

# Prayer Alert

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**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth. (Psalm 108:5)**

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.

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## Praise Reports

### [Man born blind now serving as a pastor](#)

A remarkable story from God Reports shares the miraculous healing of Pastor John, who was born blind and later healed by Jesus. Raised in a devout Christian family, John's parents never gave up on their prayers for his sight. At the age of eighteen, John experienced a divine encounter during a church service. As he was being prayed for, he suddenly felt warmth in his eyes and gradually began to see for the first time. This miraculous healing not only restored his vision but also strengthened his faith and commitment to Christ. He dedicated his life to serving others and sharing the Gospel. Today, he leads a congregation and uses his testimony to inspire and uplift those facing their own challenges. His journey from darkness to light is a testament to the power of faith and God's miraculous work in our lives, showing that no situation is too hopeless for God to transform.

Praise: God for Pastor John's testimony. Give thanks for God's miraculous power and for His healing and transformation of broken lives. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

More: [www.godreports.com/2024/08/man-born-blind-healed-by-jesus-now-serving-as-a-pastor/](http://www.godreports.com/2024/08/man-born-blind-healed-by-jesus-now-serving-as-a-pastor/)

### [Love France's inspirational children's prayer guide](#)

Love France has launched a new 7-day prayer guide specifically designed for children to pray for France. This innovative guide aims to engage young hearts during the Para-Games in praying for the country's spiritual awakening and cultural renewal. Each day of the guide features a different theme, such as praying for government leaders, churches, schools, families, and the youth of France. It is packed with colourful illustrations, fun activities, and simple prayers to help children understand the importance of intercession and develop a heart for missions. [2BC \(https://www.2bc.world\)](https://www.2bc.world), the creators of the guide, emphasise the importance of involving children in prayer early, teaching them to be compassionate and aware of the spiritual needs around the world. The guide encourages children to see themselves as vital parts of God's mission, capable of making a significant impact through their prayers. By equipping the next generation with these tools, Love France hopes to foster a deeper connection between young believers and God's work in France.

Praise: the Lord for this apt and timely resource. May many children across the nations grow to develop a heart for missions through using it. (Proverbs 22:6)

More: [www.lovefrance.world/get-ready-for-the-launch-of-our-new-love-france-7-day-prayer-guide-for-kids/](http://www.lovefrance.world/get-ready-for-the-launch-of-our-new-love-france-7-day-prayer-guide-for-kids/)

## British Isles

### Starmer: 'Things will get worse before they get better'

Sir Keir Starmer has promised to reverse the last decade of decline in the UK and tackle the nation's pressing issues. Speaking at a recent event, he criticised the Conservative government for its handling of economic challenges, rising living costs, and the NHS crisis. He outlined his party's commitment to reforming public services, boosting economic growth, and restoring trust in political leadership. Starmer emphasised the need for stability and competent governance, pledging to provide clear solutions and a steady hand. He also promised to address the UK's housing crisis by building more affordable homes, and to invest in renewable energy to combat climate change. Starmer's vision includes creating a fairer society with equal opportunities for all, aiming to bridge social divides and improve the quality of life for citizens. As the UK faces numerous challenges, his proposals seek to offer a fresh start and a new direction for the country.

Pray: for righteous leadership in the UK, seeking God's guidance in governance. Pray that the Government will lead with good ethics and biblical values. (Psalm 33:12)

More: [www.itv.com/news/2024-08-26/starmer-vows-to-reverse-a-decade-of-decline-and-get-a-grip-of-uks-problems](http://www.itv.com/news/2024-08-26/starmer-vows-to-reverse-a-decade-of-decline-and-get-a-grip-of-uks-problems)

### London: mobility scooter rider knifed to death

A tragic incident in London has shocked the community as a man riding a mobility scooter was fatally stabbed in a senseless attack. Jade Anthony Barnett, 38, was a beloved figure in his local area, known for his friendliness and charm. He was stabbed multiple times in broad daylight near a busy street, leaving many bystanders horrified. Despite the efforts of emergency services, he succumbed to his injuries at the scene. Residents and friends expressed their grief and disbelief over his untimely death, describing him as a gentle soul who never deserved such a fate. This heartbreaking event underscores the growing concern about safety and violence in urban areas, prompting calls for increased vigilance and support for vulnerable members of society.

