

# Prayer Alert

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**As for me, I shall always have hope: I will praise You more and more. (Psalm 71:14)**

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

### [Starting small, now global](#)

Born to a Hindu father and Christian mother near Chennai, Mohan committed his life to Christ while in the tenth grade after grappling with spiritual questions about heaven and salvation. Baptised in 1990, he received the gift of speaking in tongues a few months later. He soon felt called to plant churches and began evangelising in a nearby village. Despite having a career as an engineer, Mohan used his earnings to support pastors and plant churches, leading to the establishment of ten churches in India. In 2012, he moved to Connecticut, where he continues to support global church-planting efforts. During the Covid lockdown, Mohan spent time in deep prayer, leading to the creation of Universal Apostolic Ministries, which focuses on planting churches in Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist, and communist countries. His ministry has expanded from India to include Myanmar, Bhutan, Pakistan, China, Mexico, and beyond.

Praise: God for Mohan's ministry. Pray for strength and provision for him as he leads church-planting efforts in difficult regions. (Mark 16:15)

More: [www.godreports.com/2024/09/indian-church-planter-started-small-then-god-enlarged-his-vision/](http://www.godreports.com/2024/09/indian-church-planter-started-small-then-god-enlarged-his-vision/)

### [USA: Russell Brand prays publicly](#)

At an event in Phoenix, US media personality Tucker Carlson talked at length to actor Russell Brand about his recent conversion, then asked him to close the event in prayer. Dropping to his knees, Brand declared: 'I call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our heavenly Saviour. I pray ... that the dark and demonic forces which appear to operate in the corporate and global world experience your light, Lord.' After asking God to guide everyone's words and hearts towards grace and forgiveness, he continued: 'Thank you, Lord, for the many gifts that you have bestowed upon us. Thank you for the glory of consciousness itself, in which we can experience you and live for you. Thank you for the beauty of nature, in which we see your wisdom and your creativity and your infinite glory. All of us are fallen, but in your holy name we are forgiven by your act of redemption. By your sacrifice in your name, we pray. Amen.' 'Amen', Carson responded, prompting cheers from the audience.

Praise: God for Russell Brand's willingness to pray publicly. Pray for hearts to be open to God's grace, forgiveness, and the gift of salvation. (Ephesians 2:8)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/russell-brand-prays-on-stage-tucker-carlson-event](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/russell-brand-prays-on-stage-tucker-carlson-event)

## British Isles

### Government axes universal winter fuel payments

Millions of pensioners will lose winter fuel payments after the Government won a Commons vote to end the universal benefit. Chancellor Rachel Reeves introduced the measure as part of an effort to address a £22 billion deficit in public finances. The payment, which had been given to all pensioners, will now be restricted to those receiving pension credit. The move, which will save around £1.5 billion annually, has drawn criticism for its sudden implementation without public consultation. 53 Labour MPs abstained from voting, and some people have vowed never to vote Labour again. One Labour MP, Jon Trickett, broke ranks and voted against the measure, citing concerns about pensioner poverty and criticising the Government for targeting the vulnerable rather than the wealthy. The winter fuel payment, introduced in 1997, was designed to help pensioners with heating costs, but its removal will affect ten million people, leaving many facing increased hardship this winter.

Pray: that the Government will find other ways of giving the most vulnerable in our society the support which they need. (Psalm 82:13)

More: [www.lbc.co.uk/news/what-is-the-winter-fuel-payment-and-why-has-it-been-axed/](https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/what-is-the-winter-fuel-payment-and-why-has-it-been-axed/)

### Government announces tougher measures to protect tenants

The Renters' Rights Bill, appearing in Parliament on 12 September, aims to provide the most significant shift in tenant-landlord relations since 1988. It will ban 'no-fault' evictions, a leading cause of homelessness, replacing them with Section 8, which allows evictions for valid reasons like unpaid rent or a landlord's need to reclaim the property. The bill will also include longer eviction notice periods and extend an eviction-free protected period at the start of tenancies. It will target the skyrocketing cost of private renting by empowering tenants to challenge unfair rent increases and banning rental bidding wars. It will also apply the Decent Homes Standard to private rentals, ensuring that landlords maintain safe, hazard-free homes. Additionally, renters will gain the right to keep pets, and discrimination against tenants on benefits or with children will be outlawed. Both landlord and renter advocacy groups have supported aspects of the bill, though concerns remain about enforcement and local council resources.

