

Prayer Alert

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For my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isaiah 56:7c)

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

Please pray for the Tasmanian state election (Australia) taking place on 19 July. 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

[Cross necklace saves man's life](#)

Aidan Perry, a 20-year-old man from Florida, is praising God for saving his life after he was accidentally shot in the chest at close range on 7 June. The incident occurred when a friend was showing off a .40-calibre pistol that unexpectedly discharged. In the terrifying moments afterward, Aidan recalled seeing blood and fearing he would die. However, he credits both divine intervention and his cross necklace - a Christmas gift from his father - for his survival. Doctors confirmed that the necklace had deflected much of the bullet's force, causing it to ricochet and lodge harmlessly in Aidan's chest rather than striking vital organs. Aidan, who already had faith before this incident, said the experience has deepened his belief in God, reminding him to 'never stop believing'. Meanwhile, the friend involved has been arrested and charged with culpable negligence causing injury.

Praise: God for sparing Aidan's life. May his testimony inspire many to believe in God's real and present help. (Psalm 91:11)
More: www.faithwire.com/2025/06/30/gods-definitely-real-cross-necklace-saves-mans-life-after-he-was-shot-in-the-chest/

[Remembering street evangelist Holy Hubert](#)

Holy Hubert Lindsey, a fiery street evangelist, left an indelible mark on UC Berkeley in the turbulent 1960s and '70s. Born in Georgia in 1914 and converted at fifteen, Hubert sensed a divine call to preach boldly, even barefoot if needed. Drawn to Berkeley amid anti-war protests and cultural upheaval, he proclaimed repentance and Christ's grace in Sproul Plaza, enduring jeers, violence, and scorn. In 1965, he was beaten unconscious yet returned swiftly, bullhorn in hand, declaring, 'They can bruise the body, but the soul is under the Shepherd's care'. Many considered him a precursor to the Jesus Movement, as his preaching forced students to confront deeper spiritual questions. Despite opposition, he remained resolute, often tearfully urging listeners to turn to Christ. Hubert rejected media fame, choosing a humble life focused on the Gospel. He passed away in 2003, remembered as a courageous voice for Christ amid moral confusion.

Praise: God for Holy Hubert's fearless witness; may his legacy embolden believers to proclaim Christ amid cultural storms. (2 Timothy 4:7)
More: www.godreports.com/2025/06/remembering-holy-hubert-raucous-street-evangelist-ruled-berkeley-campus/

British Isles

Borrowing costs jump and pound falls on Chancellor's tears

Financial markets reacted sharply this week after Rachel Reeves appeared tearful during Prime Minister's Questions, after the Government's sudden U-turn on welfare reforms. Sterling fell by 1% against the dollar, while UK borrowing costs surged in one of the largest single-day moves since the market turmoil following Liz Truss's 2022 mini-budget. The welfare reversal has left an almost £5 billion gap in Reeves's fiscal plans, prompting investor concerns about how the Government will balance the books. While Downing Street insisted Reeves retains Starmer's full support, analysts say the episode highlights market anxiety over potential leadership instability and future fiscal policy. Speculation mounted about possible tax rises in the autumn, though ministers reiterated pledges not to increase income tax, VAT, or National Insurance. Despite the turbulence, experts noted that markets are not as fragile as during the 2022 crisis.

Pray: for wisdom, calm, and clarity for UK leaders handling economic challenges, and for stability in financial markets. (Proverbs 11:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2l99eegzpo

MPs vote to proscribe Palestine Action

MPs have voted overwhelmingly to proscribe Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000, with 385 in favour and 26 against. Home secretary Yvette Cooper defended the move, stating that violence and serious criminal damage have no place in legitimate protest. Critics, however, warn that the decision could chill free expression, likening it to punishing suffragette-style activism. The move follows incidents such as activists vandalising planes at RAF Brize Norton and blockading defence firm Elbit Systems, aiming to disrupt UK arms links to Israel. Protesters outside Parliament condemned the Government for hypocrisy and accused it of suppressing effective dissent. Palestine Action insists its tactics, though disruptive, are non-violent and necessary to oppose alleged human rights abuses in Gaza. However, once the ban is approved by the House of Lords, membership or support of the group could carry prison sentences of up to fourteen years. The decision has sparked fierce debate over balancing security and civil liberties.