Pray: for comfort for the grieving family and justice to prevail against violence in our communities. (Psalm 34:18)

More: [www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13791635/pictured-mobility-scooter-rider-knifed-death-london.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13791635/pictured-mobility-scooter-rider-knifed-death-london.html)

### Smoking ban in pub gardens and outdoor venues?

The Government is considering new regulations which could ban smoking in pub gardens and outdoor hospitality areas. This proposal is part of a broader effort to reduce smoking rates and improve public health, aligning with the Government's target to make England smoke-free by 2030. The potential ban has sparked mixed reactions from the public and businesses. Proponents argue that the ban would protect non-smokers, especially children, from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke and create a healthier environment in social settings. However, critics believe it could negatively impact pubs and restaurants which have already suffered financially due to the Covid pandemic. Some fear it could lead to reduced customer footfall and further economic challenges. The Government is expected to consult with various stakeholders, including public health officials, business owners, and the general public, before making a final decision.

Pray: for wise decisions that balance public health needs with economic sustainability for local businesses. (Philippians 2:4)

More: [news.sky.com/story/smoking-could-be-banned-in-pub-gardens-under-tighter-rules-being-considered-according-to-reports-13205117](https://news.sky.com/story/smoking-could-be-banned-in-pub-gardens-under-tighter-rules-being-considered-according-to-reports-13205117)

### Early prison release 'rolls the dice' on crime

The Government's decision to release two thousand prisoners early next month to alleviate prison overcrowding has drawn significant criticism from Martin Jones, chief probation inspector. He warned that this move is fraught with risks due to the lack of resources available to monitor released offenders adequately. He feels that the Probation Service, already stretched thin, may struggle to prevent reoffending, leading to potential public safety issues. The early release scheme, announced by justice secretary Shabana Mahmood, reduces sentences 40% to 50% for thousands of inmates, adding pressure to an overburdened probation system. Jones emphasised the inevitability of some reoffending, given the sheer volume of releases, and urged for rapid learning from mistakes when they occur. He also criticised the current lenient work-from-home policy for probation officers, highlighting its impact on accurate risk assessment. The Government, meanwhile, has announced plans to recruit one thousand extra probation officers by 2025, though they will not be ready before the early release measure ends.

Pray: that any early releases from prison will be well managed. Pray for the over-stretched prison and probation service staff. (Psalm 69:33)

More: [www.thetimes.com/article/5b9a2e10-4909-4bcc-87b4-a7dee03a177e?shareToken=e11305a80e953c7582f7c13981703579](https://www.thetimes.com/article/5b9a2e10-4909-4bcc-87b4-a7dee03a177e?shareToken=e11305a80e953c7582f7c13981703579)

### Cheap breakthrough for migraine sufferers?

A groundbreaking study reported by *The Daily Mail* reveals a potential new treatment for migraine sufferers using a cheap, readily available drug. Researchers have found that Rimegepant, a medication originally used to treat acute migraine attacks, can also be effective in preventing them. This discovery offers hope for millions of people worldwide who suffer from chronic migraines, which significantly impact quality of life. The study shows that taking Rimegepant every other day could reduce the frequency of migraine attacks, offering an alternative to more expensive treatments currently available. Patients who participated in the trial experienced fewer headaches and reported improved daily functioning and well-being. The drug's affordability and accessibility make it a promising option for wider use, particularly for those who may not have had success with other preventative medications.

Pray: for those suffering from chronic pain to find relief and comfort. Give thanks for new medications and treatments. (Psalm 147:3)

More: [www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-13788711/Breakthrough-migraine-sufferers-cheap-drug-halts-headaches-begin.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-13788711/Breakthrough-migraine-sufferers-cheap-drug-halts-headaches-begin.html)

## DUP leader calls for police crackdown following attack on Belfast church

An article from the *Belfast Telegraph* reports on a disturbing racially motivated attack on an East Belfast church. Vandals used an angle grinder to damage the church's gates, an act that has been widely condemned by the community and political leaders as a hateful and sickening attack. The church, known for its diverse congregation and outreach programmes, has been a vital part of the community, fostering inclusivity and unity among people of different backgrounds. Local authorities have launched an investigation, treating the attack as a hate crime. Community members and leaders have expressed their solidarity with the church, emphasising the need to stand against racism and support those targeted by such violence. The church leadership remains undeterred, focusing on promoting peace and reconciliation in the wake of this attack. They have called for prayers and unity within the community, reaffirming their commitment to serving everyone regardless of race or background.

