

# Prayer Alert

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**You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in You. Trust in the Lord for ever. (Isaiah 26:3,4a)**

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

### [Singer stops concert to share the Gospel with thousands](#)

Brad Arnold, the lead singer of the rock band 3 Doors Down, made headlines after pausing a recent concert to share the Gospel message. He spoke openly about his faith in Jesus Christ, emphasising the importance of salvation and the love of God. He urged the audience to accept Christ as their Saviour, reminding them that Jesus died for the sins of humanity. Arnold's testimony stood out in an industry where sharing Christian beliefs is often rare, and his boldness to proclaim his faith resonated with many fans. His public declaration reflects a growing trend among Christian musicians who use their platform to speak about their faith in secular environments. The message was well-received by many in attendance, some of whom expressed gratitude for his courage to share his beliefs.

Praise: God for Brad's boldness in sharing the Gospel. Pray that more believers in the public arena will follow his example. Pray for boldness to share Jesus with someone today! (Romans 1:16)

More: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/3-doors-down-lead-singer-stops-concert-to-share-the-gospel.html>

### [Holy Spirit forced Muslim to the ground after he left church](#)

A powerful testimony shared tells the story of Abdu Murray, who had a life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit after visiting a church. Curious about Christianity, he decided to attend a church service with no intention of becoming a believer. As he left the service and began walking home, something extraordinary happened: he was suddenly forced to the ground by an unseen power. He described the experience as overwhelming, realising he was being confronted by the presence of God. In that moment the Holy Spirit spoke to him, revealing the truth of Jesus Christ. Abdu immediately repented, embraced Christianity, and has since become a committed follower of Jesus. His testimony serves as a reminder of God's relentless pursuit of the lost, even in the most unexpected circumstances. This remarkable encounter with the Holy Spirit not only transformed his life but has also inspired others in his community to seek God's presence.

Praise: God for Brad's boldness in sharing the Gospel. Pray that more believers in the public arena will follow his example. Pray for boldness to share Jesus with someone today! (Romans 1:16)

More: [www.christianpost.com/news/3-doors-down-lead-singer-stops-concert-to-share-the-gospel.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/3-doors-down-lead-singer-stops-concert-to-share-the-gospel.html)

## British Isles

### Grenfell fire report blames 'unscrupulous' cladding firms

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry's final report concluded that the tragic fire of 2017, which claimed 72 lives, was entirely avoidable and resulted from widespread dishonesty and incompetence by those involved in the building's refurbishment. The report condemned several companies for manipulating safety testing and installing combustible cladding. Additionally, it highlighted government failures, both local and national, which ignored warnings about fire risks in high-rise buildings for decades. Survivors and victims' families, devastated by the findings, are calling for manslaughter charges against those responsible. However, Scotland Yard stated that it would take another 12-18 months to review the report, delaying potential prosecutions until 2026. This has caused frustration among families, many of whom feel that justice is long overdue. While political leaders have expressed regret and promised accountability, survivors remain sceptical, demanding criminal charges and reforms to prevent future tragedies. The inquiry also revealed the complicity of regulators and architects, who ignored fire safety in favour of cost-cutting measures.

Pray: for justice, healing for survivors, and meaningful reforms to prevent similar tragedies in the future. (Micah 2:1)

More: [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/04/grenfell-fire-systematic-dishonesty-cladding-inquiry/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/04/grenfell-fire-systematic-dishonesty-cladding-inquiry/)

### A step closer to rail nationalisation

The House of Commons has passed a motion to explore the potential for rail nationalisation, a significant victory for advocates of public ownership. It calls for reforms to address issues in the UK's rail system, including rising fares, delays, and poor service quality. Proponents argue that nationalising the railways would provide more accountability, better service, and fairer pricing for passengers. The move follows growing public frustration over the state of the rail network, which many believe has suffered under private management. Supporters also highlight that a publicly owned system could reinvest profits into improving infrastructure and services rather than prioritising shareholder dividends. However, critics of nationalisation warn that it could lead to increased government spending and inefficiencies. The Government's response has been cautious, with officials acknowledging the problems in the current system but expressing concerns about fully reversing privatisation. The Commons victory marks the first step in what could be a long debate over the future of the UK's railways.

