

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 18-2025 | Friday 02 May 2025
www.prayer-alert.net | editor@prayer-alert.net

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. (Psalm 24:1,2)

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

Please also pray for the Australian federal elections taking place on 3 May. More [HERE](#) from Canberra Declaration: See also the [2025 elections prayer guide](#).



We invite the Prayer Alert community to join us on the free online Interseed House of Prayer app where we are praying and sharing thoughts on the weekly prayer guide issues and themes.

Interseed is available on the Android and iOS platforms. More info [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.

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

Praise Reports

[Justin Bieber says God's grace has transformed his life](#)
[Actress leaves New Age for Jesus](#)

British Isles

[Local elections likely to reflect immense voter disillusionment](#)
[Climate change: government plans are 'dangerously inadequate'](#)
[Britain set for a new trade partnership with EU](#)
[Already over ten thousand migrant Channel crossings this year](#)
[Jenkyns clashes with Farage on children with special needs](#)
[Counter-terrorism police investigating Kneecap videos](#)

Europe

[Ukraine: Putin announces three-day ceasefire](#)
[Spain / Portugal: cause of massive power cut still not known](#)
[Türkiye: 'treat Istanbul quake as a serious warning'](#)

Worldwide

[Gaza: aid blockade reaches sixty days, USA defends Israel at ICJ](#)
[Canada: Carney wins election in dramatic comeback](#)
[DRC: peacekeeping force decides to withdraw](#)
[Brazil: seeking to restore the land with seed and songs](#)
[Japan / Philippines: reaffirming commitment to cooperation and security](#)

Praise Reports

[Justin Bieber says God's grace has transformed his life](#)

Amid public concern over his mental health, Justin Bieber has shared deeply personal reflections on Instagram about how God's grace has transformed his life. The 31-year-old artist opened up about his past struggles with anxiety, fear of failure, and a relentless need to earn love and acceptance - feelings that left him restless and insecure. Bieber credited God's grace with liberating him from those burdens, saying it shifted his identity from striving to belonging, from fear to trust. He described experiencing God's love as being fully accepted, without shame or accusation. Emphasising that this love cannot be earned but only received, Bieber encouraged others to stay rooted in God's internal work rather than external expectations. He warned against confusing pressure with the voice of Jesus, who leads gently, never with force. Fans and peers, including Bear Grylls, praised his openness. Bieber acknowledged past flaws and the pull of fame but expressed a desire to grow, serve, and advocate for love, truth, and equality.

Praise: God for Justin's honesty. Pray for him to walk boldly in grace and lead others toward healing. (Romans 8:1)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/justin-bieber-reflects-on-power-of-gods-grace.html

Actress leaves New Age for Jesus

Actress Kimberly Elise, best known for *The Manchurian Candidate*, has opened up about her renewed Christian faith after years of spiritual searching and disillusionment. Though baptised at 16, Elise lacked discipleship and drifted from faith as she pursued a Hollywood career. In 2019, she realised her choices were leading her astray, especially as she immersed herself in New Age practices, which she now calls 'a bottomless pit' of deception. Feeling lost, she cried out to God in desperation. Two weeks later, a Christian woman affirmed God's love and began praying with her, setting Elise on a transformative journey. Compelled to read the Bible, Elise found clarity in the Gospel of Matthew and recognised her sin, pride, and need for forgiveness. Her encounter with God reshaped her life, leading to deep repentance and a new sense of spiritual purpose. Today, Elise speaks publicly about her journey, warning others of counterfeit spirituality and testifying to the life-changing power of knowing Jesus personally.

