

Prayer Alert

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As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:13)

We are pleased to enclose this week's edition of Prayer Alert.

Pray with us for the Mozambique presidential and parliamentary elections taking place on 9 October: [Insight Guide](#).

Invitation - to serve with the PA team!

How would you like to join our Prayer Alert team? We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England. If you appreciate what we do and are confident with browsing the internet, editing, or proof-reading, we would love to hear from you! Please hit 'reply', introduce yourself, and we will be in touch.

In the meantime, because the team is currently short of personnel, please be aware that there may be occasions when Prayer Alert contains fewer articles than usual.

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

May God bless and encourage you this year,

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

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Praise Reports

[World's fastest man: 'God, I'll never doubt You again'](#)

US track star Noah Lyles is praising God after winning the men's 100-metre final in the Olympics. Lyles, 27, who beat Jamaica's Kishane Thompson by 5 milliseconds, expressed gratitude to God both before and after the race. He said, 'I had to find my own journey with God, and a lot of that came through track because there were times when I doubted myself. I said, "God, if you really want me to do this, give me a sign." He did, and I said, "I'll never doubt You again."' Lyles has faced significant life challenges, including asthma, allergies, dyslexia, ADD, anxiety, and depression. He emphasised that these conditions do not define one's potential. Lyles' mother, Keisha Caine Bishop, expressed her overwhelming excitement at her son's achievement.

Praise: God for His guidance, strength, and blessings in every victory and challenge. Give thanks for Noah Lyles's public testimony and words of encouragement. (Philippians 4:13)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/worlds-fastest-man-praises-god-following-olympic-victory.html

[British diver gives glory to God after winning medal](#)

British diver Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix gave glory to God after winning a bronze medal at the Olympics. Spendolini-Sirieix, 19, and Lois Toulson, 24, were competing in the women's synchronised 10-metre event. She said In an interview, 'I'm so happy. I usually have so much to say; I don't have anything to say today. Having my family here, doing it alongside Lois, it's been a crazy two years. I give glory to God.' The duo's final dive surpassed competitors from Canada, with China winning gold and North Korea silver. Despite finishing sixth in the individual 10-metre platform dive, Spendolini-Sirieix remained positive, reflecting on her journey from severe mental health struggles after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. She emphasised her faith, stating, 'It was just God's way of saying we've still got a lot more to do, and I just give God all the glory.'

Praise: God for Andrea's public witness and for His faithfulness and strength which carried her through every challenge and triumph. (Matthew 19:26)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/british-diver-andrea-spendolini-sirieix-gives-glory-to-god.html

British Isles

Thousands of counter-protesters take to streets as far-right unrest fails to materialise

On 7 August, thousands of counter-protesters took to UK streets as anticipated far-right unrest failed to materialise. Stand Up To Racism captioned photos, 'This is what a mass movement looks like'. Over 6,000 specialist police were mobilised due to fears of violence similar to the past week's events. However, as the night progressed, the far-right protests did not occur. In Birmingham, hundreds of anti-racism protesters gathered outside a migrant centre with signs like 'no place for hate' and 'bigots out of Brum'. Thousands turned out in Bristol, creating a calm atmosphere with music. In Walthamstow, a large crowd carried signs reading 'love migrants, hate racism'. In Liverpool, hundreds guarded a day centre for asylum-seekers, chanting 'migrants are welcome' and 'fascists out'. Small pockets of far-right protesters appeared in some cities, but large-scale unrest did not occur. Authorities warned that troublemakers would face severe consequences, with some already sentenced for their involvement in previous violence. Church leaders called for an end to the disorder. [See](https://www.christiantoday.com/article/church.leaders.call.for.end.to.disorder/142013.htm)

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/church.leaders.call.for.end.to.disorder/142013.htm>

Pray: for reconciliation, unity, and strength to overcome hatred and division in our communities. Give thanks for answered prayers, so that the anticipated unrest did not happen. (Matthew 5:9)

More: news.sky.com/story/thousands-of-counter-protesters-take-to-uk-streets-as-far-right-unrest-fails-to-materialise-13192875

Fourteen photos released in police appeal over riots

Police have released photographs of fourteen men and boys they want to speak to following riots in Merseyside after the recent deaths of three young girls in Southport. The violent disorder spread to different cities, causing injuries to officers and widespread damage. Merseyside Police stressed the importance of identifying those pictured in the CCTV images and urged anyone who recognised them to come forward. Det Supt Paul Speight stated, 'The communities of Southport and beyond were disgusted by the violence and damage caused last week and at the weekend. We are continuing to process information, images, and footage, and we'll take action to arrest, charge, and prosecute anyone identified.' Several suspects have already appeared in court, with three men jailed for violent disorder, including setting a police van on fire and assaulting an officer. Merseyside police have arrested 42 people so far, with 16 charged and three jailed.

