

Prayer Alert

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As you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6,7)

We are pleased to enclose this week's edition of Prayer Alert.

Pray for the US elections for president, Senate, and Congress taking place on 5 November: [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.

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

'It's all God': surviving the hurricane by floating on couch

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, Howard and Lisa Ray, a North Carolina couple, experienced God's saving power firsthand amidst unimaginable devastation. When floodwaters from the hurricane overtook their trailer, they used their couch to stay afloat as the water rose nearly thirty feet above normal levels. They drifted 400 yards on their makeshift raft, with Howard reassuring Lisa, 'If we're going to drown, we're going to drown together'. Eventually, Lisa managed to pull herself up on a barbed-wire fence, sustaining cuts in the process, and they took shelter in a nearby garage. They lost everything but incredibly were soon reunited with their dog, Saddi, which had waited at the ruins of their home. Supported by donations from their church, they are pressing forward, convinced that God has a purpose in their survival. The chaplain assisting relief efforts echoed their faith, testifying to God's guidance and strength in the worst storm damage he had ever seen.

Praise: God for this encouraging testimony to His unfailing presence and the resilience He provides in times of unimaginable events. Pray for those rebuilding their homes and businesses following the hurricane. (Psalm 18:2)

More: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/couple-survived-hurricane-helene-by-floating-on-their-couch.html>

Revival continues in US colleges

A powerful revival movement continues to sweep across US college campuses, led by UniteUS, a group that began at Auburn University. Students gather in stadiums and auditoriums, usually filled with cheering sports fans, to celebrate salvation in Christ. This revival meets students where they are, offering hope to those burdened with guilt, shame, and life struggles. Many young adults arrive with feelings of despair, but they encounter Jesus, who brings transformative joy and purpose. 'I came in ready to end my life and left with the most joy I've ever had', one student said. The impact has spread from one campus to another, with thousands of students attending each event. These gatherings provide a space for healing and openness as they pray for one another and build community. Tonya Prewitt, founder of UniteUS, believes, 'This revival is just beginning. It's a movement.' Christian student leaders support these events, facilitating prayer, personal testimonies, and baptisms, which reignite faith and change lives.

Praise: the Lord for continuing revival across US campuses, bringing salvation, joy, and purpose to young lives. Pray that they may be nurtured in their faith. (Psalm 85:6)

More: <https://www.godreports.com/2024/10/revival-continues-in-colleges-across-america/>

British Isles

Budget: NHS, schools, houses, tax rises

The UK's largest tax increase since 1993 was announced as Rachel Reeves introduced a budget aimed at revitalising healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Taxes will rise by £40 billion, with employer national insurance contributions, capital gains tax, and VAT on private school fees among the primary targets. These funds, coupled with higher borrowing, aim to close a financial gap left by previous administrations, supporting the NHS, affordable housing, and transport projects. Reeves acknowledged the 'difficult decisions' required, defending these increases as essential to 'rebuild Britain' without directly impacting individual income tax, VAT, or national insurance. Critics argue, however, that these tax hikes may still burden working people indirectly. In response to Tory criticisms, Reeves insisted that Labour's approach will prevent austerity and 'put more pounds in people's pockets' while providing relief measures for small businesses and the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors.

Pray: that the Government will steward resources wisely, and prioritise the needs of the vulnerable. Pray for families and businesses who are negatively impacted by the budget. (Amos 5:24)

More: <https://www.itv.com/news/2024-10-30/rachel-reeves-sets-out-labours-tax-rising-budget-to-rebuild-britain>

Southport attack: murder suspect in court

Axel Rudakubana, 18, appeared in court facing new charges related to a deadly stabbing incident at a Taylor Swift-themed dance workshop in Southport. The charges, stemming from a home search, include producing ricin and possessing an al-Qaeda training manual. Rudakubana has already been charged with three counts of murder and ten counts of attempted murder, for the attack in July when three children were killed and others injured. The magistrate linked the new charges to his previous ones, transferring them to Liverpool Crown Court, where Rudakubana will next appear in November. Despite finding materials linked to terrorism, authorities have not classified the incident as a terrorist attack. Following the attack, false online claims regarding Rudakubana's background triggered nationwide riots, leading to over 1,500 arrests.