Praise: God for Kimberly's testimony. Pray that it will awaken hearts and reveal truth, and inspire others to come to faith. (John 8:32)

More: www.faithwire.com/2025/04/28/actress-kimberly-elise-leaves-new-age-for-jesus-god-has-blessed-me/

British Isles

Local elections likely to reflect immense voter disillusionment

The 1 May local elections in England are set to reflect deep public disillusionment with the traditional two-party system, according to a recent poll for Channel 4. Of those surveyed, 41% said 'none of the above' when asked who they trusted most to govern effectively: Nigel Farage scored 23%, and Keir Starmer only 19%. With over 1,600 council seats across 23 councils up for grabs, experts predict that a record number of councils may end up with no single party in control. Support is highly fragmented: Reform leads with 26%, followed closely by the Conservatives at 25%, Labour at 18%, the Liberal Democrats at 17%, Greens at 8%, and others at 6%. Reform's surge reflects voter priorities such as immigration, while traditional parties are seen as out of touch. Voters are driven by national concerns - cost of living, healthcare, and governance - more than local issues. Both Labour and the Conservatives must urgently reconnect with a public tired of political stagnation and broken promises.

Pray: for righteous governance, and for leaders with integrity to rise amid division. (Psalm 33:12)

More: www.channel4.com/news/exclusive-poll-shows-deep-disillusionment-amongst-voters-2

Climate change: government plans are 'dangerously inadequate'

A scathing new report from the Climate Change Committee (CCC) warns that government efforts to protect people and infrastructure from the impacts of climate change are dangerously inadequate. The report found that of 46 key adaptation measures, none are rated 'good', and progress has been glacial or even regressive. Despite climate threats already affecting homes, farmland, railways, schools, and hospitals, adaptation remains a low priority. Forecasts show that by 2050, over half of England's best farmland and critical infrastructure will be at flood risk, while heat-related deaths could exceed 10,000 annually. Businesses, farmers, and scientists are calling for urgent action, stressing that ignoring adaptation now will bring national security risks and economic costs. The Government may claim that it is prioritising climate resilience, but budget cuts - including to flood defences - cast doubt. Experts, pointing to successful models abroad, are urging clearer targets, better planning, and private sector engagement to prevent worsening climate disasters.

Pray: for urgency, clarity, and wise stewardship in facing the increasing challenges caused by climate change. (Psalm 95:4,5)

More: news.sky.com/story/government-warned-it-is-setting-country-up-for-disaster-unless-it-better-prepares-uk-for-heavy-flooding-and-intense-heat-13358235

Britain set for a new trade partnership with EU

Britain and the EU are set to formalise a new strategic partnership to strengthen trade ties and present a united front against Donald Trump's global tariff agenda. A leaked draft declaration, dated 25 April, affirms a mutual commitment to 'free and open trade' and to maintaining global economic stability. The agreement will be signed at a UK-EU summit on 19 May, marking a key moment in post-Brexit relations. Meanwhile, the Government is engaged in separate negotiations with the USA, aiming to soften the impact of existing tariffs - currently 10% on UK goods and 20% on EU exports. US press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that talks are 'moving in a very positive way'. Rachel Reeves met with US treasury secretary Scott Besant last week, emphasising that both UK-EU and UK-US trade relationships are vital. Despite Trump reportedly viewing the 10% UK tariff as a minimum, British officials remain optimistic about securing a mutually beneficial deal.

Pray: for fair and peaceful trade policies which uplift nations rather than dragging them down. (Proverbs 24:5)

More: www.lbc.co.uk/politics/uk-politics/uk-eu-sign-free-open-trade-declaration-donald-trumps-tariff-war/

Already over ten thousand migrant Channel crossings this year

Over ten thousand asylum-seekers have crossed the English Channel in small boats so far in 2025 - an increase of 40% compared to the same period in 2024. The rise has intensified political debate over border security and asylum reform. Labour, now in government, has pledged to dismantle people-smuggling networks, treating smugglers like terrorists under a new proposed bill. Measures include a new criminal offence of endangering the lives of others at sea, and imposing travel bans and communication restrictions on suspects. The Home Office says 5,400 migrant attempts have been thwarted this year, and over 24,000 individuals without legal status were removed between July 2024 and March 2025. Opposition parties blame both Labour and the previous Conservative government for policy failures. Reform UK calls for strict deportations, while the Green Party wants to see legal safe routes for asylum-seekers. As the crisis escalates, public frustration grows, with leaders divided over whether deterrence or compassion should define immigration policy.

