

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 25-2025 | Friday 20 June 2025
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Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:6)

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

Please pray for the Tasmanian State Election (Australia) taking place July 19, 2025. See the [2025 Elections Guide](#).

Let's also be praying over the result of today's House of Commons 'free vote' on whether to allow the Assisted Dying bill to proceed further. If it eventually passes into law, the bill would make it legal for terminally ill adults with fewer than six months to live to access medical assistance to end their lives. See the Christian Concern response [here https://christianconcern.com/action/act-now-to-stop-assisted-suicide/](https://christianconcern.com/action/act-now-to-stop-assisted-suicide/)



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.

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Praise Reports

[Woman Meets Jesus During Shocking NDE*: 'I Was Preparing to Die'](#)

Vanessa Joy Lancellotti was a newlywed in 2016 when she suddenly suffered a ruptured arteriovenous malformation in her brain. Unaware she even had this condition, the terrifying incident occurred while having tea with her sisters. As her pain intensified, she collapsed and was rushed to the hospital, fearing she was about to die. En route in the ambulance, she prepared to meet Jesus, repenting and reviewing her life. Then, unexpectedly, she experienced what she believes was a supernatural encounter: pain and fear vanished, and she found herself in a place of pure peace and radiant light. There she encountered Jesus, who embraced her lovingly and told her, "It is not yet your time." Though never clinically dead, Vanessa believes she was taken to paradise. Her miraculous survival transformed her spiritually, igniting a deeper relationship with Christ and a new understanding of the Holy Spirit's power. Today, she shares her story through her book, *Miracles Really Do Happen*, encouraging others with the hope and reality of Christ's love and healing presence. * Near Death Experience

Praise: God for transforming encounters with Jesus, such as Vanessa's that awaken hearts and release joy, peace, and bold witness. (Psalm 16:11)

More: <https://www.faithwire.com/2025/06/18/woman-meets-jesus-during-shocking-nde-i-was-preparing-to-die/>

'A huge victory': Christian leaders react to Supreme Court's Skrametti ruling

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld Tennessee's law banning gender transition surgeries and hormone treatments for minors, ruling 6-3 that the law does not violate the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. The decision in *Skrametti v. United States* establishes a precedent allowing similar legislation in over 20 states to remain in effect. Christian leaders have welcomed the ruling as a decisive step in protecting children. Mat Staver of Liberty Counsel called it a "victory for children everywhere," arguing that experimental procedures should not be allowed under the guise of equality. Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council praised the affirmation of FRC's "SAFE Act" model. Brent Leatherwood of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission emphasised that the state has a duty to protect children from harmful and irreversible decisions. However, progressive voices such as Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush of Interfaith Alliance criticised the ruling as religious overreach. The case marks a pivotal moment in defining the boundary between child protection and personal medical autonomy in U.S. law.

Praise: God for this landmark case. Pray for continued legal protection of vulnerable children and for the upholding of biological truth in lawmaking. (Ephesians 5:11)

More: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-leaders-react-to-supreme-courts-skrametti-ruling.html>

British Isles

'A stain on our society': Yvette Cooper promises change after 'damning' grooming gang report

A damning report by Dame Louise Casey has revealed systemic failures across England and Wales in addressing grooming gangs that have sexually exploited thousands of children. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper responded with an unequivocal apology to victims and survivors, announcing a full national inquiry and promising the most comprehensive reforms ever taken by a UK government to combat child sexual exploitation. The Casey report highlights years of obfuscation by public institutions, with suspects often disproportionately of Asian heritage or with ethnicity data missing and agencies failing to act. Recommendations include broadening the legal definition of rape, improving data sharing, and initiating a nationally coordinated criminal investigation. A new national operation will be led by the National Crime Agency. Controversially, Cooper also announced that asylum seekers found guilty of grooming or sexual offences will be barred from claiming refuge in the UK. Criticisms remain over previous government inaction and political posturing, yet survivors and campaigners have welcomed the long-overdue steps. Casey called for definitive action, stating, "We must right the wrongs of the past."

Pray: for justice, healing, and national repentance as the UK confronts the systemic failure to protect children. (Proverbs 31:8)

More: <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-06-16/stain-on-our-society-yvette-cooper-promises-change-on-grooming-gang-scandal>

HS2 line to be delayed again with no new date given

The UK government has confirmed that the HS2 high-speed rail project will be delayed beyond its 2033 target, with no revised opening date provided. Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander described the project as an "appalling mess," citing a "litany of failure" in cost management and missed deadlines. Originally budgeted at £33bn in 2012, costs have surged by £37bn, with some estimates reaching up to £106bn. Alexander criticised years of ineffective contracts, poor oversight, and scope changes under successive Conservative governments. Two recent reports into HS2's management have exposed systemic failings: premature construction, lack of technical expertise, and bloated administrative structures. Mark Wild, HS2's current CEO, acknowledged external pressures like the pandemic and Brexit but emphasised persistent internal issues. The project's scope has been repeatedly reduced, with the Birmingham-Leeds and Birmingham-Manchester links scrapped. The government has now appointed Mike Brown, former Transport for London commissioner, as the new HS2 chair to lead a reset in UK infrastructure planning. Alexander promised a further update on costs and deadlines by the end of the year.