Pray: giving thanks for this initiative. Pray for fair and compassionate policies which protect both renters and landlords in housing. (Proverbs 3:27)

More: [inews.co.uk/news/pets-no-fault-evictions-labour-renting-reform-rated-3271748](https://inews.co.uk/news/pets-no-fault-evictions-labour-renting-reform-rated-3271748)

### Princess' personal video message about completing chemotherapy

The Princess of Wales has shared her relief at completing her chemotherapy in a heartfelt and very personal video message - a markedly different approach from the usual formal bulletins from Kensington Palace. After her cancer diagnosis in March, Catherine has remained largely out of the public eye. She described her journey through treatment as 'incredibly tough', marked by a profound sense of vulnerability and a new perspective on life. While she has finished this phase of treatment, it remains unclear if she is cancer-free, and a full recovery is expected to take time. She expects to participate in a few engagements later this year, maybe including a Remembrance Day event and her annual Christmas carol concert. Despite the ongoing challenges, she expresses a renewed sense of hope and appreciation for life, acknowledging the long path ahead in her recovery. Her last public appearance was at Wimbledon in July, where she received a standing ovation.

Pray: for continued healing and strength for Catherine as she navigates her recovery journey. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1d7wk5d4ylo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1d7wk5d4ylo)

### Starmer responds to damning report on NHS

A major report by Lord Darzi, a widely respected surgeon and former health minister, has highlighted serious issues facing the NHS. The rapid review, completed in nine weeks, reveals that the nation's health has worsened, with rising demand for healthcare driven by poor housing, low income, and insecure jobs. Waiting targets for surgery, cancer care, A&E, and mental health services are persistently missed. GP services are overwhelmed, cancer survival rates lag behind other countries, and progress in heart disease treatment has stalled. The budget is inefficiently spent, with too much focused on hospitals and not enough on community care. Workforce challenges include a 5% drop in community nurses and nearly 20% fewer health visitors. The NHS is struggling with outdated equipment, crumbling infrastructure, and disengaged staff. Sir Keir Starmer has responded to the report by saying that the NHS is 'broken but not beaten' and announcing a ten-year plan to reform the service drastically. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/c0qejx03zjnt>

Pray: for wisdom and compassion in leaders making critical healthcare decisions for the future. (Jeremiah 17:14)

More: [news.sky.com/story/darzi-review-key-points-from-damning-new-report-into-state-of-nhs-13213159](https://news.sky.com/story/darzi-review-key-points-from-damning-new-report-into-state-of-nhs-13213159)

## Conservative leadership contest: Mel Stride eliminated

Robert Jenrick and Kemi Badenoch have emerged as the frontrunners in the Conservative Party leadership race following the second round of MP voting. Jenrick led with 33 votes, followed by Badenoch with 28. James Cleverly and Tom Tugendhat were tied in third with 21 votes, while Mel Stride was eliminated. Badenoch's team celebrated her momentum, noting she gained the most new votes. Jenrick's camp touted his steady support, positioning him as a strong contender for the final two. Despite their trailing positions, Cleverly and Tugendhat remain hopeful, looking to attract Stride's moderate supporters. Both will aim to boost their profiles at the upcoming party conference in Birmingham. A poll showed Badenoch with 24% support among Tory members, ahead of Tugendhat (16%), Cleverly (14%), and Jenrick (12%). Two more MP ballots in early October will determine the final two candidates, who will then face an online vote by party members, with results announced on 2 November.

