

# 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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**You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You. (Isaiah 26:3)**

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

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## Praise Reports

### Millions praying for the Hindu world around Diwali

The '18 Days of prayer for the Hindu world' initiative has been launched, aiming to unite Jesus followers worldwide in prayer for Hindus from 29 October to 15 November. With an online daily prayer guide available in over thirty languages, the expectation is that millions of people will participate. It features real-life stories illustrating the Holy Spirit's work among Hindus, including healings and breakthroughs in unreached communities. Teams of Jesus followers will conduct prayer walks in cities leading up to the Diwali festival, and readers are invited to pray for these teams using the provided briefings and prayer points. A dedicated prayer guide for young people aged 6-12 is also available. On 12 November, a global day of 24-hour prayer for the Hindu world will bring together believers from various churches and Christian ministries worldwide for online prayer sessions covering key Hindu world cities and regions.

Praise: You, Lord, for this opportunity to pray for the Hindu world. May Your love and grace shine upon them during Diwali - and beyond. Let millions find hope and healing in Your name. (Isaiah 49:6)

More: [www.110cities.com/hindu-prayer-guide/](http://www.110cities.com/hindu-prayer-guide/)

### USA: from occult to Christ

Florida resident Yamisbel Garcia has shared her remarkable journey from involvement in the occult to finding faith in Christ. Raised in a nominally Catholic home, she ended up in a relationship with a warlock and even unknowingly 'baptised' her son in a satanic temple. It wasn't until she moved to Puerto Rico and began working at a Colombian bakery owned by a devout Christian that she encountered Jesus. Concerned for her son's well-being, who was not developing as expected, she turned to prayer. Her son's improvement after consistent prayer amazed her. However, Yamisbel's life took a dark turn as she faced an abusive relationship. Her prayer life weakened, and she contemplated suicide. Desperate for change, she turned to God, ordered a Bible, and began reading it. Her life was transformed, and after moving to Florida, she found a welcoming church and a female pastor who provided the discipleship she needed. God began working not only in her life but also in the lives of those around her, including her children and friends, who were drawn to her faith. Yamisbel's journey exemplifies the transformative power of faith and the hope found in Christ's redemption.

Praise: God for the miraculous transformation in Yamisbel Garcia's life. May her story inspire others to seek Your grace and find new life in Christ. (1 Cor 5:17)

More: [www.christianpost.com/news/woman-who-baptized-son-in-satanic-temple-finds-faith-in-christ.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/woman-who-baptized-son-in-satanic-temple-finds-faith-in-christ.html)

## British Isles

### Storm Ciaran brings weather warnings and disruption

On 2 November, Storm Ciarán hit the UK and Channel Islands, bringing strong winds and heavy rain as forecasters warned lives could be at risk. Dozens of people in Jersey were evacuated to hotels overnight after wind gusts of up to 102 mph damaged homes. More than 300 schools were shut across southern England while major incidents were declared in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Jersey. Roofs were blown off, thousands were without power, and some train lines completely ground to a halt. The Port of Dover suspended all sailings, sparking long lorry queues: it later reopened for shipping, but passenger ferries were cancelled. Amber and yellow weather warnings - indicating potential risk to life and property - were in place covering parts of England, Scotland and Wales.

Pray: for those affected by the storm in the UK and the Channel Islands. May God protect lives, provide comfort, and restore. (Psalm 46:1)

More: [www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2023/storm-ciaran-latest](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2023/storm-ciaran-latest)

