

# Prayer Alert

ISSUE 34-2024 | Friday 23 August 2024  
[www.prayer-alert.net](http://www.prayer-alert.net) | [editor@prayer-alert.net](mailto:editor@prayer-alert.net)

---

## Be unceasing and persistent in prayer. (1 Thessalonians 5:17, AMP)

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, discovering relevant articles and basic editing, 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.

## Praise Reports

[Christian volunteer wins compensation for arrest over silent prayer](#)  
[Prince of Peace appeared to Muslim in dramatic dream](#)

## British Isles

[Immigration detention centres to re-open in removals drive](#)  
[England and Wales announce new mission to make UK a clean energy superpower](#)  
[Scotland: increase in drug-related deaths](#)  
[Scotland: Afghan medical students win UK visas to beat Taliban](#)  
[Chancellor to raise taxes and cut spending in October?](#)  
[Church leader dead after triple stabbing in Manchester](#)

## Europe

[Romania: further investigations of Andrew Tate's activities](#)  
[France: left-wing parties split by call for impeachment](#)  
[Sicily: investigators try to establish why superyacht sank so fast](#)

## Worldwide

[Gaza: dead hostages recovered, peace talks continue](#)  
[Indonesia: protests, potential constitutional crisis](#)  
[Nigeria: outrage at new presidential aeroplane](#)  
[Thailand: new PM sworn in](#)  
[Canada: unprecedented lockout will badly affect North American supply chains](#)  
[USA: huge seizure of crystal meth](#)

## Praise Reports

### Christian volunteer wins compensation for arrest over silent prayer

Isabel Vaughan-Spruce, a Christian charity volunteer, has won £13,000 in compensation and received an apology after being wrongfully arrested twice for silently praying outside an abortion clinic in a 'buffer zone' - an area designated to prevent actions that may intimidate women entering the clinic. Her first arrest occurred in November 2022, but she was cleared of charges in February 2023 when prosecutors failed to present evidence. Despite this, she was arrested again for the same action weeks later. Supported by ADF International, she pursued legal action against the police, citing wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, and human rights violations. Although grateful for her vindication, Vaughan-Spruce expressed concern that Christians should not have to fight for their rights in such a manner. Her case emerges as government ministers review police guidelines, potentially redefining the legal standing of 'silent prayer' near abortion clinics across England and Wales.

Praise: giving thanks for this judgment. Pray for strength and protection for Christians peacefully standing for life and truth. (Matthew 5:10)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-charity-volunteer-wins-compensation-for-arrest-over-silent-prayer](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-charity-volunteer-wins-compensation-for-arrest-over-silent-prayer)

### Prince of Peace appeared to Muslim in dramatic dream

Hassan, raised in a strict Muslim household in Lebanon, experienced a tumultuous childhood marked by abuse from his father and later from his radical Muslim stepfather. Seeking acceptance, he delved into Islamic philosophy, even persecuting Christians he encountered. However, a traumatic moment when he witnessed a murder led him to question his faith. This inner turmoil culminated in a dream where Jesus appeared, offering him peace. Initially confused, Hassan spent years searching for meaning, even attempting to convert to Judaism. A turning point came when a friend invited him to a Christian baptism, where he encountered the love of Christ through the congregation. A vision of the cross and a pastor's prophetic message profoundly moved him, leading to his conversion. Today, Hassan leads Christ is Enough Ministries in Montreal, where he shares the Gospel, particularly with Muslims, using his deep understanding of Islam to contrast it with the love and peace he found in Jesus.