Pray: for responsible leadership and wise stewardship in managing our national resources and future infrastructure planning. (Luke 14:28)

More: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy0wr7nw7wxo>

Predator who drugged and raped 10 women gets life sentence

Zhenhao Zou, a 28-year-old Chinese engineering student, has been sentenced to life with a minimum term of 24 years in the UK for drugging and raping 10 women across London and China, with fears that he may have assaulted dozens more. Following a harrowing trial, Zou was found guilty of 11 counts of rape, along with multiple charges including voyeurism, false imprisonment, and possession of drugs and extreme pornography. Only two victims have been identified, while the remaining eight are yet to come forward. Police discovered hundreds of hours of filmed assaults, suggesting over 50 more potential victims. Zou used WeChat and dating apps to lure fellow Chinese students to his flats, where he drugged and raped them, often filming the abuse. Officers believe Zou may be one of the UK's worst sex offenders. The case has chilling similarities to past high-profile sex crimes, such as Reynhard Sinaga and Stephen Port. With support from Chinese authorities, UK police are now exploring ways to reach victims in China. Zou remains under investigation as more women come forward. [See https://www.cps.gov.uk/london-south/news/phd-student-given-life-sentence-raping-10-women](https://www.cps.gov.uk/london-south/news/phd-student-given-life-sentence-raping-10-women)

Pray: for justice and healing for the survivors. Pray for protection for vulnerable women from predatory sexual violence. (Psalm 34:18)

More: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/metropolitan-police-london-chinese-china-stephen-port-b1233725.html>

MPs vote to decriminalise abortion for women in England and Wales

In the most significant and concerning change to abortion legislation in England and Wales in nearly 60 years, MPs have voted by a landslide to decriminalise women who end their pregnancies outside the existing legal framework. The amendment, brought by Labour MP Tonia Antoniazzi, will prevent police from investigating or prosecuting women, such as those who miscarry after taking abortion medication beyond 24 weeks. The change does not alter the 24-week limit or the requirement for clinical oversight, but removes legal penalties for the women themselves. Antoniazzi argued that vulnerable women deserve compassion, not criminalisation, citing distressing cases such as Nicola Packer's prosecution after a stillbirth. The amendment was supported by 379 MPs and over 50 organisations, including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. While praised as a milestone for reproductive rights, the vote drew criticism from pro-life advocates such as SPUC, who warned that it removes all legal protection for unborn children. The legislation still requires passage through the House of Lords before becoming law.

Pray: for a culture that honours and protects life. Pray for compassionate care to surround women in crisis pregnancies. (Proverbs 24:11)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2le12114j9o>

Just three years left before 1.5C climate target slips out of reach, scientists warn

A major international study has warned that the world could exceed the critical 1.5°C global warming threshold as early as 2028, if carbon emissions continue at current rates. The study, published in *Earth System Science Data*, reveals that just 143 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide remain in the global "carbon budget" to stay within the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target. At an annual rate of 46 billion tonnes, that budget will be exhausted in under three years. Scientists stress that climate change is not only worsening but accelerating, with 2024 marking the first year average global temperatures exceeded 1.5°C - though this does not yet breach the Paris threshold, which is measured over decades. The consequences of unchecked warming include rising sea levels, ocean warming, extreme weather, and irreversible environmental damage, particularly affecting the world's poorest. While full reversal is unlikely, urgent emissions reductions could still slow the pace and severity of warming. Experts call for political will and rapid action, warning that humanity is now in a crucial window to prevent far more catastrophic outcomes.

Pray: for urgent global repentance, bold climate leadership, and wise care for God's creation before it's too late. (Psalm 24:1)

More: <https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/ipcc-co2-emissions-target-paris-agreement-2028-b2772760.html>

Sharing deepfake pornography 'The next sexual violence epidemic facing schools'

Author and campaigner Laura Bates has warned MPs that deepfake pornography is fast becoming "the next sexual violence epidemic" affecting schools in the UK. Speaking to the Women and Equalities Committee, Bates criticised schools for prioritising reputation management—often by hiring expensive PR firms—over supporting victims or disciplining perpetrators. Deepfake content, typically generated using AI to create realistic but fake sexually explicit images or videos, is impacting both female pupils and teachers. Although it is illegal to create or share sexualised deepfakes of children, the technology itself remains legal and accessible, even to minors. Bates called for urgent statutory guidance for educators, as well as broader regulation, education, and preventative measures to stop the proliferation of such tools. The session forms part of a wider inquiry into online misogyny, including the rise of the "manosphere" and AI-based sex technology, which MPs say is radicalising young men and fueling abuse. There are increasing calls to ban "nudifying apps" and address growing harassment and harm towards women and girls in educational settings and beyond.