### World first AI agreement at UK summit

Representatives and companies from 28 countries, including the USA, China, and the EU, have signed a declaration on AI safety at a summit held at Bletchley Park. This aims to address the risks associated with advanced AI models, particularly 'frontier AI' models like those developed by OpenAI, which include large language models like ChatGPT. One notable participant was the billionaire Elon Musk, co-founder of ChatGPT, who regards AI as a risk to humanity: [see \(https://news.sky.com/story/elon-musk-tells-sky-news-ai-is-a-risk-to-humanity-12998024\)](https://news.sky.com/story/elon-musk-tells-sky-news-ai-is-a-risk-to-humanity-12998024) The declaration seeks to identify shared concerns regarding AI safety risks and develop risk-based policies across countries. The UK government has described this agreement as a 'world-first' achievement. However, some experts believe that it lacks concrete policies and accountability mechanisms. They emphasise the need for swift action to establish globally recognised best practices. In addition to the agreement, the UK government announced a £225 million investment in a new AI supercomputer, Isambard AI, to be built at the University of Bristol. It is expected to be ten times faster than the UK's current fastest machine and aims to make breakthroughs in fusion energy, healthcare, and climate modelling.

Pray: for wisdom and discernment as nations collaborate to regulate AI, that they may strike a balance between innovation and safety. (Proverbs 2:6)

More: [www.euronews.com/next/2023/11/01/a-world-first-ai-agreement-elon-musk-and-a-kings-speech-the-key-takeaways-from-the-uk-ai-s](https://www.euronews.com/next/2023/11/01/a-world-first-ai-agreement-elon-musk-and-a-kings-speech-the-key-takeaways-from-the-uk-ai-s)

### Economy: interest rates could remain high for longer

The Bank of England has declared that the base interest rate will remain at 5.25% for at least another six weeks. The bank's governor, Andrew Bailey, emphasised that there is 'no room for complacency' regarding persistently high inflation, and cautioned against thinking about rate cuts too soon. He now anticipates slightly lower inflation for the rest of the year than previously projected. Critics argue that the bank has acted too cautiously, and that, with upcoming events like the general election and declining political popularity, inflation risks are on the rise. The shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, considers the Bank's forecasts a 'damning indictment' of economic failures by the Conservative Party, highlighting the need for alternative growth strategies.

Pray: for wisdom and guidance during these economic challenges, to help leaders make sound decisions. Pray for families and businesses adversely affected by high interest rates. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

More: [news.sky.com/story/interest-rates-latest-what-is-expected-interest-rate-decision-on-thursday-when-will-rates-start-to-come-down-and-will-ultra-low-rates-ever-return-12997975](https://news.sky.com/story/interest-rates-latest-what-is-expected-interest-rate-decision-on-thursday-when-will-rates-start-to-come-down-and-will-ultra-low-rates-ever-return-12997975)

### Care homes: infection monitoring

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has introduced the Vivaldi social care pilot, aiming to collect and analyse data from over 500 care homes across England to combat infections. This initiative builds on the success of the Vivaldi study conducted during the pandemic, expanding its focus to a broader range of infections. UKHSA aims to monitor infections such as Covid-19, flu, norovirus, and urinary tract infections in care homes for older adults. This pilot addresses the initial lack of data and surveillance infrastructure in care homes during the pandemic, which left them susceptible to infections. The Vivaldi research aided decisions such as limiting staff movement and advocating for sick pay for care home workers. Through this pilot, UKHSA aims to continue improving the understanding of infections in care homes, supporting their mission to prepare for, prevent, and respond to health threats and ultimately save lives.

Pray: for the success of this pilot in safeguarding the elderly and improving quality of life. (James 5:16)

More: [www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-announces-launch-of-the-vivaldi-social-care-pilot](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-announces-launch-of-the-vivaldi-social-care-pilot)

### Christian councillor reinstated after 'Pride is a sin' text

Local councillor King Lawal, previously suspended for sharing his religious views on social media, has been reinstated after an investigation by Northamptonshire Council's standards committee. He had been suspended and removed from various organisations for posting on social media that 'Pride is not a virtue but a sin' in response to pride parades. He also wrote about the biblical perspective on pride. Supported by the Christian Legal Centre, Lawal had been preparing for legal action, citing violations of his freedom of speech and religion. The decision to reinstate him has brought relief, and he hopes the Conservative Central Office, still investigating his membership, will follow suit. Lawal expressed surprise at the backlash, emphasising that he was sharing biblical doctrine that has existed for thousands of years. He believes public representatives should not have their speech curtailed and hopes that his reinstatement encourages people to stand up for their beliefs.