Praise: God for Hassan's testimony and witness. Pray for the salvation and peace of those seeking truth and encountering Christ in unexpected ways. (Matthew 11:28)

More: [www.godreports.com/2024/08/prince-of-peace-appeared-to-muslim-in-dramatic-dream/](http://www.godreports.com/2024/08/prince-of-peace-appeared-to-muslim-in-dramatic-dream/)

## British Isles

### Immigration detention centres to re-open in removals drive

The new Labour government plans to reopen two immigration detention centres, Campsfield House and Haslar, aiming to achieve the highest rate of removals of those without the right to remain in the UK since 2018. The reopened facilities will initially provide 290 beds, with the long-term goal of expanding to a thousand. This decision has attracted strong local opposition, particularly at Campsfield House, which previously faced issues like hunger strikes, self-harm, and suicides before its closure in 2019. The Home Office has emphasised that the welfare and safety of detainees are taken seriously, promising to carry out removals with dignity and respect. Additionally, Labour is increasing efforts to crack down on illegal immigration and human trafficking by establishing a new Border Security Command and deploying more intelligence officers to the National Crime Agency. These measures are part of a broader strategy to address rising immigration concerns, particularly as the number of small boat crossings continues to increase.

Pray: for just and humane treatment of all immigrants, and for wisdom in addressing border security challenges. (Exodus 23:9)

More: [news.sky.com/story/immigration-detention-centres-to-re-open-in-removals-drive-13200380](https://news.sky.com/story/immigration-detention-centres-to-re-open-in-removals-drive-13200380)

### England and Wales announce new mission to make UK a clean energy superpower

The UK prime minister and Welsh first minister have launched a joint initiative to transform Britain into a clean energy superpower. This mission focuses on significant investments in homegrown energy, which aims to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and enhance energy independence. Sir Keir Starmer and Baroness Morgan visited a wind farm in West Wales, showcasing the Welsh government's investment in green energy. A key element of this plan is the establishment of Great British Energy, a publicly owned entity that will oversee clean energy projects across the UK. Starmer emphasised the commitment to ending the era of fluctuating energy bills and ensuring clean power by 2030, thereby boosting the country's energy security and economy. In Wales, the government's renewable energy developer, Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru, is set to generate enough clean energy to power up to a million homes by 2040 and create thousands of jobs. This collaborative effort underscores the UK's ambition to lead globally in clean energy and achieve long-term energy sustainability.

Pray: for wisdom for the Government and successful implementation of clean energy initiatives to safeguard creation and future generations. (Psalm 24:1)

More: [www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/england-and-wales-announce-new-mission-to-make-britain-a-clean-energy-superpower/50351/](https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/england-and-wales-announce-new-mission-to-make-britain-a-clean-energy-superpower/50351/)

### Scotland: increase in drug-related deaths

Scotland has seen a concerning rise in drug-related deaths, with 1,172 fatalities recorded in 2023 - a 12% increase after two years of declines. Dr Tara Shivaji, a consultant at Public Health Scotland (PHS), highlighted that these statistics represent real people whose families are now grappling with grief. The unregulated drugs market in Scotland is becoming increasingly toxic and unpredictable, with a surge in potent synthetic drugs which are often mixed with other substances, with deadly consequences. Dr Shivaji says that Scotland's drug crisis is deeply rooted in social issues such as poverty, homelessness, trauma, and stigma. Addressing these underlying factors is essential for tackling the crisis. PHS is committed to working with various organisations to reduce these inequalities and improve public health outcomes, recognising that there are no simple solutions to this complex challenge.

Pray: for healing and protection for those affected by addiction, and for compassionate responses to this crisis. (Psalm 34:18)

More: [publichealthscotland.scot/news/2024/august/drug-related-deaths-increase-in-scotland/](https://publichealthscotland.scot/news/2024/august/drug-related-deaths-increase-in-scotland/)

### Scotland: Afghan medical students win UK visas to beat Taliban

Twenty Afghan women, whose medical studies were abruptly halted when the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 2021, will finally resume their education in Scotland after years of uncertainty. The women, banned from universities by the Taliban, have been granted visas under a unique scheme involving the charity Linda Norgrove Foundation, the UK Home Office, and the Scottish government. They will study at prestigious universities across Scotland. Some were just one exam away from qualifying as doctors when the Taliban imposed the ban, while others had years of hospital experience. The women, who spent their time in hiding and studying English, are excited about their new opportunities in Scotland, where they will be treated as residents, allowing them to study without paying tuition fees and receive student loans. This breakthrough came after prolonged advocacy efforts to adjust visa rules and open a resettlement pathway for vulnerable Afghan women.

