

Prayer Alert

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You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You. (Psalm 9:10b)

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](#).

We invite you to read the latest 'Seeds of Prayer' from Hope Countryside [HERE](#).

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

[Street preacher shot in the head, not expected to live](#)

Hans Schmidt, a street preacher and military veteran, was shot in the head while sharing the Gospel in Arizona. Unaware of the gunshot, he drove to his church, Victory Chapel, with blood streaming down his face. On the way to the hospital, he suffered a seizure and became unconscious. Doctors gave little hope, telling his wife Zulya that the outcome looked grim. They expected death, and detectives even spoke of an autopsy. However, prayer warriors across the nation began interceding for him. Hans was placed in a medically-induced coma and remained unresponsive for a month. Then, miraculously, he woke up and spoke. His wife was astonished and overjoyed. Against all odds, he fully recovered, returned to his family, and resumed playing the drums at church. He has also forgiven his assailant, who was never found. Now, he continues preaching the message of God's love, focusing on the importance of forgiveness.

Praise: God for Hans' miraculous recovery and his powerful testimony of forgiveness and faith in Jesus. (Colossians 3:13)
More: www.godreports.com/2024/09/shot-in-the-head-while-street-preaching-doctors-didnt-expect-him-to-live/

[Boy's life support switched off, but now 'thriving'](#)

A four-year-old boy, whose life support was withdrawn after doctors at King's College Hospital in London declared he was certain to die, has miraculously improved. Despite his Christian parents' pleas to continue treatment or transfer him to a Vatican-backed hospital in Italy, the High Court ruled in favour of ending life support. However, contrary to medical predictions, the boy has returned home, breathing on his own, no longer reliant on life-sustaining machines. He is 'thriving', smiling, and enjoying life with his family. The judge who had initially authorised the withdrawal of life support reversed his decision after visiting the boy and reviewing his remarkable recovery. The case has raised complex ethical and legal questions, with doctors and the court acknowledging that medical science does not fully understand every case. The boy, who was born deaf and blind, survived despite two heart attacks caused by a brain infection. His story highlights the unpredictable nature of medicine and the resilience of the human will to live.

Praise: God for the miraculous recovery of this boy and the strength of his family's faith. Pray for continued resilience and happiness for them despite the challenges. (Luke 1:37)
More: www.thetimes.com/article/41275569-76f7-4d2c-a90f-c1e1ba1af2dd

British Isles

Dozens of prisoners mistakenly released early from jail

A system error has led to the mistaken early release of 37 prisoners jailed for breaching restraining orders, sparking serious concerns about public safety. The issue arose because some offenders were incorrectly logged under outdated legislation, which meant that they were included in the government's early release plan. While most of the prisoners have been returned to custody, five remain at large. Victims have been notified of the error, and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has halted further releases affected by this issue. Although some expressed alarm at the potential danger to domestic abuse survivors, the MoJ reassured the public that actions are being taken to prevent future errors and return the remaining offenders to custody. The early release scheme was designed to alleviate overcrowding in prisons, but the mishap has raised critical concerns about the system's reliability.

Pray: for God's protection over victims, and for swift resolution of errors in the justice system. (Psalm 9:9)

More: www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/breaking-dozens-prisoners-mistakenly-released-33752490

PM accepted £20,000 of accommodation to help his son study

Sir Keir Starmer has faced scrutiny after it was revealed that he accepted £20,437 worth of accommodation from Labour peer Waheed Alli to help his son study peacefully for his GCSEs. The accommodation allowed his son to focus on his exams without the distraction of journalists outside their family home. Starmer defended the decision, stating that his primary concern was ensuring his son's success; the arrangement did not cost taxpayers anything. Starmer also addressed previous controversies about gifts from Lord Alli, including clothing, glasses and Downing Street passes, but emphasised that his ministers would no longer accept such gifts now that Labour is in government.

