

Prayer Alert

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I keep my eyes always on the Lord: with Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. (Psalm 16:8)

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

[One high school student leads 895 to Christ at his school](#)

Abraham Aguilar, a senior at Palmdale High School, experienced a profound transformation after a life of rebellion and substance abuse. Raised in a troubled environment, his life changed when he reluctantly attended church with his mother, who demanded his attendance as a condition for living in her house. Initially, he resisted, sitting in what he now calls 'backslider lane', but the consistent preaching began to break through his hardened heart. After attending a men's discipleship seminar, he felt God urging him, 'It's either now or never.' He surrendered his life to Christ, which ignited a passion for evangelism. During his senior year, Abraham boldly shared the Gospel with his classmates, teachers, and even janitors. Starting with a small Bible study group, his efforts led to 895 students accepting Christ by the end of the school year. Abraham's journey from a backslidden pothead to a fervent evangelist demonstrates the transformative power of God's grace and the impact of one obedient heart.

Praise: God for working through Abraham so mightily. Pray for young evangelists like him to proclaim Christ boldly and bring many to salvation. (Romans 1:16)

More: www.godreports.com/2024/08/one-high-school-student-leads-895-to-christ-at-his-school/

[Encounters with Jesus in Paris](#)

During the Olympic Games, countless lives were transformed not just by athletic achievements but by encounters with Jesus Christ. Over 2,500 missionaries from various organisations mobilised across the city, leading over a thousand people to faith. YWAM saw 250 commitments to Christ and ministered to over 3,500 people, witnessing numerous miraculous healings. Similarly, Awakening Europe's 'Unite Paris24' saw 152 conversions, including the remarkable healing of a man with a bullet wound. The efforts extended beyond Paris, with groups like 'Next Move' focusing on southern France, strengthening local Christian community efforts through sports and festivals. Thousands of Bibles and tracts were distributed across the country. Other initiatives included the Paris Praise Festival and Christian art galleries, offering solace and sparking spiritual conversations among visitors. The Olympic Village chaplaincy, where thirty Protestant chaplains served, provided support and a spiritual haven for athletes, many of whom shared their faith after their competitions. Throughout the Games, 24/7 prayer efforts underscored the spiritual impact, with IPC's global prayer networks gifting 835,000 prayers for France to date. [See https://www.france1million.world](https://www.france1million.world)

Praise: the Lord for these reports of spiritual awakening in France. Pray for the continuing outreach initiatives during the Paralympics. (Matthew 28:19-20)

More: www.lovefrance.world

British Isles

UK riots: 'The Church's important role to play in rebuilding communities'

Recent riots across the UK, sparked by a tragic stabbing incident, have highlighted deep-seated tensions within British communities. The violence, exacerbated by false information on social media, led to anti-Muslim protests and widespread unrest in over twenty locations. Many of the rioters were linked to far-right groups, leading to vandalism and looting, particularly targeting Asian-owned businesses. This unrest has served as a wake-up call, revealing that underlying issues of hostility towards immigration, particularly against Muslims, persist in the UK. Danny Webster, EAUk's director of advocacy emphasised the importance of the Church in rebuilding fractured communities. He noted that while it is crucial to listen to people's grievances, it is equally important to challenge misinformation and harmful rhetoric. McDonald, head of Theos, urged Christians to share positive stories of immigrants contributing to society, to counteract the negative stereotypes that fuel such hostility. The Church's role in promoting peace and understanding is vital in these turbulent times, as it seeks to heal divisions and restore harmony in the nation.

Pray: for the Church to lead in healing divisions, promoting peace, and fostering understanding in communities. (2 Corinthians 5:18)
More: evangelicalfocus.com/europe/27790/uk-riots-the-church-has-an-important-role-to-play-in-rebuilding-communities

Train drivers' dispute likely to end after 'no-strings' pay offer

After three years of strikes and bitter disputes, the long-running conflict between train drivers and rail operators in the UK is nearing resolution. The train drivers' union, ASLEF, is recommending its members accept a 'no-strings' pay deal that includes backdated wages and three incremental pay increases: 5% for 2022-2023, 4.75% for 2023-2024, and 4.5% for 2024-2025. This deal would raise the average salary of a train driver from £60,000 to £69,000, with members receiving approximately £6,000 in backdated pay. Mick Whelan, ASLEF's general secretary, expressed satisfaction with the offer, which meets the union's demands without compromising on terms and conditions. The deal marks a significant shift from the previous government's stance. If approved by union members, it will end a series of disruptive strikes that began in July 2021 and have heavily impacted rail passengers and freight across the country. The Government says that resolving the dispute is a key step toward improving the UK's railways for both passengers and staff.