Pray: for safety, peace, and success for these women as they pursue their dreams and rebuild their lives. Pray for an end to the plight of women in Afghanistan. (Jeremiah 29:11)

More: [www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/female-medical-students-win-uk-visas-taliban-study-ban-tw9gxtpbtd](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/female-medical-students-win-uk-visas-taliban-study-ban-tw9gxtpbtd)

### Chancellor to raise taxes and cut spending in October?

Rachel Reeves is preparing to implement a tough October budget that includes tax increases, spending cuts, and stricter benefit policies. Despite stronger-than-expected economic growth in early 2024, she faces a significant budget deficit, with government borrowing reaching £3.1 billion last month, more than double the amount from the previous year. Reeves had already announced initial cuts, including the scrapping of winter fuel payments for most pensioners and halting plans for social care reform. The upcoming budget is expected to raise more revenue from inheritance and capital gains taxes, maintain a 1% increase in public spending with cuts in some departments, and uphold the two-child benefit cap. Despite improved economic performance, the Treasury insists that the financial situation remains dire, with borrowing on track to exceed forecasts. Reeves argues that she inherited the worst public finances since World War II, and further tough decisions are necessary to address the substantial 'black hole' in the budget.

Pray: for wisdom and discernment for leaders as they navigate economic challenges and make tough decisions. Pray for families and small businesses who are experiencing hardship. (James 1:5)

More: [www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/aug/20/rachel-reeves-planning-to-raise-taxes-and-cut-spending-in-october-budget](https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/aug/20/rachel-reeves-planning-to-raise-taxes-and-cut-spending-in-october-budget)

## Church leader dead after triple stabbing in Manchester

Alberta Obinim, a beloved church leader in Manchester's Ghanaian community, tragically lost her life in a triple stabbing at her family's home on 18 August. Alberta, 43, was known for her vibrant personality and dedication to the Blessed Baptist Temple, where she and her husband Joshua, who is now in critical condition along with their daughter, led the women's wing. The police quickly responded to the incident, arresting a suspect believed to be known to the victims. The attack has deeply shocked the local community, with tributes pouring in for Alberta, remembered as a loving mother and a joyful presence. Detective superintendent Toby Facey expressed the police's commitment to supporting the affected families and uncovering the full details of the incident. The investigation continues, with increased patrols in the area and a call for witnesses or anyone with relevant footage to assist with inquiries. The community is mourning the loss of a cherished leader and praying for the recovery of the injured.

Pray: for healing, comfort, and justice for the Obinim family and their community during this tragic time. (Matthew 5:4)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/church-leader-dead-after-triple-stabbing-in-manchester](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/church-leader-dead-after-triple-stabbing-in-manchester)

## Europe

### Romania: further investigations of Andrew Tate's activities

The authorities have intensified their investigation into internet influencer Andrew Tate, who faces serious charges, including human trafficking, sexual exploitation of minors, and money laundering. Recently, masked police conducted raids at his property near Bucharest, as part of an ongoing probe by Romania's anti-crime agency. Tate, along with his brother Tristan and two Romanian women, were arrested in 2022 and have since been formally indicted. While they have consistently denied all allegations, claiming a lack of evidence and a political conspiracy, they remain under strict legal restrictions, including house arrest and a ban on leaving the country. The case has garnered significant attention due to Tate's divisive online presence, where he promotes misogynistic views to millions of followers: he has already been banned by various social media platforms. The trial's start date is yet to be determined, following a lengthy preliminary legal process.

Pray: for justice and protection for the vulnerable in the face of exploitation. (Psalm 37:28a)

More: [www.euronews.com/2024/08/21/romanian-police-raid-andrew-tates-home-over-new-allegations-involving-minors](https://www.euronews.com/2024/08/21/romanian-police-raid-andrew-tates-home-over-new-allegations-involving-minors)

### France: left-wing parties split by call for impeachment

The French left is facing internal divisions once again, this time sparked by Jean-Luc Mélenchon's call to impeach President Emmanuel Macron. Mélenchon and his allies in the France Unbowed movement are pressuring Macron to appoint Lucie Castets as prime minister, threatening impeachment if he refuses. This has highlighted the fragility of the New Popular Front alliance, which includes Socialists, Greens, and Communists, and undermines the unity they displayed in recent snap elections. While the impeachment threat is unlikely to succeed (it requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament), it has exposed significant fractures within the left-wing coalition. All the other parties, including Castets' supporters, were quick to distance themselves from the idea. This discord is seen as advantageous for Macron's camp, as it weakens the opposition.