Pray: for protection of young people and bold action to curb tech-enabled sexual exploitation and misogyny. Pray for wisdom for schools and the authorities as they manage and discipline offenders. (Romans 12:21)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/sharing-deepfake-pornography-the-next-sexual-violence-epidemic-facing-schools-13385659>

Europe

Ukraine: why is it one of the world's most digital countries?

On the day Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Deputy Minister Oleksandr Bornyakov was caught in a firefight in Kyiv. Despite the chaos of war, Bornyakov and his team pressed forward with Ukraine's ambitious digital transformation project: the Diia app. Launched in 2019, Diia enables citizens to access over forty government services and thirty personal documents - from tax payments to voting in Eurovision - directly from their mobile phones. A web portal adds access to 130 services. Now serving over 22 million users, Diia is considered one of the world's most advanced digital government services. Its success stems from Ukraine's large, affordable tech workforce and the foundational development of a centralised data exchange. The urgency of war accelerated innovation, enabling the swift rollout of wartime tools like damage compensation and troop reporting. Looking ahead, Ukraine plans to incorporate AI to make services even more seamless, but experts advise caution about this.

Pray: blessing for all those building peace and order amid conflict through honest innovation. (Proverbs 16:3)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm234l04xmro>

Sweden: Think Pink CEO convicted in environmental crime case

Entrepreneur Fariba Vancor has been sentenced to six years in prison in what is considered Sweden's largest environmental crime case. As CEO of the waste company Think Pink, Vancor oversaw the illegal dumping of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of toxic waste across nineteen sites. The court found that Think Pink, which was contracted by municipalities and private clients to manage waste, instead abandoned dangerous materials including PCBs, mercury, lead, and arsenic - threatening air, water, and soil quality. The judge described the company as operating like a pyramid scheme, with criminal negligence causing widespread environmental damage. Out of eleven individuals tried, ten were convicted: five received prison sentences and were ordered to pay approximately £19 million in damages. The case, which required years of investigation and 150 witnesses, resulted in a verdict nearly 700 pages long. Vancor has denied wrongdoing and may appeal.

Pray: that truth and justice will be upheld where greed endangers God's creation and people. Pray that this verdict will deter others. (Deuteronomy 10:14)

More: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/17/swedish-queen-of-trash-jailed-for-dumping-hundreds-of-thousands-of-tons-of-toxic-waste>

Worldwide

Trump delays decision on US response to Iran conflict as tensions escalate

President Donald Trump has said he will decide "within two weeks" whether the United States will become directly involved in the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran. His press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, cited the possibility of upcoming negotiations with Iran as a reason for delaying immediate action. Trump has often used two-week deadlines in past political decisions, many of which passed without resolution. While the administration is maintaining "strategic ambiguity," it has reiterated concerns that Iran is closer than ever to developing a nuclear weapon - despite intelligence suggesting otherwise. New satellite imagery has confirmed significant damage to Iran's nuclear reactor at Arak, intensifying global concern. The US remains publicly non-committal, with Leavitt declining to address hypotheticals about potential strikes or regime change. Diplomacy may yet gain ground as European and American officials pursue back-channel discussions with Tehran. However, Trump's unpredictability has left many allies uncertain, and the global community is watching closely for any sudden shift in American policy toward military engagement.

Pray: for restraint and Godly discernment in decisions made by President Trump and other leaders regarding Iran's nuclear threat and peace in the region. (Matthew 5:9)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/c994v4gm9jmt>

Sri Lanka: discovery of mass grave reopens old wounds for Tamils

In Chemmani, near Jaffna, police are now guarding the site of a newly unearthed mass grave, where so far 19 bodies (including three infants) have been discovered. This grim finding has reopened deep wounds for the Tamil community, long scarred by the brutal 26-year civil war. Allegations persist of mass killings and forced disappearances by the state; Amnesty International estimates up to 100,000 disappearances since the 1980s. Chemmani holds particular significance due to the 1996 rape and murder of schoolgirl Krishanthi Kumaraswamy, which led to the first mention of mass graves in the area. Archaeologist Raj Somadeva, leading the excavation, says that less than 40% of the site has been examined; more graves may exist. Tamil families, desperate for justice, are actively supporting the investigation. It is hoped that the discovery of mass graves like the one found in Chemmani could finally bring closure for them.