Pray: for peace and healing for all affected by this tragic event. Pray for wisdom for authorities handling this and other complex judicial cases. (Matthew 5:9)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/southport-attack-murder-suspect-axel-rudakubana-in-court-over-ricin-and-al-qaeda-manual-charges-13244519>

Tommy Robinson jailed for contempt of court

Far-right activist Tommy Robinson was sentenced to 18 months in prison after breaching a court order not to repeat false allegations about Syrian refugee Jamal Hijazi. Robinson, who founded the English Defence League, was initially sued for libel in 2021 and ordered to pay £100,000 to Hijazi after his unfounded accusations severely impacted the teenager and his family, who had relocated to the UK for refuge. The court issued an injunction barring Robinson from continuing these allegations, which he breached by producing a film entitled *Silenced* and making further comments in interviews. Robinson admitted that this constituted contempt of court. His case has sparked protests from his supporters, who gathered in London demanding his release.

Pray: that justice, truth, and healing prevail for all those affected by public falsehoods and slander. (Proverbs 21:21)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/tommy-robinson-admits-contempt-of-court-13243273>

Huge fire erupts at nuclear submarine shipyard

On 30 October a major fire erupted at the BAE Systems shipyard in Barrow, Cumbria, where the UK's next-generation nuclear submarines are being constructed. Emergency services were called to the facility after the fire broke out around midnight. Local authorities assured residents there was no nuclear risk, but two people were hospitalised with suspected smoke inhalation. The shipyard, with a long history of submarine construction, has faced similar incidents in recent years, including a 2018 fire and a 2017 carbon monoxide leak. Thick smoke from the blaze, visible for miles, has raised concerns among locals, who were asked to avoid the area while emergency services worked to contain the fire.

Pray: for a full recovery of those who were injured. Pray for those working to defend our nation from international threats. (Psalm 9:9)

More: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14018025/Huge-fire-erupts-nuclear-submarine-shipyard.html>

60,000 call for PM to safeguard right to pray silently

A petition signed by nearly 60,000 UK citizens has urged Keir Starmer to safeguard the right to silent prayer after recent arrests of pro-life advocates outside abortion clinics. Alliance Defending Freedom UK (ADF UK) initiated the petition, highlighting that 'buffer zones' around clinics, initially meant to prevent demonstrations, have evolved into 'censorship zones' that criminalise silent prayer. Recently, pro-life advocate Adam Smith-Connor was convicted for praying silently within a designated buffer zone and fined nearly £10,000. ADF UK warns that censoring prayer creates a dangerous precedent for restricting thoughts deemed 'offensive'. The petition calls on Starmer to repeal the recent Public Orders Act, which will soon extend buffer zones to all clinics nationwide, punishing violations with prison time and unlimited fines. It argues that free expression, including silent prayer, is essential for a democratic society. See <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/uk-abortion-clinic-protest-ban-safe-access-zone-b1191203.html>

Pray: that the Government honours freedom of thought, speech, and prayer as fundamental rights in a democratic society. (Acts 18:9)

More: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/260139/nearly-60000-join-call-for-uk-prime-minister-to-safeguard-right-to-pray-silently>

Dublin: thousands join 'historic' March for Jesus

On 25 October, 12,000 participants joined Dublin's 'March for Jesus,' a faith-centred event hailed as historic for the city. The march drew Christians across denominations for a unified display of worship and community. Holding signs proclaiming 'Jesus is our King', participants sought to bring light to the nation. One pastor commented that the march reflected a societal hunger for God beyond 'superficial' ideologies, calling it a sign of spiritual revival. Catholic bishop Alphonsus Cullinan also endorsed it, saying that it symbolised the light of Christ amidst divisive policies. Many saw the event as a healing moment, bridging historical divides between Northern Ireland and the Republic, as well as between Ireland and Great Britain. The march echoed a global movement that began in London in 1987, highlighting shared faith and hope for spiritual awakening.

