London and Birmingham, has already had its leg to Leeds cut and faces uncertainty about its approach into central London.

Pray: for the low-carbon alternative to cars and planes that would bring cities closer together to have the budgets and costing wisely re-assessed. (Proverbs 31:9)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/hs2-sunak-scrap-northern-phase-2-b2411408.html

UK's housebuilders

Last month we prayed for water quality to be improved and managed before protected areas are built upon. This week the House of Lords blocked the Government's plan to relax restrictions on water pollution to encourage house building in England. Governments often lose votes in the House of Lords, but what makes this one stand out is that ministers can't revive this plan easily. Because it is a new idea, parliamentary procedure means the only way to have another go would be attaching it to another proposed law, or bill. This is a row that gets to the heart of one of the biggest issues in contemporary domestic politics. Building more homes in England in places people want to live. Labour plans to solve environmental concerns by letting developers build but ensuring they have sorted out the environmental issues before anyone can move into the new homes.

Pray: for the Government, the builders and the environmentalists to work together to solve this challenge. (Proverbs 11:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66805127

Europe

Hungary: a Christian democracy?

Prime minister Viktor Orbán believes Europe can be saved if it returns to its 'real values, its Christian identity.' He said, 'We Hungarians believe that Christian culture is the cornerstone that holds the architecture of European civilisation in place'. Hungary differs from Europe in its attitude to illegal immigrants. While resisting the influx, it tries to help people to live and thrive in their own countries by rebuilding schools, hospitals and dwellings in troubled parts of the world and providing education at Hungarian universities for young people. Orbán has said, 'Hungarian people and their government believe that Christian virtues provide peace and happiness to those who practise them. This legacy obliges us to protect Christian communities persecuted across the world as far as we are able.' Hungary also bans the teaching of homosexuality in schools, which Emmanuel Macron says is 'not in line with Europe's values and what Europe is'. The country has moved from Soviet domination through post-communist chaos to Christian democracy.

Pray: for Hungary to continue to reject all values that do not reflect a Christian identity. (Proverbs 4:27)

More: prophecytoday.uk/index.php

Russia: Putin seeking military aid from North Korea

Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un toasted their friendship with Russian wine after Putin showed Kim around the country's most modern space launch facility. Kim is currently in Russia, where he has vowed to support the Kremlin's 'sacred war' against Ukraine, raising concerns that the two nations could bolster their military capabilities. At the end of the reception, Kim courteously invited Putin to visit the DPRK at a convenient time. Putin accepted the invitation with pleasure and reaffirmed his desire invariably to carry forward the history and tradition of the Russia-DPRK friendship. They also held talks alongside their defence ministers and called each other 'comrades'. The growing friendship has concerned the West that North Korea will supply Russia with weapons. The USA said that this visit has made it clear that Putin will set aside any concern to achieve victory in Ukraine. If an arms deal was reached, the USA would slap additional sanctions on them. In a further surprise development, Kim has extended his stay in Russia: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-66810830](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-66810830)

Pray: for the USA to stop North Korean weapons from getting to Ukraine's frontline. (Psalm 34:14)

More: news.sky.com/story/putin-accepts-kims-invitation-to-visit-north-korea-report-claims-12960956

Worldwide

Morocco: prayer response

SAT-7 Christian broadcasters are sharing prayers across the Middle East for Morocco, after a major earthquake killed over 2,900 people, with many thousands more injured, homeless, and grieving. They seek to bring the Lord's comfort through TV programmes and digital media across the High Atlas mountain region. Rescue efforts are complicated. Damaged homes and infrastructure plus aftershocks have left survivors outdoors. Ask God to reassure the fearful who don't know when or where they can sleep safely. Pray for God's peace to cover those who are trying to make contact with missing relatives and friends across the country. Since 11 September, SAT-7 has used its different channels and platforms to call for and share prayers for the Moroccan people from Christians in neighbouring Algeria and Turkey. SAT-7's content advisor said, 'Asking for prayers in support of the Moroccan people is an important early response. People need comfort, care and connection with others during times of disaster. People need to know that others care and feel for them.'

Pray: for those asking 'Why does God allow disasters?' to be given His peace during chaos and pain. Pray for water, emergency food, and aid to quickly reach those in need. (John 16:33)

More: sat7.org/moroccan-christians-ask-for-prayer/

Morocco: aid response

After the earthquake rattled through Morocco, Help The Persecuted's field ministry team mobilised immediately into the mountains to meet the overwhelming need. What they found shocked them. Most homes have been flattened to rubble. Roads are completely destroyed, cutting the most remote areas off from any sort of aid. Those fortunate enough to have survived are completely traumatised and in desperate need of food, water, intensive medical care, and shelter. The team distributed funds and basic relief supplies to those who had lost everything, praying with each recipient. They aided in rescuing some from the rubble. They are making lists of key supplies, hoping to provide survivors in the most remote areas with all they need to survive the coming days and weeks. The devastation goes much deeper than tangible need. These people watched their family members die before their eyes and could do absolutely nothing. Missionaries listened to their sufferings and prayed with them, but they will need so much more care.