Pray: for unity and discernment among political leaders for the good of the nation. (Mark 3:24)

More: [www.politico.eu/article/france-left-split-melenchon-call-emmanuel-macron-impeachment-castets/](https://www.politico.eu/article/france-left-split-melenchon-call-emmanuel-macron-impeachment-castets/)

### Sicily: investigators try to establish why superyacht sank so fast

The sinking of the Bayesian superyacht in a violent storm off the Sicilian coast has left authorities investigating the causes. The yacht, which went down rapidly, claimed the lives of seven people, including UK tech entrepreneur Mike Lynch and the chairman of Morgan Stanley, Jonathan Bloomer. Eyewitnesses and experts suggest that the storm, potentially involving a tornadic waterspout, was highly localised and unexpected. Divers have reportedly found the yacht's hatch open, which could have allowed water to flood the vessel. The mobile keel was also partially raised, possibly affecting stability. Italian prosecutors are focusing on the captain's actions during the event, with experts noting that even the most prepared crews can be overwhelmed by sudden catastrophic events.

Pray: for comfort and peace for the families affected by this tragic event. (Psalm 147:3)

More: [www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/21/within-a-few-minutes-there-was-nothing-left-sailors-on-sinking-of-bayesian-superyacht](https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/21/within-a-few-minutes-there-was-nothing-left-sailors-on-sinking-of-bayesian-superyacht)

## Worldwide

### Gaza: dead hostages recovered, peace talks continue

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have recovered the bodies of six hostages from tunnels in Khan Younis, bringing heartbreaking confirmation to their families. Meanwhile, on 20 August at least twelve Palestinians were killed in an airstrike on a school: [see \(https://news.sky.com/video/israeli-airstrike-on-school-in-gaza-city-kills-at-least-12-13200324\)](https://news.sky.com/video/israeli-airstrike-on-school-in-gaza-city-kills-at-least-12-13200324) Over 40,000 Palestinians have now died since the conflict began. As the situation escalates, US secretary of state Antony Blinken has been involved in ceasefire negotiations, warning that this may be the last opportunity to secure a hostage and prisoner swap. While a potential agreement appears close, with Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly accepting a US 'bridging proposal', there still appear to be large gaps between the two sides. On the central issue of the hostages, Hamas is demanding assurances that Israel will not begin military operations again after thirty of the most vulnerable are released. Israel is concerned that Hamas will drag out a second phase in which the remaining hostages, including male soldiers, are freed.

Pray: for divine intervention to bring peace and protection to all innocent lives involved. (Psalm 11:5)

More: [www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/21/first-edition-israel-hsotages-netanyahu](https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/21/first-edition-israel-hsotages-netanyahu)

### **Indonesia: protests, potential constitutional crisis**

Thousands of Indonesians are protesting against their government's attempt to reverse a constitutional court ruling that would allow smaller parties to field candidates without needing 20% representation in regional assemblies. Demonstrations have erupted in Jakarta and other major cities as the parliament, dominated by supporters of outgoing president Joko Widodo, and his successor, Prabowo Subianto, swiftly moved to pass emergency legislation. This would maintain the status quo, favouring the ruling coalition: it would also prevent a prominent critic, Anies Baswedan, from running for the influential post of Jakarta governor. The court also upheld the current minimum age limit of thirty for candidates, which would bar Mr Widodo's 29-year-old son from running in a regional contest in Central Java. Despite widespread condemnation, the government has downplayed the situation as part of the 'checks and balances' of governance.