Pray: for guidance and strength for King Lawal. May his faith and freedom be protected. (Matthew 5:10)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-councillor-reinstated-after-suspension-over-pride-is-a-sin-text](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-councillor-reinstated-after-suspension-over-pride-is-a-sin-text)

## Edinburgh set to declare a housing emergency

Due to a homelessness crisis, Edinburgh is poised to declare a housing emergency. The city council's housing convener, Jane Meagher, will table a motion to establish an emergency action plan and request urgent funding from the Scottish government to address the severe challenges. Edinburgh currently has around 5,000 households in temporary accommodation, the highest in Scotland. The crisis is exacerbated by a severe shortage of social rented homes, with approximately 200 bids for each advertised property. Rental costs are soaring, with Edinburgh having the UK's highest rental inflation rate at 13.7%. If the motion passes, Edinburgh will be the first Scottish city officially to declare a housing emergency. The council plans to write to the First Minister and the housing minister to request additional funding.

Pray: for God to lift up the homeless and those facing housing challenges in Edinburgh. May He grant them shelter and hope. (Psalm 41:1)

More: [news.stv.tv/east-central/edinburgh-council-to-declare-housing-emergency-due-to-homelessness-crisis](https://news.stv.tv/east-central/edinburgh-council-to-declare-housing-emergency-due-to-homelessness-crisis)

## Europe

### Ukraine war: Russia hits most settlements in one day

On 1 November, Russia unleashed a barrage on 118 Ukrainian towns and villages within 24 hours, marking the highest number of settlements hit in a single day this year, according to Ukrainian interior minister Ihor Klymenko. The attacks, targeting ten of Ukraine's 27 regions, resulted in casualties and fatalities. Many of the affected areas were near the front lines in eastern and southern Ukraine. Russia has been concentrating its military efforts on Avdiivka, a strategically vital town in the Donetsk region, causing significant damage. Ukraine has repelled multiple attacks in the area, and Russia has increased attacks on other towns and areas away from the front lines. Amid concerns about Western fatigue with the war, Volodymyr Zelensky has emphasised the need for advanced weaponry and unity among allies. Ukraine's chief military commander warned that the war is entering a positional stage, favouring Moscow's ability to rebuild its military power. Russia continues to have superior weaponry and ammunition. The situation has prompted the USA to seek approval for a \$106 billion package to support Ukraine and Israel.

Pray: for peace and protection for Ukraine. Let justice prevail. (Matthew 5:9)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-67283305](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-67283305)

### France: combatting the rise in anti-semitism

Prime minister Elisabeth Borne has pledged to combat rising antisemitism vigorously after anti-Jewish graffiti was discovered on buildings in various Paris neighbourhoods. She emphasised that the situation in the Middle East should not justify antisemitism and stated that her government is committed to an unrelenting battle against it. Since the 7 October Hamas attack on Israel, France has documented 857 antisemitic incidents, according to interior minister Gerald Darmanin. This figure represents as many antisemitic acts in three weeks as there have been throughout the entire year. The authorities have launched multiple investigations into the Paris graffiti, with Darmanin promising protection to Jewish communities across France. The graffiti included blue Star of David symbols on several buildings, triggering painful memories and emotional responses from residents. Carine Petit, the mayor of Paris's 14th district, pointed out that such acts of marking buildings are reminiscent of the 1930s and World War II, which resulted in the extermination of millions of Jews. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-67274777>

Pray: for the protection and unity of Jewish communities in France and worldwide in the face of rising antisemitism. (Romans 3:29)