Pray: for a resolution to this long-running dispute. Pray for the Government as they seek to strengthen the economy without over-burdening the public purse. (Matthew 5:9)
More: app.independent.co.uk/2024/08/14/2596135/content.html

UK economy grows by 0.6%, despite flatline in June

The UK economy showed a growth of 0.6% over three months, marking a positive trend despite a flatline in June, attributed to the general election and ongoing strikes. Businesses across various industries delayed purchases pending the election's outcome, while strikes, including those by junior doctors, further contributed to the stagnation. The June GDP figure fell from the previous month's 0.4% growth, yet overall the UK outperformed most G7 nations in the first half of 2024. The UK's growth, particularly in scientific research, IT, and legal services, has been the highest among G7 nations. This consistent growth has left the threat of recession behind, a significant achievement after the economy contracted at the end of 2023. The Labour government has highlighted economic growth as essential to funding public sector investments without increasing national debt.

Pray: for wise economic leadership in the UK, ensuring prosperity and stability for all its citizens. (Proverbs 3:9-10)
More: news.sky.com/story/more-economic-growth-in-uk-economy-13197215

Mother of Romanian stabbing suspect apologises

The mother of Ioan Pintaru, a Romanian man accused of stabbing an eleven-year-old Australian tourist in London's Leicester Square, expressed deep sorrow for the incident. Magda Girma apologised publicly, stating, 'I'm deeply sorry for what happened to that little girl. I suffer together with her mother and can't describe the pain I'm in.' Pintaru, 32, allegedly attacked the girl near the Lego store, stabbing her eight times in a random, unprovoked assault. He had been working as a long-distance lorry driver for ten years, moved to England six years ago and had recently returned after a brief stay in Romania. He was described as homeless during his court appearance, where he was charged with attempted murder and possession of a bladed article. The attack was interrupted by a quick-thinking security guard who restrained Pintaru until police arrived. The young victim, who sustained severe injuries, will require plastic surgery. Pintaru is currently in custody and scheduled to appear at the Old Bailey on 10 September.

Pray: for physical and emotional healing for the young victim and her family, and for justice to be done. (Psalm 34:18)
More: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13743793/ioan-pintaru-mother-leicester-square-stabbing-suspect-sorry.html

Bankrupt Birmingham council to sell off athletes' village at over £300m loss

Birmingham City Council is facing heavy criticism for its decision to sell off 755 homes built for the 2022 Commonwealth Games at an estimated loss of over £300 million. The council, which declared itself effectively bankrupt last year due to a financial crisis, cited 'challenging and volatile' market conditions as the reason for the sale. Despite the city's acute housing shortage, with over 23,000 households on the waiting list for council accommodation, they have remained empty since their completion in 2023. The decision has been branded a 'scandal' by local MP Ayoub Khan, who argues that the homes should be retained for social housing to alleviate homelessness rather than sold at a significant loss. The council's report acknowledged the financial burden this sale would impose, leaving £142m-£152m of debt unpaid and adding further pressure to the city's strained finances. The Government has ordered the council to explain why the homes were left empty for so long, as calls grow for intervention to prevent the sale. <https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pa-pray/regions/british-isles/item/52801-birmingham-city-council-signs-off-devastating-cuts>

Pray: for a pause and a swift and detailed review of this proposed sale. Pray for Birmingham's housing and budget crisis. Pray for those across our communities who are homeless. (Proverbs 21:13)
More: news.sky.com/story/bankrupt-birmingham-council-to-sell-off-athletes-village-at-over-163300m-loss-13196966

A level results: more than a quarter achieving top grades

A Level results for 2024 have been revealed, with 27.8% of UK students achieving top grades of A or A*, marking an increase from last year's 27.2% and surpassing pre-pandemic levels in 2019. This is the highest proportion of A* grades awarded since their introduction in 2010, excluding the pandemic years when grades were based on teacher assessments. Despite the increase in top grades, the overall pass rate (A* to E) fell slightly to 97.2%, down from 97.3% last year and 97.6% in 2019. The number of students accepted into UK degree courses rose by 3% from last year, with 425,680 placements secured so far. In a notable trend, boys outperformed girls at the A* grade level, continuing a historical pattern that was briefly interrupted during the pandemic. While many students celebrated their success, challenges persisted, such as the discovery of unsafe building materials in some schools, which led to disruptions. Calls for an uplift in marks for affected students were not universally granted, highlighting ongoing concerns about educational inequality.