Pray: for justice and the protection of democratic processes in Indonesia during these challenging times. (Proverbs 31:8)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8er13zy1gx0](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8er13zy1gx0)

### **Nigeria: outrage at new presidential aeroplane**

There has been widespread outrage after the government acquired an Airbus A330 for the presidential fleet despite the severe economic crisis. This move comes just weeks after nationwide protests over rising hunger and living costs. President Tinubu, who has implemented several economic reforms like the removal of fuel subsidies, justifies these changes as necessary for reducing government spending and fostering long-term growth. Despite announcing a 60% reduction in official travel delegations, he travelled to France using the newly acquired plane, which was bought to replace an older one. The cost of the plane and the purpose of his trip remain undisclosed. Many have condemned the purchase as insensitive, but officials said that the presidential fleet had a high maintenance cost due to the age of its planes, so it was a necessary investment.

Pray: for Nigerian leaders to prioritise the well-being of citizens in governance. (Proverbs 16:8)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy4ydd2x5x2o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy4ydd2x5x2o)

### **Thailand: new PM sworn in**

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, 37, has been officially endorsed by King Maha Vajiralongkorn as Thailand's new prime minister, just two days after her election by parliament. The country's youngest and second female leader, she follows in the footsteps of her father, former PM Thaksin Shinawatra, and her aunt, Yingluck Shinawatra, the country's first female premier. She has taken over after the dismissal of her predecessor, Srettha Thavisin, by the constitutional court. In her first speech, she pledged to govern with an open heart, emphasising stability and continuity. She has vowed to maintain key policies of her predecessor, focusing on economic stimulus, healthcare reform, tackling illegal drugs, and promoting gender diversity. The economy is a real concern for voters, with many asking why her party has failed to fulfil its promise to give about \$300 to every voter in Thailand.

Pray: for the new PM as she chooses her cabinet and assesses what problems she should address first. (Proverbs 18:15)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/8/18/thailands-paetongtarn-shinawatra-sworn-in-as-pm-after-royal-sign-off](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/8/18/thailands-paetongtarn-shinawatra-sworn-in-as-pm-after-royal-sign-off)

### **Canada: unprecedented lockout will badly affect North American supply chains**

Canada's two major rail freight companies have initiated a nationwide shutdown and locked out nearly ten thousand workers after failed negotiations with the Teamsters union. This unprecedented rail stoppage threatens to severely impact the Canadian economy and disrupt cross-border trade with the USA, as the country relies heavily on rail transport for shipping goods like grain, potash, coal, petroleum, and aviation fuel. The lockout will also hit the mining, agriculture and retail industries. It comes after months of tense negotiations over worsening job conditions, which failed to yield an agreement. Industry groups have urged the Canadian government to intervene, warning that the stoppage could have a cascading effect on multiple sectors, including mining, agriculture, and aviation. However, Justin Trudeau has insisted that the dispute must be resolved at the negotiating table.

Pray: for flexibility and cooperation between labour and management to prevent economic disruption. (Psalm 90:17)

More: [www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/22/canada-national-rail-lock-outs-teamster-union-kansas-city](http://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/22/canada-national-rail-lock-outs-teamster-union-kansas-city)

### **USA: huge seizure of crystal meth**

Customs officers in San Diego have seized over \$5 million worth of methamphetamines (often known as crystal meth) disguised as watermelons. A 29-year-old man attempted to smuggle the drugs across the US-Mexico border. However, further inspection revealed 1,220 packages wrapped to resemble watermelons, containing 2,080 kg of methamphetamine. This seizure highlights the evolving smuggling techniques used by drug cartels. The officers confiscated the drugs and the tractor-trailer, handing the driver over to Homeland Security Investigations. They were commended for their diligence in intercepting these sophisticated smuggling efforts. This success follows the recent seizure of 285 kg of meth hidden among celery, demonstrating the ongoing battle against drug trafficking.

Pray: for the protection of those working to prevent the spread of dangerous drugs. May this encourage them in their efforts. (Amos 5:24)

More: [news.sky.com/story/more-than-5m-worth-of-crystal-meth-found-disguised-as-watermelons-in-california-by-officials-from-us-border-agency-13200622](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-5m-worth-of-crystal-meth-found-disguised-as-watermelons-in-california-by-officials-from-us-border-agency-13200622)

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  
C/O World Prayer Centre, 167 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 1SW

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.