Pray: for healing, justice, and peace for the affected communities and the grieving families. Pray that the offenders will be caught. (Psalm 34:18)

More: [www.bbc-](https://www.bbc.com)

[com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.bbc.com/news/articles/c75n64zgr0qo.amp?amp_js_v=0.1&_gsa=1#webview=1&cap=swipe](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c75n64zgr0qo.amp?amp_js_v=0.1&_gsa=1#webview=1&cap=swipe)

Deep space radar site in Wales to go ahead

Plans for a network of 27 radar dishes in Pembrokeshire, to protect the UK from potential 'space warfare' will proceed despite local opposition. The dishes, 20 metres high, part of the Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability (Darc), will be developed at Cawdor barracks by the Ministry of Defence. They will track objects as small as a football up to 22,000 miles away, enhancing the UK's space defence capabilities. Defence secretary John Healey emphasised its importance for national security and local job creation. He highlighted the critical role of space technology in everyday life and military operations. A space security expert stressed the need for improved space domain awareness due to increasing military activity. The radar system aims to provide detailed intelligence on satellites, whose numbers are expected to rise significantly by 2030. Local campaigners have launched 'Parc Against Darc', citing health hazards and negative impacts on tourism and the skyline.

Pray: for wisdom, safety, and peace as nations develop defence technologies to protect and secure our borders. Pray that the outer atmosphere and space will not be used for military purposes. (Proverbs 14:8)

More: [amp-theguardian-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/amp.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/aug/08/plans-deep-space-radar-site-wales-go-ahead?amp_js_v=0.1&_gsa=1#webview=1&cap=swipe](https://amp.theguardian-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/amp.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/aug/08/plans-deep-space-radar-site-wales-go-ahead?amp_js_v=0.1&_gsa=1#webview=1&cap=swipe)

UK backs smaller AI projects, scraps major investments

The UK government has announced a £32 million investment in nearly 100 AI projects nationwide, despite the new Labour government's controversial decision to cancel £1.3 billion in tech funding previously promised by the Conservatives. This funding supports 98 projects, enhancing construction safety and prescription delivery efficiency, benefiting over 200 businesses and research organisations across the UK. Rick McConnell, CEO of Dynatrace, praised the investment, emphasising its potential to drive immediate value and attract private sector confidence in AI. However, the Labour government's decision to scrap major projects like the £800 million exascale supercomputer and £500 million for AI Research Resource has raised concerns about the UK's commitment to tech innovation. Minister for digital government and AI, Feryal Clark, reiterated the importance of AI for economic growth and public service improvement.

Pray: for fiscal wisdom and guidance for our government as they seek to make technological advancements to benefit society and promote innovation. (James 1:5)

More: www.artificialintelligence-news.com/news/uk-backs-smaller-ai-projects-while-scrapping-major-investments/

Software group faces £6 million fine over 2022 ransomware attack

The UK's data protection watchdog plans to fine Advanced Computer Software Group £6.09 million (\$7.7 million) for failings that led to a 2022 ransomware attack affecting NHS healthcare services. Nearly 83,000 people had their data stolen, causing significant disruption, including NHS non-emergency phone operators reverting to pen-and-paper operations. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) emphasised that the penalty is provisional, pending Advanced's response. The attack was attributed to LockBit, exploiting a customer account without multi-factor authentication (MFA) to breach the systems. Personal data of 82,946 individuals was stolen, including phone numbers, medical records, and sensitive information about access to the homes

of vulnerable individuals. While Advanced found no evidence of this data being published online, the potential risk was severe. Information commissioner John Edwards stressed the importance of prioritising information security, highlighting the distress caused by losing control of sensitive data and the disruption to healthcare services.