Pray: for wise, just immigration policies which both uphold compassion and deter future asylum-seekers. (Psalm 146:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx206ln4ke8o

Jenkyns clashes with Farage on children with special needs

Reform UK's Greater Lincolnshire mayoral candidate, Dame Andrea Jenkyns, has publicly distanced herself from comments made by party leader Nigel Farage regarding special educational needs (SEND). Farage recently claimed that many childhood SEND and mental health diagnoses are being made too readily, often via virtual consultations, suggesting an overdiagnosis trend. In contrast, Dame Andrea, who has ADHD and whose son also has the condition, highlighted her personal experience and highlighted the long delays many families face in obtaining assessments and support, often resulting in children falling far behind in school. She stressed that not all party members must agree on every issue, and described pulling her son out of mainstream education because he was two years behind. Her remarks underscore ongoing national debates around SEND provision, access to diagnoses, and support for neurodiverse children. In related news, spending on disability benefits for anxiety and depression has doubled since the pandemic: [see <https://www.thetimes.com/article/7f1c5baf-c47d-4c55-8bb6-93f2c8704254?shareToken=8c91dbc5e336985f7f9d13c3c7b11010>](https://www.thetimes.com/article/7f1c5baf-c47d-4c55-8bb6-93f2c8704254?shareToken=8c91dbc5e336985f7f9d13c3c7b11010)

Pray: for compassion, understanding, and better support for children with special needs. (Psalm 82:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy8qe976eq3o

Counter-terrorism police investigating Kneecap videos

Counter-terrorist police are investigating videos of Irish-language rap trio Kneecap, recorded at gigs in 2023 and 2024. The videos appear to show band members encouraging violence against British MPs and expressing support for proscribed terror groups Hamas and Hezbollah. Kneecap has denied inciting violence, saying the clips were taken out of context, and offered apologies to the families of murdered MPs David Amess and Jo Cox. The controversy, which follows backlash from the band's Gaza-related statements at a concert in the USA, has led to sponsorship and booking losses. Major artists have signed a statement supporting Kneecap, opposing what they call political censorship and suppression of artistic freedom. Kneecap, known for provocative lyrics and nationalist themes, rose to prominence in Ireland and were the subject of a Bafta-winning film featuring Michael Fassbender.

Pray: that those in the public eye will be responsible in the messages which they communicate. Pray for peace and healing where violence has wounded. (Ephesians 4:29)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyqe3v5jjdo

Europe

Ukraine: Putin announces three-day ceasefire

Vladimir Putin has announced a new three-day unilateral ceasefire, to run from 8 to 10 May, coinciding with Russia's World War II commemorations. It follows a previous thirty-hour Easter ceasefire, which critics say Moscow repeatedly violated. The Kremlin frames these brief pauses as humanitarian gestures; Ukrainian officials argue that if Russia truly sought peace, it would halt hostilities immediately. Foreign minister Andrii Sybiha called for a thirty-day truce instead. Observers question whether Putin's moves are sincere peace efforts or merely an attempt to influence Donald Trump, who has recently voiced frustration with both Russia and Ukraine. Trump has criticised Putin for continuing attacks on civilian areas and floated harsher sanctions. When in March he proposed a thirty-day ceasefire, Ukraine agreed, but Russia did not. In another development, the much-anticipated natural resources agreement between the USA and Ukraine has been signed: [see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5ypw7pn9q3o>](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5ypw7pn9q3o)

Pray: for discernment among world leaders, and for further progress towards a genuine end to bloodshed. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgpj3gddgno

Spain / Portugal: cause of massive power cut still not known

A widespread power cut on 28 April disrupted millions across Spain and Portugal, prompting investigations and huge public concern. Portugal's national grid operator, REN, attributed the blackout to a rare atmospheric phenomenon which caused extreme temperature shifts, leading to unusual oscillations in electrical lines. This explanation contrasts with speculation in Spain about a possible cyber attack, which their national security agency is still investigating. There is still no clear explanation of the disruption. It brought significant consequences: public transport stopped, mobile networks failed, and contactless payment systems were disabled. Panic buying swept through supermarkets, echoing scenes from the Covid pandemic. Three deaths have also been recorded in Spain. REN said recovery could take up to a week, though prime minister Luis Montenegro predicted that it would be quicker.