Pray: for healing and unity in Belfast and other communities facing racial hatred, and for peace to prevail. (Galatians 3:28)

More: [www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/race-motivated-angle-grinder-attack-on-east-belfast-church-slammed-as-sickening/a1172629134.html](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/race-motivated-angle-grinder-attack-on-east-belfast-church-slammed-as-sickening/a1172629134.html)

## Europe

### Ukraine / Russia: diplomatic manoeuvres alongside military manoeuvres

This week has seen intensified Russian drone attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure and steady Russian advances in the Donbas region, balanced by Ukraine's incursion into the Kursk region. Diplomatically, both sides continue to show a lack of willingness to compromise. China has reaffirmed its support for Russia through a high-profile visit by premier Li Qiang and a military delegation to Moscow. Meanwhile, India's prime minister Narendra Modi has made a significant visit to Kyiv, signalling India's complex position between its historical ties with Russia and growing relationships with Western nations. Although India has not condemned Russia's actions, Modi's visit to Ukraine and his emphasis on dialogue indicate a potential shift in India's stance. The USA also announced a new military aid package and additional sanctions targeting entities supporting Russia. The diplomatic landscape remains fluid, with all parties manoeuvring for strategic advantage on the global stage.

Pray: for diplomatic wisdom, and continuing moves towards a peaceful resolution in the conflict. (Joshua 1:9)

More: [theconversation.com/ukraine-war-away-from-the-battlefield-the-diplomatic-wrangling-hots-up-with-modi-visit-to-kyiv-237161](https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-away-from-the-battlefield-the-diplomatic-wrangling-hots-up-with-modi-visit-to-kyiv-237161)

### Starmer: 'reset' with EU will not reverse Brexit

Sir Keir Starmer has emphasised that his government's intention to improve relations with the EU does not equate to reversing Brexit. Speaking alongside German chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin, Starmer highlighted the desire for a closer relationship with Europe, focusing on trade, defence, and economic growth, while ruling out rejoining the single market or customs union. The discussions also included plans for a treaty aimed at boosting cooperation between the UK and Germany, particularly in areas such as energy security and science. While the EU has proposed a youth mobility scheme to allow young people to study and work across borders, Starmer clarified that the UK has no plans to adopt such a scheme but is open to enhancing educational and cultural exchanges. The discussions were welcomed by some as a step towards mending UK-EU relations, while others expressed concerns or called for more ambitious efforts to rebuild ties with Europe.

Pray: for wisdom and discernment in strengthening international relations while honouring commitments to national sovereignty. (Psalm 32:8)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg3pxz4334o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg3pxz4334o)

## Worldwide

### Red Sea: risk of oil spill from tanker attacked by Houthis

The MV Sounion, a Greek-owned oil tanker attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, remains ablaze and could be leaking oil, according to the Pentagon. The tanker, carrying over one million barrels of crude oil, is at risk of causing one of the largest oil spills in history. The Houthis, who claim to be supporting Palestinians in the Israel-Hamas conflict, have been targeting ships in the Red Sea for the past ten months, allegedly sinking two vessels and killing two crew members. The Sounion was first attacked on 21 August, resulting in a fire that disabled its engine. Its 25 crew members were rescued by a European warship a day later. The Pentagon has expressed concern over the potential environmental disaster and reported that salvage operations have been hindered by further threats from the Houthis. Efforts are ongoing to mitigate the potential impact of the spill. Meanwhile, at least ten Palestinians have been killed in a major operation by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank: [see \(https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2ny546m7go\)](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2ny546m7go) Breaking news: Israel and Hamas have agreed on brief pauses to the conflict to allow children to be vaccinated against polio (<https://news.sky.com/story/israel-and-hamas-agree-to-brief-ceasefires-in-gaza-to-distribute-thousands-of-polio-vaccines-who-says-13205656>).