Pray: for wisdom and fairness for UK leaders as they address threats while preserving freedom of speech and peaceful protest. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/palestine-action-terror-ban-protest-b2781234.html

Starmer's NHS plan promises more GPs and local health hubs

Keir Starmer has unveiled an ambitious ten-year plan to transform the NHS by shifting healthcare from hospitals to local communities. Central to the proposal are 200 new 'neighbourhood health centres', offering scans, outpatient services, mental health support, and more - all aimed at reducing hospital demand. Starmer declared the NHS must 'reform or die', pledging accessible, community-based care under one roof. Health secretary Wes Streeting promised thousands more GPs, reversing current trends favouring hospital consultants, and aims to slash waiting lists while prioritising British doctors for NHS jobs. The plan also includes an enhanced NHS app, AI safety alerts, and a focus on helping patients return to work. However, experts express caution, noting that past governments have announced similar visions without delivering meaningful change. Questions remain over funding, but Starmer insists the plan will 'fundamentally rewire' healthcare and prioritise patient-centred care, especially in deprived areas.

Pray: for wisdom, integrity, and compassion for leaders reforming the NHS, and for equitable healthcare access for all communities. (Psalm 32:8)

More: www.thetimes.com/uk/healthcare/article/starmer-nhs-plan-promises-more-gps-and-local-health-hubs-568h8cb06

Labour rebels offered major last-minute concession on welfare cut

Labour's welfare reform bill was plunged into turmoil after the government dropped plans to tighten eligibility for PIP, one of its core cost-saving measures. Facing fierce backlash and the threat of a major rebellion, Disability minister Sir Stephen Timms announced that changes to PIP would be delayed pending a full review, co-produced with disabled people. The last-minute concession has caused confusion among MPs, leaving uncertainty over the bill's financial viability. Despite earlier compromises, numerous Labour MPs remain opposed, warning the reforms could deepen poverty and harm disabled people. Emotional speeches in Parliament underscored divisions, with some MPs moved to tears as they denounced the bill as unjust. Critics argue the concessions feel rushed and insufficient, while government ministers insist reforms are vital to sustain the welfare system. Poverty impact assessments indicate that even with changes, around 150,000 more people could be pushed into poverty by 2030. The fate of the bill remains uncertain as further votes loom and disquiet grows within Labour ranks.

Pray: for compassion, wisdom, and justice in welfare reforms, protecting the vulnerable and ensuring dignity for disabled people. (Proverbs 31:8,9)

More: www.itv.com/news/2025-06-30/welfare-rebellion-looms-for-starmer-despite-concessions-to-labour-rebels

Prosecutors consider more charges against Lucy Letby

Prosecutors are considering bringing further charges against Lucy Letby, the former neonatal nurse already serving fifteen whole-life sentences for murdering seven babies and attempting to murder seven more between 2015 and 2016 at the Countess of Chester Hospital. The Crown Prosecution Service confirmed it has received a full file of evidence from Cheshire Police regarding additional deaths and non-fatal collapses of infants at both the hospitals where Letby had placements in 2012 and 2015. Meanwhile, three former senior managers at the Countess of Chester have been arrested on suspicion of gross negligence manslaughter after a separate investigation into systemic failures at the hospital. A public inquiry into how Letby was able to commit her crimes continues, with its final report expected early next year. Her legal team maintains her innocence, citing international medical experts who attribute the babies' deaths to poor medical care and natural causes. The Criminal Cases Review Commission is reviewing her convictions for potential miscarriage of justice.

Pray: for truth and justice to prevail in the Letby case, and for healing for families affected by these devastating events. (Psalm 37:28)

More: news.sky.com/story/more-criminal-charges-being-considered-over-baby-deaths-at-lucy-letby-hospitals-13391159

BBC chief 'appalled' by anti-IDF chants

BBC director-general Tim Davie has told Jewish staff he is 'appalled' by anti-IDF chants during punk band Bob Vylan's Glastonbury set, acknowledging 'deep upset' among employees. The band led some of the crowd in chanting 'Death to the IDF', remarks Davie condemned as 'deeply offensive'. Though he attended the festival, the BBC's livestream of the performance remained online for hours before removal, sparking criticism from staff, the Chief Rabbi, and government ministers. Culture secretary Lisa Nandy demanded rapid reforms, criticising the broadcaster's handling of the incident and its earlier decision to withdraw a Gaza documentary linked to a Hamas official's son. Meanwhile, over 400 figures, including BBC staff and prominent artists, signed an open letter accusing the BBC of failing to report critically on Israel's actions and UK arms sales. The controversy adds to growing internal and external scrutiny of the BBC's leadership and editorial decisions. Davie insists that there is no place for antisemitism at the BBC.

