

# Prayer Alert

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**My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in Your deliverance. (1 Samuel 2:1)**

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

Pray for the elections in Ireland (29 November) and Mauritius (30 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

### Miraculous intervention saves teenage son

When Ronald Mallett's son, Kevin, was involved in a terrifying tractor accident, a miraculous intervention unfolded. Kevin, just 14, was adept at handling the heavy tractor on their farm's slopes. One day, while driving down a particularly steep hill, the tractor began to tip uncontrollably. Ronald and his wife, Pat, watched in horror, fearing for their son's life. As the tractor reached a tipping point, it unexpectedly stopped in midair, as if held by unseen hands. Kevin safely exited, and the tractor gently settled back to the ground. This inexplicable event solidified Ronald's belief in angels as active protectors, a truth anchored in Hebrews 1:14. He shares this experience to inspire faith in God's miraculous power, even in modern times.

Praise: God for His protection of Kevin. Give thanks for God's supernatural presence today. (Psalm 91:11)

More: [www.godreports.com/2024/11/miraculous-intervention-saved-teen-son-from-tractor-rollover/](http://www.godreports.com/2024/11/miraculous-intervention-saved-teen-son-from-tractor-rollover/)

### Young medic amazed by Liberia healings

Bethany Ashcraft joined a mission trip to Liberia, encountering extreme poverty and spiritual warfare. Working alongside a team of medical professionals, she witnessed firsthand the impact of the drug 'Kush' on local people, causing disturbing symptoms. Amid her medical duties, Bethany prayed for patients, leading to surprising healings. One Muslim woman, after accepting Jesus, experienced a complete healing. Throughout the week, as Bethany prayed, some individuals manifested demonic behaviour, which was resolved through prayer, demonstrating God's power. This experience strengthened Bethany's faith and inspired her desire to continue witnessing God's tangible impact on others.

Praise: God for His authority over darkness and His power to heal and deliver. (Mark 16:17)

More: [www.godreports.com/2024/11/young-wife-amazed-by-healings-on-mission-trip-manifestation-of-demons/](http://www.godreports.com/2024/11/young-wife-amazed-by-healings-on-mission-trip-manifestation-of-demons/)

## British Isles

### Abuse survivors call for further CofE resignations

Survivors of abuse associated with John Smyth, a prolific child abuser linked to the Church of England, are urging further resignations following Justin Welby's decision on 13 November to step down. A review revealed Welby 'could and should have' reported Smyth's abuse in 2013. Many survivors maintain that his resignation alone is insufficient, and insist that all individuals involved in the cover-up be held accountable. An independent report detailed the Church's historical inaction, describing it as a 'missed opportunity' to bring Smyth to justice before his death in 2018. Bishop Rachel Treweek emphasised the need for further accountability, while Bishop Martin Gorick expressed discomfort with the situation. [See also https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/archbishop-of-york-responds-justin-welby-resign](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/archbishop-of-york-responds-justin-welby-resign)

Pray: for God's justice to prevail, and for healing and accountability within the Church of England. (Luke 8:17)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20g8nz563eo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20g8nz563eo)

### Top mortgage deals vanish as banks hike rates

Despite a recent Bank of England base rate cut from 5% to 4.75%, many major lenders have increased mortgage rates and withdrawn top deals, leading to higher costs for borrowers. Around 200 deals have disappeared from the market in the past month. After the Bank's rate reduction, average two-year and five-year fixed mortgage rates have increased to 5.44% and 5.17% respectively. Experts suggest lenders are raising rates to manage demand and maintain service standards as market conditions fluctuate. Notably, smaller lender MPowered Mortgages has reduced rates, contrasting with the broader trend. Borrowers are advised to secure current deals promptly to mitigate further costs.