Pray: for students navigating their futures after A Levels, that they find guidance and peace in their decisions. (Jeremiah 29:11)

More: metro.co.uk/2024/08/15/a-level-results-revealed-a-quarter-achieving-top-grades-21425952/

Europe

Russia: Ukraine's incursion threatens Putin's image

Volodymyr Zelensky says that his troops are still advancing into Russian territory, in a bold and surprising incursion.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj627x96gxxo> This development marks a significant challenge to Vladimir Putin's authority: the offensive, which has now lasted over a week, threatens his image as 'Mr Security'. Despite initiating the 'special military operation' to enhance Russia's safety, the nation now faces an expanded NATO presence on its borders, frequent Ukrainian drone attacks, and territorial breaches. Putin minimises the situation through cautious language, referring to it as 'the situation in the border area' or 'a provocation', avoiding terms like 'invasion'. He has dismissed the idea of peace talks, stating that his goal is 'to force the enemy from Russian territory'. Despite these challenges, Putin shows no remorse for his decisions and remains convinced of Russia's eventual victory in the conflict.

Pray: that the pressure on Vladimir Putin will increase, so that a credible ceasefire can be negotiated. (Proverbs 18:16)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/credw5q0705o

Greece: wildfires cause widespread damage and evacuations

Although wildfires around Athens have now been brought under control, Greek officials remain on high alert due to the risk of flare-ups caused by high winds and temperatures exceeding 30°C (86°F). Over 100,000 acres of land have been scorched, leading to the death of one woman and dozens of injuries. Thousands of residents were evacuated as flames reached up to 25 metres (82 feet) high.

Firefighters continue to douse affected areas, with a strong presence maintained in the region. The government is assessing damage, and assistance has been given by several European countries, including Italy and France. The country's prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, returned early from his holiday to address the crisis. Buildings, businesses, and even a school have been destroyed by the fires. Greece has just experienced its hottest June and July on record.

Pray: that the authorities will be able to put suitable measures in place to deal effectively with future wildfires. Pray for comfort and aid for those who have lost homes and livelihoods. (Isaiah 43:2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c70jwix149lo

Worldwide

India: protests and strikes after medic's rape and death

Nationwide protests have disrupted hospital services in several Indian cities after the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee medic in West Bengal on 9 August. Thousands of doctors, led by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), marched in Kolkata demanding better security and justice. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) also noted the poor working conditions, heavy workloads, and frequent violence faced by doctors in government hospitals. The protests, including an 'indefinite' strike by FAIMA, have severely affected hospital services: for example, over 8,000 government doctors in Maharashtra have halted work, except in emergency departments. Police have arrested a volunteer from their forces in connection with the crime, and the investigation has been transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation by a Kolkata high court, indicating the seriousness with which the case is being treated.

Pray: that these protests will be heeded and acted on. Pray for the authorities to know how to make hospitals safer. (Psalm 9:9)

More: news.sky.com/story/indian-hospitals-disrupted-as-thousands-of-medics-protest-after-rape-and-murder-13196814

Israel: new West Bank settlement announced

The Israeli government has announced the establishment of Nahal Heletz, the first new West Bank settlement created from scratch since 2017, near Bethlehem. Finance minister Bezalel Smotrich, who pushed for the settlement, stated it will connect Jerusalem to the Etzion settlement bloc and strengthen opposition to a Palestinian state by 'establishing facts on the ground'. The settlement's formal approval was granted in June, alongside the retroactive legalisation of four illegal outposts. Zoning and construction permits are still required, which could take years. Peace Now, an organisation opposing settlements, says Nahal Heletz will contribute to Israel's 'de facto annexation' of the West Bank: 'It will be an enclave in a Palestinian zone, and will bring about friction and security challenges.' Meanwhile, a senior Hamas official told the BBC that it will not participate in the indirect talks on a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal due to resume in Doha on 15 August (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0e8gzyp8e2o>).