Pray: for integrity in leadership and that leaders make decisions in the best interest of all. Pray for the PM's children who are adapting to coping with living in the public spotlight. (Proverbs 11:3)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmer-donor-alli-labour-conference-b2618667.html

'Brexit reset' at Labour party conference

Brexit has quietly resurfaced at the Labour Party conference, with Keir Starmer's 'Brexit reset' plans taking centre stage. EU officials, alongside representatives from key European nations like Germany and France, have attended to explore potential new security and trade agreements. Central to these discussions is the EU's push for a youth mobility scheme, allowing Europeans under 30 to live and work in the UK for up to four years. While Starmer has advocated stricter immigration controls, the EU is reportedly willing to compromise, offering shorter stays of two to three years to facilitate negotiations. Labour's manifesto included proposals for a security and defence pact, a veterinary agreement to ease food and farming trade, and mutual recognition of professional qualifications. However, concerns remain over whether Labour has clearly defined objectives for the negotiations. The talks come amid broader tensions, with Labour's grassroots pro-EU movement pushing for more engagement with Europe.

Pray: for wisdom in the post-Brexit negotiations, ensuring fairness and cooperation between the UK and Europe. (James 1:5)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-49789938

Boy stabbed to death, two suspects arrested

Fifteen-year-old Daejaun Campbell was stabbed to death in an incident in Woolwich. Police who were called to a disturbance found him with severe stab injuries. Despite efforts to save him, he died shortly afterward. A witness described the heartbreaking scene, recalling how Daejaun, bleeding heavily, pleaded, 'I'm 15, don't let me die.' The witness tried to stem the flow of blood until paramedics arrived. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of murder and are in police custody. Daejaun's family is receiving support from specialist officers during this incredibly difficult time. The tragic death has sent shockwaves through the community, where the victim was known as a polite and kind boy.

Pray: comfort in grief for Daejaun's family and community, and for justice to be swiftly served in this tragedy. Pray for resolutions to the knife crime situation in our cities. (Psalm 34:18)

More: news.sky.com/story/boy-15-stabbed-to-death-in-woolwich-is-named-as-two-men-arrested-on-suspicion-of-murder-13220767

Bank of England interest rates 'set to plunge within months'

The Bank of England is expected to lower its base interest rate to 3.5% in the coming months, a relief for home buyers and businesses as the UK economy shows signs of improvement. Experts predict the economy will grow at double the previously expected rate. One leading firm has highlighted the need for increased public investment to sustain this growth trajectory. While interest rates have surged due to inflation concerns, prompting households to save rather than spend, the easing of rates is expected to boost consumer confidence. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) also upgraded the UK's growth forecast, positioning the UK just behind the US in expected economic performance within the G-7 nations. Despite lingering uncertainties, these optimistic projections suggest a stronger economic outlook for the UK in the near future.

Pray: for prudent economic policies that balance growth with stability, benefiting all sectors of society. Pray for families struggling to make ends meet. (Proverbs 21:5)

More: www.express.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/1953290/bank-of-england-cut-base-rate-boost

Peace efforts need prayer, Welby tells world leaders

The Archbishop of Canterbury, addressing world leaders at the International Meeting for Peace in Paris, emphasised the critical role of prayer in achieving peace. Speaking in French, he said that peace efforts in today's world cannot succeed without prayer, which leads to reconciliation and hope. Referring to the 56 active global conflicts, including Ukraine, he lamented the ongoing death of innocents and the rise in fear and hatred. He also described climate change as an undeclared war against creation, contributing to other conflicts. He believes that prayer aligns us with God's will for peace, justice, and the common good, inspiring imagination to address crises like political breakdown and community hostility. He stressed that reconciliation is a long-term process requiring truth-telling, healing, and mutual acceptance. Other speakers included France's chief rabbi, Haïm Korsia, and Afghan refugee Lina Hassani. The Archbishop urged continued global prayer for reconciliation and lasting peace.