Pray: for God's provision and guidance for families facing financial uncertainties due to rising mortgage rates. (Philippians 4:19)

More: [inews.co.uk/inews-lifestyle/money/property-and-mortgages/mortgage-deals-vanishing-hike-rates](http://inews.co.uk/inews-lifestyle/money/property-and-mortgages/mortgage-deals-vanishing-hike-rates)

### COP29: Starmer's promise to cut UK's carbon emissions

Keir Starmer's arrival at COP29, with a bold promise to cut the UK's carbon emissions by 81% by 2035, stands out as a beacon of hope amid an otherwise bleak start to the climate talks. Despite the absence of many key leaders, including Joe Biden, Starmer's commitment aims to demonstrate the UK's determination to transition away from fossil fuels and lead the way toward a net-zero economy. However, achieving this ambitious goal will require significant effort and expense, particularly in overhauling energy systems and enhancing energy efficiency at home. While the 81% emissions target is aligned with the Climate Change Act, which was supported across parties, the scale of the challenge presents a political risk. The focus at COP29 is primarily on financial mechanisms for supporting poorer nations in their climate transitions, but the UK, like many other wealthy nations, is hesitant to increase financial contributions. See also World article, 'COP29: more finance needed'.

Pray: for global cooperation, and for the wisdom to make decisions that protect both people and the planet. (Psalm 24:1)

More: [news.sky.com/story/cop29-changes-to-our-lives-are-certain-if-starmer-meets-bold-climate-target-but-a-key-ingredient-is-missing-for-success-13253297](https://news.sky.com/story/cop29-changes-to-our-lives-are-certain-if-starmer-meets-bold-climate-target-but-a-key-ingredient-is-missing-for-success-13253297)

### Sara Sharif's father 'fully responsible' for her death

Urfan Sharif, father of ten-year-old Sara, has admitted responsibility for her death during his murder trial at the Old Bailey. Sharif confessed to beating her with a metal pole and other objects, inflicting severe injuries leading to her death. Despite previously blaming his wife, he now admits he 'takes full responsibility'. In the weeks before her death, he removed Sara from school, escalated physical punishment, and bound her with tape. At the time of her death, Sara was found with multiple fractures, burns, and severe external injuries. Although Sharif acknowledged he beat her, he maintains it was intended as 'discipline,' denying intent to kill. Despite his confession, he declined to change his not guilty plea to murder. Sharif, his wife, and his brother fled to Pakistan after her death but were arrested upon their return to the UK. The trial continues as the court seeks justice for Sara.

Pray: for justice to prevail, and for God's comfort, protection and healing for all affected by abuse. (Psalm 72:4)

More: [www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/sara-sharifs-father-takes-full-responsibility-for-her-death-0ltw72rst](http://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/sara-sharifs-father-takes-full-responsibility-for-her-death-0ltw72rst)

### MPs support removing House of Lords hereditary peers

MPs have supported a bill to remove hereditary peers from the House of Lords, which currently reserves 92 seats for individuals who inherit their titles. The bill, passed by 435 votes to 73, now moves to the Lords, where it faces opposition. Conservatives argue that the move aims to replace scrutinising peers with Labour appointees. Some MPs proposed additional reforms, including removing CofE bishops from the Lords, but these were rejected. Liberal Democrat and SNP representatives pushed for a fully elected House of Lords, while Labour's manifesto suggests introducing a retirement age and eventually replacing the Lords with a representative second chamber. Cabinet office minister Ellie Reeves defended the Government's approach, saying hereditary seats contradict modern principles of fairness. Critics within the Lords, however, view the bill as politically motivated and detrimental to the chamber's role in scrutinising government actions.

Pray: for God's guidance in shaping just and fair governance in our nation. May our Christian roots be honoured and preserved. (Amos 5:24)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0rg98rl9p2o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0rg98rl9p2o)

## Homebase goes into administration, many jobs at risk

DIY retailer Homebase has entered administration, putting 2,000 jobs at risk. Its owner had hoped to sell the struggling retailer but failed to secure a buyer. The Range has purchased up to 75 Homebase stores and the brand, saving approximately 1,600 jobs, but 49 stores remain unsold. The administrators are continuing to seek a buyer for these locations; no immediate redundancies have been announced, and the stores will continue trading for now. The firm's collapse follows years of financial difficulties, exacerbated by a decline in consumer spending after the pandemic, persistent inflation, supply chain disruptions, inability to match the price and quality of competitors, and unseasonably poor weather. Losses totalled £84.2 million last year, and despite efforts to restructure and secure investment, the company's financial struggles persisted. The situation reflects broader trends in the home improvement sector, where high inflation and consumer caution have hit sales.