Pray: for God to minister emotional and spiritual healing to the lives of an already vulnerable population of persecuted Christians and the countless lost souls they live amongst. (Philippians 4:6)

More: htp.org/

Libya: at least 11,000 die after massive floods

Tens of thousands of people are dead in Libya after a storm caused two dams to burst and four bridges to collapse, releasing a tsunami of water as people slept. Much of Derna City is under water and up to 20,000 people may have died, based on the number of districts completely destroyed. About 10,000 are missing from streets swept away in the torrents. Bodies are being recovered from the sea, in the valleys, and from under buildings. Rescue teams have arrived from Egypt, Tunisia, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and the UK. Pray for good communication between volunteers, all speaking different languages, and that the two rival Libyan governments will successfully coordinate relief efforts. The devastation is becoming more tragic every minute. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) does not currently work in the flooded areas, but a team of emergency medical workers has arrived in Derna, to assess needs and donate emergency medical kits and body bags to Libya's Red Crescent. See <https://msf.org.uk>

Pray: for the volunteers who have been hard at work in the east of the country, where deep mud is one of many factors hampering rescue efforts. (Philippians 4:13)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/world-africa-66805748

Sudan: 104 higher education institutions destroyed

A total of 104 government and private higher education institutions in Sudan, as well as research centres and the National Fund for Student Welfare have been damaged or destroyed since April, when the Sudanese armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces became embroiled in a war. All institutions in Khartoum state, where the capital is also located, as well as several in other states, have been affected. The scale of destruction in Sudan's higher education sector was posted on Facebook on 27 August by the country's ministry of higher education and scientific research. The ministry's own offices were damaged in a fire that affected several floors. After several years of disruption because of political volatility and the pandemic, UNICEF has launched the Learning Passport, an online and offline e-learning platform, almost free of charge, to enable schoolchildren to take part in flexible learning in different parts of Sudan.

Pray: for similar systems to be developed by universities so that Sudan continues to have qualified skilled workers to develop the societies economy. (Joshua 1:9)

More: www.universityworldnews.com/post.php

Afghanistan / Pakistan: Taliban Clashes with Taliban

The Taliban exists in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but the two forces are not compatible. Recent clashes between them caused the closure of a significant connecting thoroughfare between the two countries. Trucks carrying fruits, vegetables, and other commodities were stranded at the Michni checkpoint border crossing. The two groups were firing at one another, and authorities from both governments are trying to determine the cause and how to de-escalate the conflict. The border between the two countries is 1,675 miles long, and for decades it has seen many conflicts between the security forces. Pray for the negotiating parties of both countries to reach an agreement about this critical border crossing that will keep the border open and flowing for aid supplies (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Pray: for God to raise up new leaders who will be more moderate than the extremists who are currently in leadership positions. (2 Chronicles 13:12a)

More: www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/main-pakistan-afghan-border-crossing-closed-second-day-after-clashes-2023-09-07/

Global: climate change and corruption

Last week we prayed for Africa Climate Week and the first global stocktake that demanded the Global North takes responsibility for its contribution to damage in Africa. There is a need for action that makes climate projects stronger and more effective, from design to implementation. However, what is missing is the importance of ensuring transparency and accountability by non-governmental groups, especially civil society and indigenous communities. Governments and private investors have committed billions of dollars to green initiatives, but up to 35% of climate action funds have been lost to corruption as many countries that receive climate finance have high levels of corruption. With the climate crisis worsening, there is immense pressure to disperse climate funds as quickly as possible, which can lead to decision-makers bypassing rules. Climate projects are often technical, resulting in a lack of accountability. Pray for climate-related investments around the world to reach their intended destination and be used effectively and inclusively. Pray for climate initiatives to have increased transparency. See also <https://africaclimatesummit.org/>

Pray: for the implementation of anti-corruption safeguards and the development of strong oversight mechanisms. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

More: healthpolicy-watch.news/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Nairobi-Declaration-on-Climate-Change-Eng.pdf

Hunter Biden indicted on gun charges

President Biden's son, Hunter, has been criminally charged with three counts of lying when buying a firearm, after a proposed plea deal collapsed. This is the first time the child of a sitting president has been criminally prosecuted. All three counts relate to Mr Biden allegedly lying on forms while buying a firearm when he was a drug user. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison, the justice department said in a statement. The younger Mr Biden's legal woes have become a political lightning rod as his father seeks re-election. Earlier this week, Republicans in the House of Representatives announced an impeachment inquiry into President Biden: among the accusations being levelled against him are that he lied about his involvement in his son's business dealings while serving as vice-president. Two Internal Revenue Service investigators have also claimed that the justice department stymied their investigation into Hunter Biden's tax return.

Pray: for the truth to be established, and for the principle to be upheld that no-one is above the law. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-66815168

Please feel free to distribute Prayer Alert to anyone you feel will benefit from its ministry. All we ask is that you do not edit or change it in any way or charge for its use without contacting us first for written permission

Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with

The World Prayer Centre, PO Box 17971, Birmingham, B2 2NY, England.

The views expressed in Prayer Alert and on our website are those of the authors, organisations and websites named, and are not necessarily those of the Prayer Alert Editorial Team, the Prayer Alert Steering Group or the World Prayer Centre or any of its employees or trustees. While we try to ensure that the information we provide is correct, mistakes do occur and we cannot guarantee the accuracy of our material. If you do notice any mistakes then please let us know.