Pray: that organisations will not compromise on their responsibilities to protect the public's sensitive data. Pray that the actions of hackers and ransomware attacks will be thwarted. (Proverbs 27:12)

More: www.theregister.com

More: www.theregister.com/AMP/2024/08/07/ico_plans_to_fine_nhs/?amp_js_v=0.1&_gsa=1#webview=1&cap=swipe

Many doctors struggling as GMC warns health services in critical state

NHS doctors are 'at breaking point,' with nearly a fifth reducing their hours and two in five declining extra work to avoid burnout, according to new research. A third of doctors are struggling with heavy workloads, forcing them to work extra hours regularly to meet care demands, says the General Medical Council (GMC). The GMC's findings reveal a troubling picture of UK doctors' working lives, morale, and wellbeing. The regulator warned that overworked doctors could jeopardise patient safety. 'UK health services are in a critical state, and those who work within them are at breaking point', stated the GMC's chief executive. Many doctors are cutting hours and refusing additional work to protect their wellbeing, with many taking time off due to stress. The survey of 4,288 doctors showed 19% had cut hours in the past year, with 41% refusing extra duties. Alarming, 47% plan to reduce their contracted hours next year. GPs are the most affected, with 28% reducing hours and 48% struggling. One GP expressed disillusionment, stating, 'I used to love my job. Now I absolutely hate it. I feel exhausted and dread going to work.'

Pray: for strength, resilience, and support for NHS doctors facing overwhelming workloads and stress. Pray for further investment in the NHS to be expedited, to relieve this problem. (Matthew 11:28)

More: www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/aug/08/third-of-nhs-doctors-struggling-as-gmc-warns-health-services-in-critical-state

Europe

Russia claims Ukraine's cross-border advance is 'terrorist attack'

Russia has reported ongoing fighting in the Kursk border region following a Ukrainian incursion. Its troops claim they have prevented pro-Kyiv forces from advancing deep into Russia, repelling aerial attacks overnight and destroying fifty armoured vehicles, including seven tanks. Ukraine has not confirmed the assault. Reports suggest Ukrainians occupied several settlements in Kursk. The incursion involved about 300 soldiers, eleven tanks, and over twenty armoured vehicles. Pro-Kyiv forces have made brief incursions into Russia since February 2022. A Russian spokeswoman has labelled Ukraine's attack on Kursk a 'terrorist act' against civilians. Five people were killed and 28 wounded, including six children. Ukrainian forces reportedly destroyed a Russian missile, two drones, and a helicopter. Intense battles continue, with suggestions of a new front opening. Meanwhile, Mali has severed diplomatic ties with Ukraine: see world article below.

Pray: that despite the continuing fighting, both sides will still be open to ceasefire proposals. (Psalm 140:1,2)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/8/7/russia-reports-fierce-battles-against-invading-ukrainian-forces

EU-Mercosur trade talks to resume

Diplomats have said that EU and South American negotiators will meet in Brasilia on 4 September for in-person talks, aiming to finalise the EU-Mercosur trade deal. This agreement, two decades in the making, has faced numerous delays due to a number of concerns expressed by each side. An EU diplomat expressed optimism about concluding the deal by the end of the year. The March visit to South America of Emmanuel Macron, who criticised the deal, paused negotiations until after the EU elections in June. Key issues remain, including European protection of food product names and Brazilian opposition to an EU anti-deforestation law. Farmers in France, Germany, and Belgium have protested against competition from cheaper South American imports. Both EU commission president Ursula von der Leyen and Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva are committed to concluding the agreement.

Pray: that an agreement will be reached, to avoid the possibility of any kind of trade war. (Proverbs 24:5)

More: www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-mercrosur-meet-september-signaling-movement-trade-talks-2024-08-07/

Worldwide

Israel / Lebanon: UN peacekeepers 'more crucial than ever'

UN peacekeepers on the Israeli-Lebanese border are now more crucial than ever, according to their chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix. Cross-border fire between Israel and Hezbollah has increased, raising fears of a broader regional conflict. This concern grew following the recent killings of a top Hamas leader in Iran and a Hezbollah commander in Beirut. Lacroix emphasised UNIFIL's vital role as the only liaison between Israeli and Lebanese sides, helping to prevent misunderstandings and unintended escalations. UNIFIL, with 10,000 troops in southern Lebanon, conducts regular patrols and facilitates humanitarian efforts. Lacroix stated that peacekeepers would remain unless their mission becomes untenable or security threats become severe. He said a Gaza ceasefire is key to de-escalation on the Israeli-Lebanon border, to prevent further casualties and destruction. Meanwhile, several European countries have urged their nationals to leave Lebanon because of the increased threat of war: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c80xxeqel5po](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c80xxeqel5po)