Pray: for wisdom and truth in media reporting, and for peace and respect among communities deeply affected by conflict and hate speech. (Psalm 12:17)

More: www.thetimes.com/uk/media/article/bbc-tim-davie-jewish-staff-glastonbury-7kzrvwrzx

Europe

Ukraine: USA pauses munitions shipment, Russia launches huge aerial assault

US defence secretary Pete Hegseth has paused a planned shipment of advanced munitions to Ukraine amid growing concern over the country's depleted stockpiles of weapons. The delay, stemming from a defence department review, affects key systems including Patriot interceptors and Hellfire missiles. This reassessment follows years of military aid to Ukraine and operations in the Middle East. While the Biden-era packages had approved these shipments, some are now being withheld, even after arriving in the region. The White House defended the move as prioritising US interests, but Ukrainian officials expressed frustration, calling the decision painful and warning that delays embolden Russian aggression. With Russia intensifying missile and drone attacks - launching the largest aerial assault since the 2022 invasion - Ukrainian leaders stressed the urgency of air defence support. Donald Trump has expressed a desire to supply Patriot missiles but acknowledged shortages. The pause comes as the USA also works to broker a ceasefire in the ongoing war.

Pray: that leaders seek righteous balance in defence, aid, and global responsibility before God. (Isaiah 5:20)

More: www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/pentagon-halts-weapons-shipment-ukraine-concerns-us-stockpile-rcna216358

Europe: severe heatwave, record temperatures, wildfires

A severe early-summer heatwave is scorching much of Europe, triggering wildfires, evacuations, and health alerts across multiple countries. In Turkey, over 50,000 people have been evacuated due to wildfires, especially near Izmir. France has faced peak temperatures of 40°C, with wildfires prompting evacuations. Spain is on track for its hottest June ever, with Seville reaching 42°C. Italy issued red heat alerts for 16 cities and may restrict working outdoors. Germany is also issuing warnings, urging water conservation while facing disrupted river shipping because the water level of the Rhine has dropped. UN secretary-general António Guterres has commented, 'Extreme heat is no longer a rare event - it has become the new normal.' Heatwaves are already the world's deadliest weather hazard, killing nearly half a million people annually, surpassing the toll from floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes combined.

Pray: for protection of lives, wise stewardship, and global cooperation amid rising climate extremes. (Psalm 91:1)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/europe-heatwave-spain-set-for-hottest-june-on-record-as-50-000-flee-turkey-wildfires-b2779842.html

Worldwide

Iran raises death toll, fails to guarantee safety for nuclear inspectors

The official Iranian death toll from the recent twelve-day war with Israel has been raised to 935, including 38 children and 132 women, based on new forensic data. Iranian officials accused Israel of war crimes and vowed to present evidence to international bodies. The government also criticised Donald Trump's rhetoric about potential further strikes and sanctions, dismissing his remarks as psychological manipulation rather than genuine diplomacy. Meanwhile, tensions have risen over the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Officials have condemned its 'double standards', and have said that its boss Rafael Grossi is not welcome in Iran. They have also refused to guarantee the safety of nuclear inspectors. Western nations have condemned the threats against Grossi and urged Iran to maintain cooperation with the IAEA.

Pray: for de-escalation, justice for the innocent, and peace between the warring nations and leaders. (Psalm 22:28)

More: www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-01/iran-death-toll-war-israel/105479530

Gaza: Trump says Israel has agreed to a ceasefire

Donald Trump has announced that Israel has agreed to the 'necessary conditions' for a sixty-day ceasefire in Gaza, pending Hamas's approval. While the details remain vague, Trump said that the USA, along with Qatari and Egyptian mediators, will work toward ending the war. Hamas stated it is open to a deal if it guarantees an end to hostilities, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and humanitarian relief. Israel's key demand remains the release of most, if not all hostages held in Gaza. Hamas representatives in Cairo are reportedly negotiating, though insiders describe the talks as stagnant. Disagreements persist over the absence of a guarantee for permanent peace and continued military presence in Gaza. Meanwhile, the conflict continues: Israel has ordered evacuations in northern Gaza ahead of increased military action, and at least twenty Palestinians were killed in an Israeli air strike on a seafront café on 30 June. A previous attempt at a ceasefire failed in March. Trump's upcoming meeting with Netanyahu may prove decisive.