Pray: giving thanks for this public act of unity and witness. Pray for unity in Ireland, for Jesus' light to shine, and for revival to grow. (Ephesians 4:3)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/thousands-march-for-jesus-in-ireland>

Europe

Spain: at least 95 dead after flash floods

At least 95 people have lost their lives in south-eastern Spain after relentless rains triggered flash floods. In one town an unprecedented year's worth of rainfall (491 mm) occurred within just eight hours. Floodwaters wrought havoc across the region, toppling bridges, sweeping cars through streets, and leaving many people clinging to trees to survive. Over a thousand troops have been dispatched for rescue operations as numerous individuals remain trapped or unaccounted for. King Felipe VI expressed deep condolences, while emergency services, overwhelmed by the crisis, have struggled to respond to hundreds of distress calls. Questions have arisen over poor forecasting and delayed flood warnings, which some believed left them vulnerable on roads and low-lying homes: [see https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyx75ppr79](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyx75ppr79) Flights, trains, and schools have been suspended. Of many contributory factors, a warming atmosphere caused by climate change makes extreme rainfall more likely. Temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions: see also the World article on the UN and climate change.

Pray: for comfort, safety, and swift relief for those affected by Spain's devastating floods. (Psalm 46:1)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/flash-floods-in-spain-leave-13-people-dead-as-british-couple-describe-mayhem-13244275>

Georgia: probes into alleged electoral fraud

State prosecutors in Georgia are investigating possible election fraud following opposition claims that the results of the recent parliamentary elections were falsified. They will question president Salome Zourabichvili, a vocal critic of the election process; she has declared the results invalid due to a 'Russian special operation' – a charge denied by Russia. Joe Biden and the EU have expressed concerns over irregularities and democratic decline in Georgia. Although the ruling Georgian Dream party was declared the winner with 54% of the vote, the opposition condemned the results as a 'constitutional coup'. International observers noted instances of voter intimidation, bribery, and ballot stuffing, but did not go as far as labelling the election as rigged. The electoral commission has defended the election as fair, but said that it would conduct a recount at a small number of randomly selected polling stations.

Pray: for truth and justice in resolving this dispute. Pray that the allegations will be thoroughly investigated. (Luke 8:17)

More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/30/georgia-prosecutors-investigating-allegations-of-election-fraud>

Worldwide

UN: climate change targets 'far short' of what is required

The UN has warned that global climate action is 'falling miles short' of what is required to avert economic and environmental catastrophe. According to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), current national plans would cut emissions by just 2.6% by 2030, whereas scientists assert emissions must decline by 43% by then to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. With the likelihood of keeping global warming within 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels said to be 'virtually zero', there are calls for ambitious commitments before the upcoming COP29 summit in Baku. UNFCCC chief Simon Stiell notes that robust climate plans could generate economic growth, better health, and clean energy solutions. Poorer nations say they need increased financial aid from wealthier nations to transition from fossil fuels and manage climate impacts, while Greenpeace has called for urgent action to confront this huge challenge. See also Europe article about flash floods in Spain.

Pray: for wise leadership and urgent commitment to protect creation by taking drastic measures. (Psalm 24:1)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/global-climate-action-plans-falling-miles-short-warns-un-13243308>

Gaza: Israel's decision to ban UNRWA widely criticised

The recent decision by the Israeli parliament to ban UNRWA from operating in Israel and Gaza has met with widespread condemnation. Israel has justified the decision by citing alleged links between some UNRWA staff and Hamas, but said it will continue cooperating with other UN agencies on humanitarian assistance for Palestinians. UNRWA has been labelled a terrorist organisation, and all official contact with the Israeli government has been blocked. This decision, opposed by the USA and other nations, raises concerns over worsening humanitarian conditions in Gaza, where more than 1.9 million have been displaced. A UNICEF spokesman has warned that without UNRWA, critical necessities such as food, water, and medicine could not be distributed effectively. That would likely cause the collapse of Gaza's fragile humanitarian system.