Pray: that the UN peacekeepers will be able to keep communications open, reducing the threat of greater conflict. (Psalm 32:8)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/live/2024/aug/06/middle-east-crisis-live-attack-iraq-us-army-base-latest

Bangladesh: interim government to be formed after prime minister flees

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus has been asked by Bangladesh's president to lead an interim government. This decision came after prime minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted on 5 August, after violent student-led protests which resulted in over 100 deaths on that day and more than 400 in total. Hundreds of police stations have also been torched. The unrest, which began in early July with students demanding the abolition of civil service job quotas, had escalated into a broader anti-government movement. Hasina fled to India, ending nearly fifteen years of rule. In response, Bangladesh's army chief pledged to form an interim administration. Ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia, a key opposition leader, was released from house arrest, and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party now wants free and fair elections. Yunus, who has accepted the invitation to lead the government, is returning from Paris after a minor medical procedure.

Pray: that Mr Yunus' interim government will be able to restore order and satisfy the protesters. (Philippians 4:6)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0499xpn1yo

Thailand: most popular political party dissolved

The constitutional court has ordered the dissolution of the Move Forward Party, which won the most parliamentary seats in the 2023 election on an anti-establishment reform agenda. The court ruled that Move Forward was undermining the country's powerful monarchy through its campaign to amend the lèse-majesté law. It has disbanded the party and banned its executives from politics for ten years. This verdict, which disenfranchises 14 million voters, raises concerns about the erosion of democratic rights in Thailand. Move Forward's leaders vowed to continue their movement despite the dissolution. This decision reflects an ongoing power struggle with the military-backed establishment, which has a history of toppling elected governments. The court's ruling comes amid political turbulence, with another high-profile case pending against the prime minister. Move Forward's dissolution follows the pattern of its predecessor, the Future Forward Party, which was also dissolved by the court, sparking nationwide protests in 2020.

Pray: for justice to be done, and for the country to experience peace and stability. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: edition.cnn.com/2024/08/07/asia/thailand-move-forward-dissolved-int-hnk/index.html

Mali cuts ties with Ukraine after rebel attack

Ukraine has criticised Mali's decision to sever diplomatic ties, calling it short-sighted and hasty. This decision followed comments from Ukraine's military spy agency about the recent clashes in northern Mali, where Tuareg rebels claimed responsibility for killing 84 Russian Wagner mercenaries and 47 Malian soldiers. This was Wagner's most significant defeat since assisting Mali's military against insurgent groups two years ago. Ukraine denied involvement, stating no evidence was provided. After the spy agency mentioned that rebels had received 'necessary' information for the attack, Mali interpreted this as an admission of Ukraine's involvement, condemning it as a violation of sovereignty and support for terrorism. Senegal summoned Ukraine's ambassador over related accusations. These events occur amid deteriorating relations between the West and Sahel nations, which have expelled French and US forces and turned to Russian mercenaries for security following recent military coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

Pray: for improved relations between Ukraine and African countries. Pray that the truth will be established. (Proverbs 12:19)

More: www.africanews.com/2024/08/06/mali-cuts-diplomatic-ties-with-ukraine/

USA: Kamala Harris chooses her running mate

Former teacher and National Guard member Tim Walz, who recently went viral for his calling Donald Trump 'weird', has now been adopted by Kamala Harris as her running mate for the presidential election. Walz, governor of Minnesota, is noted for his appeal to rural white voters and his progressive policies, such as free school meals and expanded paid leave. He also enacted the 'Taylor Swift bill' to regulate ticket sales. Despite Minnesota's Democratic leaning, its proximity to battleground states like Wisconsin and Michigan adds strategic value. Walz, 60, has a background in education and military service, connecting well with ordinary Americans. His political career began in 2006, winning a Republican-leaning congressional district and later the governorship in 2018. He is well-known for his record on LGBT and abortion rights, banning conversion therapy, and supporting gender-affirming healthcare.

Pray: for strength and stamina for the four candidates between now and November. (Isaiah 40:31)

More: news.sky.com/story/why-popular-progressive-tim-walz-could-be-kamala-harris-running-mate-after-his-effective-attacks-on-weird-trump-13191819

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