Pray: that the worldwide Church will continue to take a lead in advocating the importance of prayer in the pursuit of peace and the transformation of nations. (Matthew 5:9)

More: www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2024/27-september/news/uk/peace-efforts-need-prayer-archbishop-welby-tells-world-leaders

Europe

Austria: far-right politician is the man to beat

Herbert Kickl, the far-right leader of Austria's Freedom Party (FPÖ), is the man to beat in the parliamentary election on 29 September despite being one of the country's least popular politicians. Known for his abrasive and provocative style, Kickl has positioned the election as a referendum on his leadership, with polls showing a close race between his party and chancellor Karl Nehammer's conservative People's Party (ÖVP). The FPÖ, which advocates tougher immigration laws and criticises the current ÖVP-Greens government, has capitalised on Austria's struggling economy and high inflation. However, Kickl's controversial views, including opposition to sanctions on Russia and promotion of conspiracy theories, have alienated other party leaders, who have vowed not to work under him. His aggressive personality and connections to far-right ideology make coalition-building difficult, and his future as Austria's leader remains uncertain.

Pray: for wisdom, discernment, and integrity in Austria's leadership, and for peace amid political tensions. (Proverbs 14:34)

More: www.reuters.com/world/europe/austrias-polarising-far-right-leader-bids-become-chancellor-2024-09-25/

Serbia: judo champion suspended for making the sign of the cross

Serbian judo champion Nemanja Majdov has been suspended for five months by the International Judo Federation (IJF) for making the sign of the cross during the Paris Olympics. The 28-year-old did this before his round of 16 match, violating the IJF's code of ethics, which prohibits religious gestures on the field of play. Majdov had previously been warned in 2018 and 2022, making this his third violation. Responding on social media, he expressed no regret for his actions. Rather, he affirmed his faith, stating that God is central to both his personal life and career, and vowed to return to competition next year with renewed determination. Despite his suspension, Majdov remains proud of his accomplishments, including winning the 2023 European Championship and three world medals. The IJF stated that the rules aim to ensure respect and equality for all cultures, religions, and orientations within the sport. Religious expressions are allowed outside the field of play but not during competitions.

Pray: giving thanks for Majdov and those like him who are in the public gaze and are not afraid to witness to their beliefs. (1 Timothy 6:12)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/judo-champion-suspended-for-making-sign-of-the-cross-during-paris-olympics?

Worldwide

Israel / Hezbollah: conflict continues

Following extensive air strikes targeting Hezbollah, Lt Gen Herzl Halevi, Israel's military chief, has indicated that a ground invasion into Hezbollah-controlled territory in Lebanon might be imminent. The air strikes, which hit Hezbollah's intelligence directorate and weapons stores, killed over fifty people, according to Lebanon's health minister. Hezbollah escalated the conflict by firing a missile toward Tel Aviv, the first such strike by the group on the city, which Israel intercepted. Cross-border fighting has continued, with Hezbollah launching more rockets and Israel responding with over 280 airstrikes on Hezbollah targets. Since Monday, more than six hundred people have been killed in Lebanon, and 90,000 have been displaced. There is no end in sight to the fighting, which is linked to Hezbollah's support for Hamas in Gaza. Breaking news: Benjamin Netanyahu has flown to New York to address the UN General Assembly on 27 September. He has resolutely turned down the call by a number of countries for an immediate 21-day ceasefire. See <https://apnews.com/article/netanyahu-speech-gaza-hezbollah-un-e761de05e4c4a7f54bfd27e8795bceb7>

Pray: for peace, protection for civilians, and wisdom for leaders in this conflict. (Psalm 140:1,2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8xe8nkj9wy0