Pray: for peace, stability, and God's protection over national infrastructure systems. (Psalm 46:1)

More: <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/world-news/spain-power-cut-reason-becomes-31531444>

Türkiye: 'treat Istanbul quake as a serious warning'

The recent 6.2 magnitude earthquake which struck Istanbul on 23 April is being seen as a serious warning rather than a release of seismic energy, according to Japanese earthquake expert Yoshinori Moriwaki. While the quake caused no fatalities, he warned that a larger quake, possibly over magnitude 7.0, is likely in the coming twelve to fifteen years. Istanbul lies near the North Anatolian Fault (NAF), a historically active fault line responsible for many major earthquakes across Türkiye. Moriwaki explained that the NAF, along with the South Marmara Fault, poses a continued risk to the Marmara region, with Istanbul particularly vulnerable due to soft ground in coastal districts. He urged residents not to panic but to be prepared, looking for ground stability and building regulations when choosing homes. The April quake triggered hundreds of aftershocks and follows patterns seen in destructive historical events. Despite the threat, Moriwaki remains hopeful that awareness and preparation can mitigate future damage and save lives.

Pray: for safety, wisdom, and readiness for all living in earthquake-prone regions. Pray especially that all new buildings will be constructed responsibly. (Proverbs 11:3)

More: www.dailysabah.com/turkiye/istanbul/istanbuls-recent-62-quake-may-point-to-greater-risk-ahead

Worldwide

Gaza: aid blockade reaches sixty days, USA defends Israel at ICJ

Israel's total blockade of Gaza, cutting off food, water, and medicine on 2 March, has reached sixty days. The humanitarian crisis is deepening, with the UN warning of imminent famine and the World Food Programme reporting all bakeries shut down and food stocks exhausted.

Displacement and 'no-go' zones enforced by the IDF prevent access to farmland and supplies. Soup kitchens are close to closure, families are resorting to unsafe food, and prices have risen over 500%. Aid trucks remain stuck at borders. Hospitals are overwhelmed, with deaths rising due to the lack of basic medical supplies. Meanwhile, the International Court of Justice is hearing arguments on Israel's humanitarian obligations. The USA has defended Israel's actions and its refusal to cooperate with UNRWA, citing security concerns. The international community faces mounting pressure to intervene and prevent the total collapse of Gaza's food and health systems. Meanwhile, opposition to Netanyahu's determination to continue the war, especially from military reservists, is growing: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cridw5gklrro](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cridw5gklrro)

Pray: for mercy, breakthrough access to aid, and justice for the suffering innocent. (Proverbs 31:8)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/4/30/gaza-siege-reaches-60th-day-as-us-defends-israel-at-icj

Canada: Carney wins election in dramatic comeback

Mark Carney's Liberal Party has secured re-election in Canada, staging a dramatic comeback. Though the Liberals have not won a clear majority, their lead over the Conservatives is decisive. Carney credited the turnaround to a rise in Canadian nationalism sparked by Donald Trump's aggressive rhetoric and tariff threats, including calls for Canada to become America's 51st state. These actions galvanised support for the Liberals after the slump which followed former PM Justin Trudeau's resignation amid economic discontent. Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, who had echoed Trump's anti-'woke' rhetoric, even lost his own parliamentary seat. Carney warned that hard decisions lie ahead: Canada must now prepare to reduce its economic dependence on the USA while navigating a tense bilateral relationship. The election took place hours after eleven people were killed by a vehicle attack at a Vancouver street fair: [see https://news.sky.com/story/man-charged-with-murder-after-11-killed-in-vancouver-vehicle-attack-13357346](https://news.sky.com/story/man-charged-with-murder-after-11-killed-in-vancouver-vehicle-attack-13357346)

Pray: for Canada's new government to act with courage, clarity, and national conviction. (Luke 12:48b)