Pray: for those impacted by the closure, that new work opportunities will arise. Pray for them at this anxious time. (Psalm 46:1)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c624nzepd59o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c624nzepd59o)

## Europe

### Netherlands: violence in Amsterdam continues

There has been severe unrest in Amsterdam since antisemitic violence linked to a football match on 7 November between Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv and Ajax. The police presence in the city has been strengthened and most protests banned, but the violence has continued. The police have faced targeted attacks, including stones and fireworks. The disturbances have been fuelled by both anti-Israeli and anti-Palestinian sentiments, and Jewish institutions have received heightened security. So far, over a hundred people have been arrested in connection with the riots. Amsterdam's mayor described the violence as an 'outburst of antisemitism': she said the authorities had considered calling the match off because of tensions fuelled by social media, but could find no legal grounds for doing so. The violence has sparked outrage, prompting an emergency debate in the Dutch parliament. In related news, four thousand police will be deployed in Paris on 15 November for a match between France and Israel: see <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/11/10/europe/paris-police-france-israel-soccer-match-intl-latam/index.html>

Pray: for peace, healing, and an end to violence in Amsterdam and beyond. Pray for protection for Jewish residents. (Nahum 1:9)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c78dzr432x7o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c78dzr432x7o)

### Nagorno-Karabakh: ICJ will hear cases from both sides

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has confirmed that it has jurisdiction to hear cases filed by Armenia and Azerbaijan, two long-standing adversaries. The cases stem from the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, with both nations accusing each other of violating the international convention on racial discrimination. Armenia accuses Azerbaijan of engaging in 'ethnic cleansing', while Azerbaijan claims Armenia has spread hate speech and racist propaganda. The ICJ had previously issued emergency orders to prevent the incitement of racial hatred and protect ethnic Armenians fleeing Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's military actions in 2023. While the court's rulings are binding, it lacks enforcement power. The cases are still in the early stages, with the court narrowing the scope of certain claims and excluding others. The process could take years to resolve, as both nations await the next hearings and a final ruling on the merits of their claims.

Pray: for God's justice to prevail, and for the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh to be resolved. (Psalm 103:6)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/12/icj-rules-armenia-azerbaijan-discrimination-cases-can-proceed](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/12/icj-rules-armenia-azerbaijan-discrimination-cases-can-proceed)

## Worldwide

### Gaza: US says Israel has not violated its laws about blocking aid

The USA has stated that Israel has not violated laws regarding the blocking of aid to Gaza, even though a thirty-day deadline for increased humanitarian access has passed without full implementation. While acknowledging that Israel has made some progress, such as opening a new land crossing and resuming aid deliveries in northern Gaza, the USA says that further improvements are necessary. However, the UN reports that aid into Gaza is at its lowest level in a year, with the humanitarian situation growing increasingly dire, particularly in northern Gaza, where famine is imminent. The UN calls the ongoing Israeli blockade a violation of international law and a humanitarian crisis. Humanitarian groups report that conditions in Gaza have worsened, and aid is still being obstructed. Meanwhile, more people have died following further exchanges of airstrikes between Israel and Hezbollah: see <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-airstrikes-hit-beirut-suburbs-2024-11-12/>

Pray: for mercy on the people of Gaza and Lebanon, and for perseverance for those still seeking ways to end the conflicts. (Psalm 34:18)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgej83z93qo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgej83z93qo)

## **COP29: more finance needed, Africa suffering**

On the second day of COP29 in Baku, UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres called on industrialised nations to fulfil their commitments in financing climate adaptation, emphasising the importance of doubling funds to \$40 billion annually by 2025 and contributing meaningfully to the new Loss and Damage fund. Highlighting the gap between pledges and actual needs, he warned that unfulfilled promises equate to lost lives and hindered development. Although international adaptation finance to developing nations rose to \$28 billion in 2022, the Glasgow Climate Pact target will only marginally reduce a \$187 to 359 billion yearly adaptation gap. Africa, particularly vulnerable to climate impacts, sees minimal benefit from renewable energy growth, representing only 0.5% of global deployment last year. African leaders have stressed the urgent need for innovative funding to drive green industries, create jobs, and bolster resilience. With climate impacts consuming up to 9% of African budgets, equitable financing is critical to building sustainable economies and empowering youth.