Pray: for thoughtful and broad consultations regarding public services, ensuring that they serve communities with fairness and efficiency. (Proverbs 15:22)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rail-nationalisation-commons-victory-reform-b2606498.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rail-nationalisation-commons-victory-reform-b2606498.html)

### Proposals to remove hereditary peers from House of Lords

The Government has introduced plans to remove hereditary peers from the House of Lords, a significant move towards reforming the British upper chamber. Hereditary peers, whose titles are passed down through family lines, have long been seen as an outdated feature of the UK's political system. The plan, spearheaded by ministers, aims to gradually phase out these unelected members, promoting a more democratic and merit-based process for appointments. Proponents of the reform argue that the House of Lords should reflect modern society and uphold principles of equality, where positions are earned rather than inherited. Critics of hereditary peerages see them as a vestige of privilege that no longer aligns with contemporary governance. However, some traditionalists express concerns that removing hereditary peers could lead to further political interference in the House of Lords. The reform is part of a broader effort to modernise UK politics, with the goal of making the upper chamber more accountable, transparent, and representative of the people it serves.

Pray: for wisdom as the Government seeks to implement these political reforms. May they ensure justice and fairness for all in positions of leadership and influence. (Proverbs 11:14)

More: [www.lbc.co.uk/news/ministers-introduce-plans-to-remove-hereditary-peers-from-house-of-lords/](http://www.lbc.co.uk/news/ministers-introduce-plans-to-remove-hereditary-peers-from-house-of-lords/)

### Universities seek funding help at start of new term

UK universities are warning of a financial crisis that could lead to significant cuts unless the government takes action. According to the president of Universities UK, the sector is at a 'fork in the road' and risks 'sliding into decline' if funding issues are not addressed. Universities have been facing reduced income from domestic tuition fees, which have not kept up with inflation since 2012, and a drop in international students due to visa rule changes and global financial issues. 40% of universities in England are projecting deficits, and students may see larger class sizes and cuts to staffing and courses. While the Government is exploring solutions, skills minister Baroness Jacqui Smith stated that full state funding for universities is not the answer; she called for a more balanced approach. Meanwhile, union leaders are appealing for increased public funding, but with accountability for how those funds are used, particularly in supporting staff.

Pray: for the leadership of our universities as they seek to resolve these financial challenges. Pray that they are able to protect education quality and workforce stability. (Proverbs 9:9)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clywr60d2q7o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clywr60d2q7o)

### Scotland: £500m cuts to public spending

Scotland's deputy first minister, Shona Robison, has announced £500 million in public spending cuts to address financial pressures. The cuts, which span various sectors, aim to balance Scotland's budget while facing ongoing economic challenges. Robison emphasised that difficult decisions were necessary to manage increasing demands on public services and rising costs. The cuts will affect education, healthcare, and transport, sparking concerns from public sector workers and unions. Critics argue that the reductions could lead to decreased quality in essential services and further strain on already under-resourced sectors. Robison defended the cuts as crucial to prevent long-term financial instability, noting that the government is committed to protecting vital services as much as possible. However, she acknowledged that the cuts were far from ideal and called for a review of how public funds are distributed and used efficiently.

Pray: for government leaders to exercise discernment, ensuring that the cuts do not harm essential services and communities. (Psalm 82:3)

More: [www.holyrood.com/news/view,shona-robison-confirms-500m-worth-of-cuts-to-public-spending](http://www.holyrood.com/news/view,shona-robison-confirms-500m-worth-of-cuts-to-public-spending)

### Wales: archbishop urges joint action to solve rivers crisis

Archbishop Andrew John of Wales has emphasised the importance of joint action in addressing the crisis of river pollution. A Church-led summit on river pollution is set for November, bringing together over 70 farmers, water industry representatives, environmentalists, and academics from across the UK. The archbishop acknowledged the complexity of restoring rivers, with competing demands, but stressed the need for cooperation across different sectors. He defended the Church's involvement in secular matters, emphasising its responsibility to engage with critical issues such as climate change. He also praised athletes in the Paris Olympics, particularly the Refugee Olympic team, as examples of collaboration and mutual support. Archbishop Andrew urged the Church to continue fostering unity and cooperation within its global community and ministry areas. He also encouraged strategic, ambitious proposals for the Church's £100m Growth Fund, designed to support outreach projects over the next decade.