Pray: without ceasing for all those working for peace in the region. (Romans 14:19)

More: www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/government-okays-establishment-of-first-new-west-bank-settlement-since-2017/

Sudan: USA urges both sides to new ceasefire talks, many millions facing acute hunger

The USA is launching new peace talks to end Sudan's 16-month civil war, driven by fears that the conflict is plunging the country into potentially the worst famine in decades. Sudan's military, one of the two warring factions, had originally agreed to attend the negotiations in Switzerland, but changed their minds after a [drone attack on the army chief](https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/53130-sudan-army-chief-survives-drone-attack) (<https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/53130-sudan-army-chief-survives-drone-attack>), dashing hopes for a quick ceasefire. The talks aim to broker a ceasefire and secure humanitarian access for over ten million displaced people. Famine has been declared in Sudan's Darfur region, with estimates suggesting up to 2.5 million people could die of hunger by September. Only one-third of the \$2.7 billion requested by the UN for Sudan has been received so far: the UN fears that as many as 26 million face acute hunger. [See https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15784.doc.htm](https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15784.doc.htm)

Pray: that in spite of everything, both sides will come to the negotiating table. Pray that aid will reach all those in danger of starvation. (Psalm 91:15)

More: www.nytimes.com/2024/08/14/world/africa/sudan-civil-war-ceasefire-talks-geneva.html

DRC: WHO declares public health emergency as mpox spreads

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to a new variant of the mpox viral disease spreading across thirteen African countries, following an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The variant, known as clade Ib, is more easily transmissible and has led to over 17,000 suspected cases and 517 deaths in Africa this year, marking a 160% increase from the previous year. WHO's director-general emphasised the global threat, committing to coordinated efforts to prevent transmission and save lives. The PHEIC declaration facilitates accelerated research, funding, and international cooperation. Africa's top public health body has also declared an mpox emergency, working with the EU and vaccine manufacturers to secure an initial 215,000 vaccine doses, with plans for up to ten million by 2025. Efforts include extensive media outreach to raise awareness, particularly using social media to target the young, who constitute 60% of the cases in the DRC.

Pray: that the health authorities will be able to mobilise vaccination programmes speedily. (Psalm 91:3)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/8/14/who-declares-mpox-a-global-public-health-emergency

USA: police officer charged with murder

An Ohio police officer, Connor Grubb, has been indicted on four counts of murder for fatally shooting 21-year-old pregnant Black woman Ta'Kiya Young in a grocery store parking lot on 24 August 2023. Grubb and another officer approached Young, suspecting her of shoplifting. When she refused to exit her car, he stood in front of the vehicle and, as she slowly drove forward, fired a shot through the windshield, killing her and her unborn daughter. A grand jury indicted Grubb on multiple charges, including murder and involuntary manslaughter. He is being defended by his police union, which claims the indictment is politically motivated, and stated that he had had to 'make a split-second decision'. Meanwhile, Young's family's lawyer, Sean Walton, called the indictment a 'solemn victory' in their pursuit of justice, citing the unnecessary aggression shown by the officers.

Pray: that justice will be done in this case, giving a salutary warning message to other police officers. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: www.reuters.com/legal/ohio-police-officer-faces-murder-charges-shooting-pregnant-black-woman-2024-08-13/

USA: Disney World trying to avoid lawsuit due to a technicality

Disney World is seeking to dismiss a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Jeffrey Piccolo, whose wife died from an allergic reaction after dining at a Disney World restaurant in 2023, even though the restaurant was repeatedly told about her allergies. Disney argues that the dispute has to be settled by arbitration because Piccolo agreed to Disney's terms of use, which include an arbitration clause, when signing up for a Disney+ free trial in 2019 and again when purchasing park tickets in 2023. His lawyers contend that this argument is 'preposterous', noting that the terms of use were related to a streaming service and not applicable to wrongful death or personal injury claims. They also argue that Piccolo agreed to the terms for himself, not on behalf of his late wife. Disney's motion to move the case to arbitration will be reviewed by a Florida judge in October. Arbitration, favoured by Disney for its privacy and confidentiality, is generally quicker and less costly than a court trial.

Pray: for transparency by multinational corporations in their dealings with their customers. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8jl0ekjr0go

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