Pray: that justice and healing will be brought to families still grieving the disappeared. (Psalm 37:28a)

More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2025/6/16/new-sri-lanka-mass-grave-discovery-reopens-old-wounds-for-tamils>

DR Congo: Catholics celebrate as Pope beatifies local customs official

On 15 June Catholics in Goma and across the Congo rejoiced as Floribert Bwana Chui Bin Kositi, a Congolese customs official, was beatified by Pope Leo XIV in Rome. Kositi was kidnapped and killed in 2007 after bravely refusing a bribe to allow rancid rice from Rwanda into the country - food which would have harmed vulnerable citizens. At just 26, he chose integrity over self-preservation, knowing the dangers of rejecting corruption. His family and community marked this occasion with pride, viewing his recognition as a powerful symbol of justice and moral courage. Local diocese leaders and churchgoers held prayer sessions and celebrations in Goma, where posters and commemorative cloths featuring his image honoured his legacy. Célestin Kanyabiriri, who led the beatification events locally, called Kositi's example a divine call for financial honesty and spiritual integrity. Many regard him as a national hero and a martyr who upheld truth even to death.

Pray: that the Lord will raise up other courageous believers who choose integrity over personal gain. (Proverbs 28:6)

More: <https://www.africanews.com/2025/06/17/dr-congo-joy-in-goma-as-local-man-beatified-by-pope-leo-xiv/>

Brazil: offshore oil exploration auctions test Lula's climate pledges

In a northern region of Brazil known as the Equatorial Margin, where the Amazon River meets the Atlantic, a major environmental and political debate is unfolding. After researching the possibility of offshore oil reserves, the government decided to hold auctions to sell exploration rights in this area. President Lula da Silva, known for his environmental pledges, including a promise of 'zero deforestation' in 2023, now supports allowing drilling 'to fund our energy transition' and bolster the economy. Critics argue this contradicts his public stance and undermines Brazil's credibility as it prepares to host COP30. Environmental organisations and even the federal prosecutor's office challenged the oil auctions, citing inadequate environmental reviews and community consultation. Despite their efforts, they went ahead, with major corporations like Chevron and Petrobras securing exploration rights. Brazil's environmental agency had initially rejected drilling permits, but its decision was overruled by its own director under government pressure. The outcome reflects Brazil's struggle to reconcile economic needs with ecological stewardship.

Pray: that leaders will be guided to value creation over short-term economic ambition and compromise. (Psalm 104:24)

More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/6/17/in-brazil-a-fight-over-offshore-drilling-tests-lulas-climate-ambitions>

Australia: vital defence pact under threat

The critical Aukus defence pact, agreed by Australia in 2021 with the USA and UK, to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, faces uncertainty as Donald Trump's administration reviews its alignment with the 'America First' agenda. Valued at over \$230 billion, Aukus promises Australia a strategic leap in military capability. However, some US officials are sceptical about the value of sharing its premier defence technology, and have cast doubt on allies 'pulling their weight'. Australia's leaders are publicly calm, but anxieties are growing. Some warn that the deal was always fragile, while others urge Australia to reassess its dependence on the USA. With the Pentagon citing domestic submarine shortages and economic priorities, questions loom over whether Australia will ever receive the promised Virginia-class subs. Despite the turbulence, the alliance's strategic value in countering China remains. Experts argue that Australia could still defend itself independently, given its geography and resources, but emotional ties to the USA and fear of abandonment persist in national defence thinking.

Pray: that Australia may have the discernment to defend peace without compromising sovereignty or truth. (Psalm 20:7)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckg4jd7r7vro>

Rwanda and DR Congo reach draft peace agreement after decades of conflict

A draft peace agreement has been reached between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, aiming to end decades of deadly conflict in eastern DR Congo. Mediated by the US and Qatar, the deal outlines disengagement, disarmament, and conditional integration of armed groups, including the M23 rebels — whose recent territorial gains have displaced hundreds of thousands and cost many lives. Rwanda denies backing the M23, while accusing DR Congo of supporting the FDLR, a militia linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The deal includes provisions for a joint security mechanism to prevent future hostilities and could pave the way for substantial Western investment in the mineral-rich region. However, significant uncertainties remain: Will the M23 fully withdraw? Will Rwanda acknowledge its troop presence and pull back? Can the FDLR be disarmed effectively this time? A formal signing is expected next week, witnessed by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Observers are cautiously hopeful, recalling past failed accords. True peace will require political will, accountability, and lasting humanitarian access for displaced civilians.

Pray: for a lasting peace between Rwanda and DR Congo, with genuine repentance, trust-building, and healing from past wounds. (James 3:18)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr795jjrnlo>

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Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with
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