Pray: for commitment, insight and collaboration among those working to protect and restore the environment (Psalm 24:1)

More: [www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/joint-action-is-vital-to-solve-rivers-crisis-archbishop/](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/joint-action-is-vital-to-solve-rivers-crisis-archbishop/)

## Europe

### France: migrant deaths in small boats 'a problem of UK's making'

The ongoing migrant crisis has reshaped France's northern coast, especially Boulogne. French rescue workers and officials are witnessing a tragic pattern of migrants fleeing death only to perish in dangerous Channel crossings. While both France and the UK condemn smuggling gangs, their responses differ. British authorities emphasise the criminality of smugglers, but French officials and citizens focus on the migrants' motives, blaming the UK's loosely-regulated job market as a magnet for desperate people. The smugglers continue to adapt, launching boats from inland and resorting to violence. The French feel burdened by a crisis they see as Britain's responsibility. Despite its significance, the issue gets less media coverage in France due to its own political challenges. Interior minister Gerald Darmanin continues to call for a new treaty between the UK and the EU; efforts against smugglers alone will not suffice to solve the issue.

Pray: that the French and British governments will find the most effective way of stemming the flow of migrants across the Channel. (Psalm 82:4)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9v8272vkxpo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9v8272vkxpo)

### Italy: Indian 'fixer' faces indictment for exploiting hundreds

An Indian 'fixer', Tara Chand Tanwar, is likely to face indictment for a long history of criminal activity. One example concerns Sandeep, from Rajasthan, who was working in Italy but lost his job in 2015. He paid €5,000 to Tanwar for a new job in logistics. However, the job exposed him to exploitative conditions, including twelve-hour workdays, lack of a contract, and overcrowded living arrangements. Sandeep's fear of losing his residency kept him compliant. From 2012 to 2022, Tanwar used weaknesses in Italy's migration and procurement laws to implement a system of bribery, blackmail, and mafia-like tactics. His operation funnelled millions through bank accounts linked to forced labour. Tanwar's influence in Rajasthan, a region with high unemployment, had made him a pivotal figure in arranging jobs for hundreds of hopeful migrants, though he lacked the required licences. Workers were unaware of his illegal status and became trapped in debt.

Pray: for protection and deliverance for migrant workers trapped in exploitation. Pray that governments will know how to curb such criminal activity. (Proverbs 3:27)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/economy/2024/9/4/an-indian-fixer-lured-workers-to-italy-they-say-he-used-threats-violence](http://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2024/9/4/an-indian-fixer-lured-workers-to-italy-they-say-he-used-threats-violence)

## Worldwide

### Gaza: USA files charges against Hamas leaders

The USA has filed criminal charges against Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas, and five other individuals for orchestrating the deadly attack on 7 October which killed 1,200 people, including forty Americans. The charges include conspiracy to support a terrorist organisation, conspiracy to murder US nationals, and conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction. The complaint alleges support from Iran and Hezbollah. Three of the defendants are believed to be dead, while Sinwar remains in hiding. These charges are part of a broader effort to dismantle Hamas's operations, but the White House also says it is actively working with Egypt and Qatar on a new ceasefire and hostage deal. In other developments, in Israel there have been three days of huge [protests against Benjamin Netanyahu](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/4/why-are-hundreds-of-thousands-of-people-protesting-across-israel), (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/4/why-are-hundreds-of-thousands-of-people-protesting-across-israel>) and the UK government has decided to suspend sale of certain types of arms sales to Israel because they might be used [in violation of international humanitarian law](https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-suspend-arms-sale-israel-gaza-david-lammy/) (<https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-suspend-arms-sale-israel-gaza-david-lammy/>).