Pray: that the ban will be reversed, or that other international agencies will be able to help all those who need assistance in Gaza. (2 Chronicles 15:7)

More: <https://www.africanews.com/2024/10/29/widespread-condemnation-of-israels-decision-to-ban-un-relief-agency/>

USA: outcome of presidential election too close to call

As 5 November draws near, the presidential race between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump is extremely close, with Harris at 48% and Trump at 47% support according to a recent poll. Harris garners stronger personal support, especially on issues like reproductive rights, uniting the country, and protecting democracy, while Trump is seen as stronger on the economy, immigration, and foreign policy. Trump's supporters focus on economic issues, particularly inflation, whereas Harris' supporters prioritise protecting democracy. Both candidates have a gender divide in support, with independent women favouring Harris and independent men leaning toward Trump. The poll also highlights a nation divided on political violence: 77% believe current political discourse encourages violence, with more fearing escalation if Trump wins (57%) than if Harris does (42%). Emotions run high, with nearly equal numbers expressing fear (47% for Trump, 45% for Harris) and excitement (41% for Trump, 40% for Harris) depending on the winner. Both candidates inspire complex reactions, reflecting shifts from past elections and a broader concern about the country's direction. For a discussion about what difference the result of the election would make, [see https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgl490zrz45o](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgl490zrz45o)

Pray: for peace, unity, and discernment for voters in a polarised nation. (Philippians 2:4)

More: https://edition.cnn.com/2024/09/24/politics/polls-trump-harris-presidential-election/index.html?iid=cnn_buildContentRecirc_end_recirc

Cuba: misery caused by prolonged blackouts

Cuba has had one of its toughest weeks in years, with a nationwide blackout leaving its ten million citizens powerless for days, alongside devastation from Hurricane Oscar. For many, energy shortages have become routine, but this prolonged blackout forced people to resort to firewood when regular gas supplies ran out. The government has blamed US sanctions for hampering infrastructure upgrades, while critics argue that mismanagement has directed funds to tourism instead of energy. President Miguel Díaz-Canel warned against protests, no doubt wishing to avoid a repetition of the widespread demonstrations over similar issues in 2021. The government suspended all non-essential work and schools for a week, to avoid another collapse on the grid. Electricity generation now meets only 60-70% of demand, and there has been a 25% production drop since 2019. Hurricane Oscar's destruction further underscored the nation's vulnerability, leaving Cubans braced for more challenges as the crisis continues.

Pray: for provision and resilience for Cuban families enduring severe shortages and hardships, and that the situation will improve. (Psalm 9:9)

More: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2nezzw8z9o>

Malaysia: hundreds of investors hit by fraudulent scam

An Indonesian woman known as Suzy has reportedly lost over RM4 million (£700,000) to a Malaysian-based foreign currency investment scheme. She began investing in 2020, and received a 20% annual return in 2021 and 2022. However, the company cited licensing issues last year and ceased dividend payments, leaving her unable to access her funds. She has now filed a police report, joining 69 others from Singapore, Indonesia, and Brunei. An expert said that the scheme had resulted in estimated losses of RM100 million (£17.5 million) for over 500 Malaysian locals. He urged authorities to take this cross-border case seriously and take action to protect the country's good name from being seen as a fraud syndicate hub.

Pray: for justice and protection for those targeted by fraudulent schemes. (Leviticus 19:11)

More: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2024/08/20/forex-scam-leaves-400-victims-rm100mil-poorer-claims-ngo>

Argentina: one dead, several missing as hotel collapses

A tragic hotel collapse in Argentina has claimed the life of an elderly man and left seven to nine individuals missing. The ten-storey building, undergoing renovations, imploded in the early hours, tilting and damaging part of an adjacent structure. Over three hundred workers are conducting a challenging search using sniffer dogs, drones, and specialised equipment to locate survivors. The collapse caused widespread concern as locals described the disaster as sounding 'like a missile', with nearby residents feeling intense vibrations before the building fell. Rescuers managed to save a 79-year-old woman, guided by her knocking sounds. Authorities said the hotel was operating renovations illegally, prompting the arrest of the foreman and three bricklayers. Meanwhile, anxious family members wait at the site for news of their loved ones.

Pray: for strength and hope for the missing and comfort for grieving families. Pray for the necessary equipment and speedy success for the rescue teams. (Psalm 46:1)

More: <https://batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/one-dead-several-missing-as-hotel-collapses-in-villa-gesell.phtml>

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