Pakistan: death sentence for Christian woman

A court in Islamabad has sentenced Shagufta Kiran, a Christian mother of four, to death for sharing allegedly blasphemous content on social media. Convicted under Pakistan's blasphemy laws, she also faces a seven-year prison sentence and a huge fine. Kiran was arrested in 2021 after forwarding a WhatsApp message which her husband claims she did not understand. Since then, the family has been threatened, forcing them to move repeatedly. Kiran's lawyer plans to appeal, while international concerns grow over the misuse of Pakistan's blasphemy laws, particularly against religious minorities. Nasir Saeed, director of CLAAS-UK, highlighted the urgent need for reform, stating that these laws are being used to persecute minorities and cause widespread injustice. He urged the international community to pressure Pakistan for legal reforms to safeguard religious freedom and protect innocent individuals from wrongful persecution.

Pray: for justice, protection, and the release of those wrongfully accused of blasphemy. (Psalm 82:3)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-mother-sentenced-to-death-for-alleged-blasphemy-on-social-media?

Bolivia: anti-government protests led by former president

Anti-government protesters have clashed with supporters of President Luis Arce in Bolivia's capital La Paz, amid an economic crisis and political power struggle. Former president Evo Morales, once a close ally of Arce, has led a week-long, 220-km 'March to save Bolivia', demanding cabinet changes and threatening further protests. He has accused the government of corruption, economic mismanagement, and protecting drug trafficking. Arce and Morales are now vying to lead Bolivia's long-dominant party Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), ahead of the 2025 presidential election. Their division has sparked street violence, leaving 34 people injured. Morales, seeking a political comeback after his 2019 ousting, has widespread support among poor and indigenous Bolivians, who represent almost half the country's population. The country's economy has been hit by dwindling natural gas revenues and lack of investment. It is unclear what will happen next.

Pray: for peace, justice, and unity in Bolivia, and that the violence and unrest will cease. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/24/tension-in-bolivia-as-morales-issues-24-hour-ultimatum-to-arce-government

Sri Lanka: new president elected

Anura Kumara Dissanayake has been elected as Sri Lanka's new president, marking a shift in leadership following the country's worst financial crisis in decades. Dissanayake, 55, from the Marxist-leaning JVP party, won 42.3% of the vote, defeating the incumbent president Ranil Wickremesinghe and opposition leader Sajith Premadasa. Wickremesinghe, whose austerity measures were key to economic recovery, finished third with 17%, while Premadasa secured 32.8%. Dissanayake campaigned as a candidate for change, promising anti-corruption measures, lower taxes, and pro-poor policies. He also pledged to dissolve parliament within 45 days and address the \$25 billion debt in consultation with the IMF. His victory comes as Sri Lanka's economy shows signs of recovery, with inflation dropping and growth expected for the first time in three years. However, the continued high cost of living remains a pressing issue for voters, many of whom hope Dissanayake will bring relief.

Pray: for wisdom and guidance for Mr Dissanayake as he seeks to bring about economic recovery and alleviate poverty. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: www.dawn.com/news/1860422/sri-lanka-picks-marxist-leaning-dissanayake-as-president-to-fix-economy

Global: UN outlines 56 actions for the future

The UN General Assembly has adopted a 'Pact for the Future', a 42-page blueprint aimed at uniting the world's 193 nations to tackle pressing global challenges like climate change, artificial intelligence, escalating conflicts, inequality, and poverty. The pact was introduced at a two-day summit convened by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who said his purpose was to 'bring multilateralism back from the brink'. The pact outlines 56 actions; one would be to reform the Security Council so that Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America are more fairly represented. It also includes 'the first agreed multilateral support for nuclear disarmament in more than a decade', and commits the UN to initiate a global dialogue on AI governance. Other key issues include responses to pandemics, empowering youth, and advancing gender equality. Guterres called on world leaders to turn promises into real actions which make a difference to the lives of the world's more than eight billion people.

Pray: for global leaders to act with integrity and unity in addressing the world's urgent challenges. (Philippians 2:4)

More: www.africanews.com/2024/09/23/un-general-assembly-approves-blueprint-to-foster-global-unity/

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