Pray: for peace, justice, and protection for all innocent lives impacted by violence and conflict. (Psalm 34:14)

More: [www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/sep/04/hamas-leaders-charged-us-7-october-attack-israel-yahya-sinwar-ismail-haniyeh-gaza](http://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/sep/04/hamas-leaders-charged-us-7-october-attack-israel-yahya-sinwar-ismail-haniyeh-gaza)

### East Asia: the Pope's longest-ever trip

Pope Francis, despite health challenges, has embarked on his longest trip as pope, visiting Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and Singapore. In this significant visit, which will cover over 32,000 km, he will aim to strengthen ties with Asian countries where Catholicism is often a minority faith but plays a crucial role in education and charity. The trip also highlights the shift in the Catholic Church's focus toward Asia and away from a Eurocentric model. In Indonesia, the Pope will meet with Muslim leaders and sign an interfaith declaration, emphasising harmony between religions. Francis will again urge world leaders to take stronger action against climate change, particularly when he is in Papua New Guinea, and in the background there are ongoing efforts to rebuild diplomatic ties with China. This trip demonstrates the Pope's continued energy - even at the age of 87 - and commitment to global outreach.

Pray: that this trip will foster unity in the Catholic church and encourage Asian Christians. Pray for the Pope's strength and health, and for wisdom in international relationships. (Isaiah 40:31)

More: [edition.cnn.com/2024/09/02/asia/pope-catholic-church-pivot-asia-hnk-intl/index.html](https://edition.cnn.com/2024/09/02/asia/pope-catholic-church-pivot-asia-hnk-intl/index.html)

### Venezuela: arrest warrant for opposition leader draws international condemnation

Venezuela's decision to issue an arrest warrant for opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia has sparked international condemnation. Canada, the USA, and Brazil have all criticised Nicolás Maduro for his crackdown on opposition members following a contested presidential election in July. He was declared the winner with 52% of the vote but failed to release vote tallies. The opposition have presented records to back up their claims that Gonzalez won. When he refused to testify in an investigation, a warrant was issued for his arrest. Brazil, once supportive of Venezuela, expressed concerns and warned that his detention would be seen as politically motivated. The USA, long critical of Maduro, accused him of extreme measures to retain power. Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch has accused armed groups of killing 23 protesters after Maduro's victory: [see \(https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/4/venezuelan-forces-accused-of-brutal-repression-in-post-election-protests\)](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/4/venezuelan-forces-accused-of-brutal-repression-in-post-election-protests).

Pray: for justice, peace, and the protection of democratic freedoms in Venezuela. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/3/international-leaders-condemn-arrest-order-for-venezuelan-opposition-leader](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/3/international-leaders-condemn-arrest-order-for-venezuelan-opposition-leader)

### Africa: China promises closer collaboration

Liu Yuxi, China's special envoy for African affairs, says China and Africa are set to strengthen their partnership in response to global challenges, particularly hegemonism and Cold War-era attitudes. He has outlined plans for this week's Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit, which will enhance collaboration in global governance, security, trade, and investment. There will be mutual benefits from this partnership, with Africa's natural resources and growing population complementing China's capital, technology, and development experience. African leaders have gathered in Beijing for the summit, hosted by Xi Jinping, at which China, Africa's largest trading partner, will focus on further cooperation. Liu rejected the idea of Africa being a battleground for major powers, urging the international community to consider Africa's perspective and support its peace and development.

Pray: for equitable partnerships which promote sustainable growth and peace for Africa. (Philippians 2:4)

More: [www.africanews.com/2024/09/04/china-africa-cooperation-a-model-for-mutual-development-gains/](https://www.africanews.com/2024/09/04/china-africa-cooperation-a-model-for-mutual-development-gains/)

### USA: former government aide accused of espionage

Linda Sun, a former senior aide to two New York governors, has been charged with acting as a secret agent for the Chinese government. She and her husband face multiple charges including visa fraud, alien smuggling, and money laundering. Both have pleaded not guilty and are out on bail. Sun allegedly used her political position to further Chinese interests, blocking Taiwanese representatives from meetings and altering official messaging to favour China, especially during the Covid pandemic. She ensured public praise for China's ventilator shipments while blocking an effort by Taiwan to get a public acknowledgement for giving masks. Authorities claim she facilitated millions in business deals for her husband's Chinese-connected company, which funded their luxurious lifestyle. China's embassy dismissed the charges, pointing out that previous cases against alleged Chinese agents have collapsed. There are growing tensions between the two countries over espionage claims.

Pray: for truth and justice to prevail in the face of complex global political tensions. Pray for transparency in international relations. (Proverbs 10:9)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/4/who-is-linda-sun-ex-aide-to-ny-governors-charged-with-spying-for-china](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/4/who-is-linda-sun-ex-aide-to-ny-governors-charged-with-spying-for-china)

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