Pray: for just resource distribution to support those most affected by climate change. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: [www.itv.com/news/2024-11-12/toxic-smog-blanketing-pakistan-visible-from-space](http://www.itv.com/news/2024-11-12/toxic-smog-blanketing-pakistan-visible-from-space)

## **Pakistan / India: dreadful levels of smog**

Record-breaking smog is blanketing eastern Pakistan and northern India, creating hazardous conditions which are even visible in satellite images. A dense haze stretches from Pakistan's Punjab province to India, impacting tens of millions. Lahore's air quality index hit a hazardous 1,200, far exceeding the danger threshold of 300. The fine pollutant PM2.5, linked to serious health risks, registered 110 times over safe levels. Hospitals are overwhelmed, with over 30,000 cases of respiratory issues reported. Schools, government offices, and public spaces have been closed for a week. Children are particularly vulnerable, as UNICEF warns that over 11 million under-fives are exposed to toxic air. Authorities are urging cooperation with India to address this cross-border crisis. The climate crisis and reliance on fossil fuels compound the issue, contributing to deadly pollution worldwide.

Pray: that everyone will be protected, especially children. Pray for urgent solutions for clear, breathable air. (Psalm 41:2)

More: [edition.cnn.com/2024/11/11/asia/pakistan-punjab-pollution-satellite-images-climate-intl-hnk/index.html](http://edition.cnn.com/2024/11/11/asia/pakistan-punjab-pollution-satellite-images-climate-intl-hnk/index.html)

## **Haiti: airport closed, new prime minister, gang violence**

Haiti's international airport has closed for the second time this year after suspected gang gunfire struck two US passenger planes. The UN has also paused helicopter landings, while the US embassy has warned citizens to avoid travel within the country due to unpredictable violence. Haiti's instability, driven by rampant gang violence, has displaced over 700,000 people and claimed nearly 4,000 lives this year. Further evidence of the country's fragility came with the ousting on 11 November of interim prime minister Garry Conille, who has been replaced by businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aimé. Many key transportation routes remain under the control of gangs who regularly kidnap bus passengers and truck drivers: many Port-au-Prince residents have no safe way out of the city. In October almost a hundred people were killed in a massacre by gang members sixty miles from the capital.

Pray: for peace, safety, and God's intervention in Haiti's governance and security. (Psalm 9:9)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/12/haiti-completely-isolated-gunfire-closes-main-airport-again](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/12/haiti-completely-isolated-gunfire-closes-main-airport-again)

## **Sudan: UN calls on countries to stop supplying weapons**

The UN's political affairs chief Rosemary DiCarlo has condemned the continuing flow of weapons to the conflict in Sudan, urging an immediate halt to external military support. Both the army and the paramilitary RSF are escalating their operations and recruiting new fighters, fuelled by substantial foreign backing. She said that this external support is prolonging the conflict and worsening the humanitarian crisis, which has so far claimed over 24,000 lives and displaced 11 million people. The civil war, ignited in April 2023 by a power struggle between two rival leaders, has led to widespread atrocities, with both sides accused of war crimes, including ethnic cleansing. Despite calls for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations, both sides remain entrenched, partly due to the continued influx of arms. The UN Security Council is discussing a resolution which urges the warring parties to allow unhindered humanitarian aid deliveries, as more than half of the country's population of 50 million faces severe food shortages.

Pray: for an end to the violence in Sudan, and for those supplying weapons to heed the UN's call. (Psalm 46:9a)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/13/un-calls-for-end-of-weapons-supplies-to-sudans-warring-parties](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/13/un-calls-for-end-of-weapons-supplies-to-sudans-warring-parties)

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