Pray: for swift intervention to prevent an environmental catastrophe, and for peace in conflict zones. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9wjx5ndnvd0](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9wjx5ndnvd0)

### **USA: call for more help for stressed parents**

Vivek Murthy, the US surgeon general, has issued a public health advisory addressing the growing mental health challenges faced by parents due to modern stresses. He is urging government bodies, businesses, and community organisations to bolster support for parents and caregivers. Among his key recommendations are expanded funding for parental support, the establishment of a national paid family and medical leave programme, ensuring paid sick leave, and increasing access to affordable mental health care for caregivers. Improving parents' mental health is crucial for addressing the broader youth mental health crisis. He also calls for employers to provide stress management training and for healthcare providers to screen parents for mental health conditions. He says that 48% of the nearly 63 million parents and caregivers in the USA report feeling overwhelmed and lonely, particularly single parents.

Pray: for strengthened support systems and resources for parents facing overwhelming mental health challenges. (Psalm 86:7)  
More: [www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-surgeon-general-calls-parent-stress-public-health-challenge-2024-08-28/](http://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-surgeon-general-calls-parent-stress-public-health-challenge-2024-08-28/)

### **Australia: plans to cut numbers of international students drastically**

Australia, which currently has one of the biggest international student markets in the world, is to introduce a cap on new enrolments, limiting them to 270,000 in 2025, as part of efforts to reduce overall migration to pre-pandemic levels. Each educational institution will face specific restrictions, with vocational and training providers seeing the largest cuts. The move has sparked outrage among tertiary education providers, who argue it could damage the sector and economy. Education minister Jason Clare defended the policy, citing the need to improve the quality of education and address issues of unethical practices among some providers. The cap aims to alleviate pressures on housing and infrastructure, with additional reforms including tougher English-language requirements and incentives for universities to build student housing.

Pray: for wise leadership in balancing migration needs with educational integrity. (Proverbs 16:3)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd734wed3y90](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd734wed3y90)

### **Haiti: thousands of young men eager to join military**

The Haitian government has announced a recruitment drive for its military, attracting thousands of young men eager for jobs amid widespread gang violence and economic hardship. Many, like 21-year-old Maurenceley Clerge, see joining the military as a rare job opportunity in a deeply impoverished country. They want to improve their lives and serve their country, despite the risks of kidnapping, torture, or death. The army, disbanded in 1995 due to its notorious human rights abuses and involvement in coups, was reinstated in 2017 when the UN peace-keeping force withdrew from the country. The force currently has around 2,000 soldiers, but aims to more than double its size. More than 3,200 killings have been reported in Haiti from January to May, with gang violence leaving more than half a million people homeless in recent years.

Pray: for safety and integrity for those joining Haiti's military during these tumultuous times. (Psalm 28:7)  
More: [apnews.com/article/haiti-military-soldiers-recruits-gang-violence-cd52951a607aed6fa8d54a0e1f6cd4f6](http://apnews.com/article/haiti-military-soldiers-recruits-gang-violence-cd52951a607aed6fa8d54a0e1f6cd4f6)

### **Hong Kong: innovative robot boat cleans up polluted waters**

In Hong Kong's marinas, a new type of vessel is making waves - an uncrewed, solar-powered catamaran, designed to autonomously clean up plastic waste from waterways. It collects floating trash using a conveyor belt, capturing up to 200 kilos per hour. Launched as a university project in 2020, Clearbot has since expanded its operations to various locations across Hong Kong, Thailand, and India, targeting polluted rivers and lakes. The boats are equipped with advanced algorithms for autonomous navigation and waste analysis, providing valuable data to help prevent further pollution. The boats are also able to perform other environmental tasks, such as clearing algae and removing invasive species. The startup aims to revolutionise marine operations by offering an eco-friendly alternative to traditional, fossil fuel-powered boats, thereby contributing to the reduction of marine pollution and promoting sustainable practices.

Pray: for continued innovation and support for technologies that protect God's creation from harm. Pray that others will be inspired by this creative approach. (Psalm 24:1)  
More: [edition.cnn.com/science/clearbot-waste-boat-hnk-spc/index.html](http://edition.cnn.com/science/clearbot-waste-boat-hnk-spc/index.html)

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