More: [www.france24.com/en/europe/20231102-since-hamas-attack-france-s-jewish-community-faces-a-surge-in-anti-semitism](https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20231102-since-hamas-attack-france-s-jewish-community-faces-a-surge-in-anti-semitism)

## Worldwide

### Armenia / Moldova: initiative for youth with disabilities

Eurasia Foundation (EF) has announced the launch of a two-year Justice for Underserved Youth with Disabilities (JUDY) initiative, which promotes the full social, economic, and political integration of youth with disabilities in Armenia and Moldova. EF works with local organisations, international disability rights experts, and youth advocacy experts to amplify the voices of youth with disabilities between ages 18 and 30. Lisa Coll, EF president, says, 'JUDY addresses the unique challenges faced by youth with disabilities, both because of their age and entrenched cultural stigma around disability.' While both the governments of both countries demonstrate interest in protecting the rights of people with disabilities, the legacy of Soviet-era policies and cultural stigma often complicate the work of disability rights advocates. Many institutions in both countries view disability as a medical topic, rather than a social and political issue that can change through concerted effort. JUDY will approach these challenges by involving organisations and experts with deep roots in the local disability rights communities. This collaboration will foster more open dialogue, build relationships, and provide support for youth-led initiatives.

Pray: that this initiative will bear much fruit, and be seen as a precedent for similar programmes in other countries. (Luke 14:13)

More: [www.eurasia.org/ef-launches-justice-for-underserved-youth-with-disabilities-initiative/](https://www.eurasia.org/ef-launches-justice-for-underserved-youth-with-disabilities-initiative/)

### Israel / Gaza: fierce fighting as some civilians allowed to leave

On 2 November Israeli soldiers advanced on war-torn Gaza City, meeting fierce resistance from Hamas militants, as hundreds of foreign nationals waited to cross the border into Egypt. Battles were reported to be raging in five different areas of the Strip. Footage has emerged of Hamas fighters using guerrilla-style tactics, emerging from underground tunnels to fire at Israeli tanks, then disappearing back into the tunnels. Benjamin Netanyahu has said, 'We are at the height of the battle', and claimed 'impressive successes': for up-to-date news, see (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/world-middle-east-67281166>) Meanwhile, the Rafah border crossing into Egypt was opened on 1 November for the first time, allowing over 500 foreign nationals to leave: its foreign ministry has said Egypt would ultimately assist in evacuating about 7,000 foreigners, representing more than sixty nationalities. Speaking on condition of anonymity, an Egyptian official said that some ambulances carrying wounded Palestinians were also allowed to leave Gaza.

Pray: that all those pressing for a ceasefire will be able to influence the warring sides. Pray for the safety of the civilians caught up in the conflict. (Psalm 4:8)

More: [www.cbsnews.com/news/israeli-forces-advance-on-gaza-as-hundreds-of-americans-look-set-to-leave-war-torn-region/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/israeli-forces-advance-on-gaza-as-hundreds-of-americans-look-set-to-leave-war-torn-region/)

### East Africa: German president apologises for killings, King Charles 'regrets'

During a visit to southern Tanzania, German president Frank-Walter Steinmeier apologised and asked for forgiveness for colonial-era killings during Germany's rule. He vowed to raise awareness of the atrocities in his country, in a step towards 'communal healing' of the bloody past. Tanzania suffered under German colonial rule for decades, and saw one of the region's deadliest uprisings from 1905 to 1907. During the revolt, known as the Maji Maji Rebellion, between 200,000 and 300,000 Indigenous people were murdered by German troops. Steinmeier said Germany was ready to begin a 'communal processing' of the past, as he met with descendants of an executed leader of the revolt. In contrast, on a state visit to Kenya, King Charles III expressed 'deep regret' for the 'abhorrent and unjustifiable' acts of violence committed during the 1952-1960 Mau Mau revolt, in which 90,000 Kenyans died, but stopped short of apologising or proposing reparations. See <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/king-charles-regrets-colonial-abuses-kenya-not-enough-some-victims-2023-11-01/>