Pray: for wisdom and integrity for leaders as they seek to guide the nation. Pray that the candidate of God's choice will be successful. (Proverbs 24:5)

More: [inews.co.uk/news/politics/mel-stride-elimination-jenrick-badenoch-tory-leader-race-3270687](https://www.inews.co.uk/news/politics/mel-stride-elimination-jenrick-badenoch-tory-leader-race-3270687)

## Europe

### Ukraine: sanctions against Iran for supplying missiles to Russia

France, Germany, and the UK have introduced new sanctions on Iran for supplying ballistic missiles to Russia, which US secretary of state Antony Blinken said will be used against Ukraine. The sanctions include restrictions on Iran Air and travel bans on military officials. UK foreign secretary David Lammy described Iran's actions as 'a dangerous escalation'. Several individuals and organisations involved in the supply of the missiles face sanctions, and Russian cargo ships transporting these supplies have also been targeted. The Western nations have demanded that Iran halt its missile deliveries, citing security threats to Europe. Blinken and Lammy also flew to Ukraine to 'hear directly from the leadership' about their objectives. Volodymyr Zelensky has asked for authorisation to use Western-supplied missiles to strike targets inside Russia - a move the USA has so far resisted. Russia continues to make advances in eastern Ukraine.

Pray: for wisdom in leadership, protection for Ukraine, and peace through resolution. (Psalm 140:1,2)

More: [www.yahoo.com/news/lammy-blinken-visit-ukraine-week-121955768.html](https://www.yahoo.com/news/lammy-blinken-visit-ukraine-week-121955768.html)

### Spain: plans to transform La Rambla

It is one of the most iconic boulevards in Europe, but in recent years Barcelona's La Rambla has been plagued by souvenir shops, pickpockets, and prostitutes. The city plans to transform the street, aiming to reduce the effects of mass tourism and restore the street to local citizens. The ambitious plan, expected to be completed by 2027, includes reducing traffic, adding arts centres, and replacing souvenir shops with authentic local businesses. Planners hope to make La Rambla more attractive to both locals and tourists by offering a more genuine cultural experience. Activists argue that the street has become a tourist monoculture, losing its diversity and charm. The city council wishes to attract tourists with respectful behaviour, not just those with money. Changes include widening the central boulevard, improving street lighting, and adding three new squares.

Pray: for thoughtful urban planning that prioritises community well-being. Pray that tourists will be respectful of local culture. (1 Corinthians 14:40)

More: [inews.co.uk/news/world/barcelona-tackling-tourists-ruining-la-rambla-3269636](https://www.inews.co.uk/news/world/barcelona-tackling-tourists-ruining-la-rambla-3269636)

## Worldwide

### Afghanistan: new law restricts women even further

There have been very few opportunities in the last three years for women to escape from the bleakness of life under Taliban rule, with teenage girls having been barred from formal education. Now a new law has been passed which restricts their freedoms even further. The law enhances the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice Ministry's control over Afghan citizens, worsening the already severe limitations on women's rights. Many women are scared to speak or even leave their homes; activists like Nausheen, who previously protested and was once arrested and beaten, now refrain from public dissent due to the fear of violent retaliation. Some women are rebelling quietly, running secret schools and sharing their resistance through masked online videos. The international community, including the EU, has condemned the new restrictions as 'systematic and systemic abuses, which may amount to gender persecution'. However, a government spokesman said the values laid out in the law are in line with Islamic traditions.

Pray: for courage and protection for Afghan women fighting against oppressive laws. (Matthew 5:10)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgedlz5wx88o](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgedlz5wx88o)

## USA: Harris v Trump presidential debate

Kamala Harris faced Donald Trump in a high-stakes debate ahead of the 2024 election. Harris, making her debate debut against Trump, focused on attacking his leadership, highlighting his shifting positions on abortion and crowd sizes. Trump attempted to play up his immigration policies but struggled under Harris's sharp retorts. Harris emphasised her vision for change, positioning herself as the candidate to move beyond Trump's 'tired playbook' of grievances. Despite Trump's attempts to paint her as a continuation of Joe Biden, she stayed on message, especially on economic and climate issues. The debate moderators fact-checked Trump, leading to complaints from him and his supporters about unfair treatment. Harris ended the debate on a high note, made even better when pop star Taylor Swift publicly endorsed her. Though polls show mixed views on who represents 'change', Harris's performance has solidified her status as a strong contender in the extremely tight race for the White House.