More: news.sky.com/story/mark-carneys-liberal-party-wins-canada-election-according-to-canadian-broadcasters-13357890

DRC: peacekeeping force decides to withdraw

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has begun withdrawing its peacekeeping force from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through Rwanda. The troops, from South Africa, Malawi, and Tanzania are exiting Goma in North Kivu and heading to Tanzania for repatriation, with all personnel expected to leave by 30 May. The withdrawal follows heavy casualties, including at least seventeen soldiers killed during clashes with M23 rebels, who have since taken Goma and Bukavu. Rwanda, accused by the UN and the DRC of backing M23, denies any involvement, though the rebels reportedly receive support from 4,000 Rwandan troops. The DRC government has called for a nationwide military mobilisation as the rebels threaten to march on Kinshasa, over a thousand miles away. The SADC mission, deployed in 2023, aimed to stabilise the mineral-rich region but struggled amid the worsening crisis. With over seven million displaced, eastern Congo is one of the world's most severe humanitarian emergencies.

Pray: for protection, peace, and wise leadership amid conflict and forced displacement. (Psalm 46:9a)

More: www.africanews.com/2025/04/30/sadc-begins-withdrawal-of-its-peacekeeping-forces-from-dr-congo/

Brazil: seeking to restore the land with seed and songs

In Brazil's hottest region, the Maxakali indigenous people are restoring life to their ancestral land through an agroforestry project called Hãmhi Terra Viva. Amid soaring temperatures and rampant wildfires worsened by invasive guinea grass (introduced by cattle farmers) and widespread deforestation of the Atlantic Forest, the Maxakali are reviving traditional planting methods infused with ancestral songs. Once lush with biodiversity, the forest is now over 85% destroyed, leaving their territory dry, scorched, and vulnerable to climate extremes. In response, they have replanted over 215 hectares of fruit trees and native vegetation and formed fire brigades using traditional techniques. Music is central: songs, rich in ecological knowledge, guide daily work and honor the spiritual connections between people and nature. These songs contain forgotten names and behaviours of now-vanished species, serving as living archives of the forest's past. By combining ritual, reforestation, and community effort, the Maxakali are resisting ecological collapse and calling on both nature and ancestors to help the land heal.

Pray: giving thanks for these indigenous stewards seeking to restore God's earth. Pray for strength and perseverance. (Psalm 67:6-7)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2025/4/30/with-song-and-seed-brazils-indigenous-maxakali-confront-climate-change

Japan / Philippines: reaffirming commitment to cooperation and security

Japanese prime minister Ishiba Shigeru and Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos Jr have reaffirmed their countries' commitment to peace, stability, and resistance to foreign aggression in the Indo-Pacific. The leaders highlighted expanding defence, economic, and diplomatic cooperation, especially amid increasing tensions in the West Philippine Sea. Without naming China directly, both underscored maritime security as a shared concern. Marcos praised Japan's contributions, including coastal surveillance equipment, which have upgraded the Philippines' defence capabilities. He noted that amid growing international divisions, cooperation between the two countries was 'more important than ever' to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific. Japan has also supported the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) through loans for large patrol vessels. These ships are actively deployed in Philippine waters to assert sovereignty and monitor Chinese activity. Both leaders described the alliance as grounded in shared values and mutual respect, marking a new chapter in their long-standing diplomatic relationship.

Pray: for principled leadership, peaceful cooperation, and protection over contested maritime zones. (Psalm 29:11)

More: asianews.network/philippines-japan-reaffirm-security-alliance/

Please feel free to distribute Prayer Alert to anyone you feel will benefit from its ministry. All we ask is that you do not edit or change it in any way or charge for its use without contacting us first for written permission

Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with
C/O World Prayer Centre, 167 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 1SW

The views expressed in Prayer Alert and on our website are those of the authors, organisations and websites named, and are not necessarily those of the Prayer Alert Editorial Team, the Prayer Alert Steering Group or the World Prayer Centre or any of its employees or trustees. While we try to ensure that the information we provide is correct, mistakes do occur and we cannot guarantee the accuracy of our material. If you do notice any mistakes then please let us know.