Pray: for Germany's example to be followed by other nations, leading to healing of long-remembered wounds. (Revelation 22:2)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/1/german-president-apologises-for-colonial-crimes-in-tanzania](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/1/german-president-apologises-for-colonial-crimes-in-tanzania)

### IHOP leader accused of sexual misconduct

Mike Bickle, founder of the 24/7 worship centre in Kansas known as the International House of Prayer, is facing multiple allegations of sexual misconduct, said to span several decades. His church has been hosting continuous prayer and worship for around 15 years, and a livestream of its praise music is watched by millions around the world. In the 1990s he also led a group known as the Kansas City Prophets, which conducted international mission trips, introducing many Christians, including in the UK, to prophetic words and pictures. A statement by three investigators said: 'When these allegations were brought to our attention, we were shocked. The allegations seemed out of character to the man we thought we knew, but they were so serious we could not ignore them.' In their view, he used his position of spiritual authority over several victims to manipulate them. Although Mike Bickle denies the allegations, he has agreed not to preach or teach until the situation is resolved. It is reported that he preached on the issue of false allegations just last week.

Pray: for the truth of these allegations to be investigated thoroughly and impartially. Pray for all church leaders who might be tempted to use their positions for inappropriate means. (Daniel 2:22)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/kansas-house-of-prayer-founder-faces-misconduct-allegations?](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/kansas-house-of-prayer-founder-faces-misconduct-allegations?)

### Global: democracy declines

An annual report by the Stockholm-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) says that democracy declined around the world for the sixth consecutive year in 2022 as half the world's countries slid backwards on indicators such as freedom of expression and political participation. IDEA secretary-general Kevin Casas-Zamora stated that 'democracy is still in trouble, stagnant at best, and declining in many places'. The six-year fall is the longest period of democratic backsliding since records began in 1975. Casas-Zamora attributed the decline to the global weakening of democratic institutions that otherwise help safeguard human rights and the rule of law. Both the United Kingdom and the United States were named as 'backsliding', as were Guatemala and El Salvador, which both saw widespread political turmoil and human rights violations in 2022. In eastern Europe and Asia, countries such as Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, and Turkey scored poorly: in Africa the decline was exemplified by a wave of coups d'état.

Pray: for all those courageous people who are battling the trend towards greater authoritarian control, often taking considerable personal risks in doing so. (Psalm 27:14)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/2/democracy-in-trouble-stagnant-at-best-and-declining-in-many-places](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/2/democracy-in-trouble-stagnant-at-best-and-declining-in-many-places)

### Saudi Arabia: football, human rights, nuclear programme

News that Saudi Arabia is on course to host the 2034 football World Cup is grim. The country might not win the cup, but its capacity for state murder is world class: 112 killed this year so far and counting. However, the news should come as no surprise: its geopolitical power is rising and combining with vast wealth to ensure that objections to its human rights record are brushed aside by those in power. Before he was elected president, Joe Biden declared that Saudi would be treated as a 'pariah state' following the state-sanctioned murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018. But once he was in the Oval Office, realpolitik intervened. His administration is now most concerned about China's growing influence, which is why it has agreed to Saudi Arabia's request for help in building a civilian nuclear programme - which critics fear could lead to developing nuclear weapons. US dollars could end up paying for the defence of a brutal Gulf regime that has undermined Western economies, helped Russia's invasion of Ukraine by cutting oil supplies and keeping prices high, and continued with the catastrophic war in Yemen. In these terms, gifting Bin Salman the World Cup seems like a minor folly.

Pray: for human rights concerns not to be sidelined because of the desire to maintain relations with a powerful country. (Ecclesiastes 4:1)

More: [inews.co.uk/news/world/saudi-arabia-host-world-cup-nuclear-weapon-2727151](http://inews.co.uk/news/world/saudi-arabia-host-world-cup-nuclear-weapon-2727151)

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