Pray: for discernment in leadership choices that uphold truth, integrity, and justice. (Proverbs 14:34)

More: [www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/11/trump-harris-debate-analysis](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/11/trump-harris-debate-analysis)

## Gaza: six UN workers killed

On 11 September the UN agency for refugees (UNRWA) reported that six of its employees had been killed in an Israeli airstrike on al-Jaouni school in central Gaza, which was sheltering thousands of displaced Palestinians. Altogether, eighteen were killed in the attack. Israel's military stated that the strike targeted terrorists planning attacks from the school, adding that measures were taken to avoid civilian casualties. The UN condemned the attack as a violation of international humanitarian law. The incident marks the fifth strike on the school in eleven months and the highest death toll among UN staff in the current conflict. Israel defended the airstrike, asserting that Hamas uses civilian buildings for military operations - a claim which Hamas denies. Meanwhile, there is evidence that Israel has been laying tarmac on a crucial border road: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cewlqpk9e990](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cewlqpk9e990)

Pray: for protection of civilians, especially children, and for moves towards peace, rather than in the other direction. (Psalm 9:9)

More: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyn400rm68o>

## Brazil: former president leads protest against ban on X

On Brazil's independence day, former president Jair Bolsonaro led thousands in a protest in Sao Paulo against the country's ban on the social media platform X. The ban was ordered by supreme court justice Alexandre de Moraes after X, owned by Elon Musk, failed to appoint a legal representative in Brazil as required. De Moraes has also had ongoing disputes with Musk over misinformation. The supreme court unanimously upheld the ban, sparking anger from far-right supporters who viewed it as an infringement on free speech. Bolsonaro, a key figure in Brazil's far-right, called for the protest, describing it as a fight for democracy and free expression. Bolsonaro has a history of clashes with De Moraes, especially after the 2022 elections when he spread misinformation about electoral fraud, leading to protests and a violent assault on government buildings. De Moraes eventually banned Bolsonaro from office until 2030 for his role in spreading false information.

Pray: for truth, justice, and peace to prevail in times of political unrest. (Zechariah 8:16)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2024/9/7/former-brazilian-president-bolsonaro-leads-free-speech-rally-in-sao-paulo](https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2024/9/7/former-brazilian-president-bolsonaro-leads-free-speech-rally-in-sao-paulo)

## Senegal: mobilising young people against coastal erosion

Guediawaye beach, close to Senegal's capital Dakar, is suffering from coastal erosion, leaving residents with limited access to safe, local beaches. The Senegal Youth Consortium (CJS) has launched a project to rehabilitate the beach while empowering youth. Through cultural and sports activities such as swimming, boxing, and golf, the initiative attracts hundreds of young people each weekend. It educates participants about environmental issues, particularly coastal erosion, and encourages them to take ownership of the beach's preservation. The project is set to create 400 jobs in the coming months; unemployment is particularly prevalent among Senegal's youth. The country's coastline is estimated to be retreating by 0.5 to 2 metres per year. Meanwhile, a new technique for combating erosion is being trialled in Togo: [see https://www.africanews.com/2021/09/11/new-technique-helps-prevent-erosion-along-togolese-coast/](https://www.africanews.com/2021/09/11/new-technique-helps-prevent-erosion-along-togolese-coast/)

Pray: for the protection of coastal regions and the success of projects that empower youth to preserve their environment. (Psalm 24:1)

More: [www.africanews.com/2024/09/11/senegal-raising-awareness-among-the-youth-to-preserve-coastal-environments/](https://www.africanews.com/2024/09/11/senegal-raising-awareness-among-the-youth-to-preserve-coastal-environments/)

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