Pray: that both sides embrace truth, compassion, and a ceasefire that preserves innocent life. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgkg4m0133po

Tibet: Dalai Lama confirms his successor will be chosen

The Dalai Lama has confirmed that the centuries-old institution of his spiritual role will continue after his death, affirming that a successor will be appointed by the Gaden Phodrang Trust, his official office. In a video message from Dharamshala, India (where he lives in exile), the Tibetan spiritual leader said that no outside authority has any right to interfere in the process of choosing his reincarnation. His statement directly challenges China's claim that any future Dalai Lama must be approved by Beijing. The announcement, delivered during his 90th birthday celebrations according to the Tibetan lunar calendar, was met with joy by followers and monks gathered from around the world. The decision ends years of speculation, including previous suggestions that the Dalai Lama might not be reincarnated or that a girl might take up the role. China, which annexed Tibet in 1950, swiftly rejected the announcement, reiterating its stance that succession must follow state-approved regulations.

Pray: for freedom of faith, protection for believers, and wisdom to know how to deal with the Chinese authorities. (Isaiah 59:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpvjjd7xw8go

Colombia: reversing the migration trend

In the coastal town of Necoclí, migrant families are now returning south after failed attempts to enter the USA, marking a reversal of a once-dominant northward migration trend. Harsh immigration policies under Donald Trump, including the withdrawal of the asylum app and increased military presence along the border, have left many stranded in Mexico or deterred from even attempting the journey. Some, like Luis Angel Yagua Parra, braved the deadly Darién Gap only to be forced back. Others, including a Venezuelan couple whose child was born in the USA, have left voluntarily, fearing deportation. Aid workers in Necoclí report a growing daily influx of returnees, but dwindling foreign support has led to closures of humanitarian organisations. Pastor Jose Mendoza's food hall, struggling to meet rising needs, might have to close due to a lack of funding. For families like Marisela Bellorin's, who have been homeless for months, survival is precarious. As the 'American dream' fades, many migrants are choosing new destinations such as Chile, in search of safety and stability.

Pray: for migrant families to find refuge, provision, and the healing comfort of Christ. (Deuteronomy 10:19)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2025/6/30/coming-back-with-nothing-inside-the-reverse-migration-away-from-the-us

Hong Kong: last pro-democracy group decides to disband

The League of Social Democrats, Hong Kong's last active pro-democracy street protest group, has announced its disbandment due to mounting political pressure. Formed in 2006, the party was known for bold, confrontational tactics and a strong stance on civil liberties and social justice. Despite dwindling influence and the loss of all legislative seats, it had continued public advocacy, even after arrests and convictions of key members. Its chairperson, Chan Po-ying, cited safety concerns for members as a key factor in the decision. The move follows years of intense suppression of dissent under Beijing's national security law, which has led to the closure of civil society groups, independent media, and protests once common. Chan declared the 'one country, two systems' principle dead and expressed sorrow, yet resolve: 'Be like a flying spark... keeping that light alive.' She said she doesn't believe that democracy will come in the near future.

Pray: that believers in Hong Kong will persevere in courage, hope, and quiet faithfulness daily. (John 1:5)

More: edition.cnn.com/2025/06/29/asia/hong-kong-league-social-democrats-disbands-latam-intl

Zimbabwe: new IOC president faces high expectations and big challenges

Olympic swimming champion Kirsty Coventry has been inaugurated as the tenth president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), becoming the first woman, first African, and youngest person to hold the role. Her appointment has ignited pride in Zimbabwe and hope for broader global inclusion, particularly for Africa and the Middle East. Coventry has described the Olympics as a platform for inspiration and hope, while also vowing to lead on complex issues. One pressing concern is what to do about transgender athletes, especially after recent controversies. She has pledged to create a taskforce involving scientists and federations to revisit gender eligibility policies, prioritising fairness in the female category. Coventry's first major decision was to pause the 2036 Games bidding process, signaling a desire for transparency and reform. Yet she faces challenges ahead, including rising global tensions and pressure to ensure the Olympic movement remains politically neutral while promoting unity. Her leadership will be tested by both internal reform and external geopolitical strife.

Pray: that Kirsty Coventry will lead the IOC with justice, clarity, and courage through complex moral challenges ahead. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.africanews.com/2025/06/30/new-international-olympic-committee-president-kirsty-coventry-faces-high-expectations/

Peace index lists Ukraine, Russia last: see who is first

The 2025 Global Peace Index (GPI), published by Australia's Institute of Economics and Peace, has ranked Iceland as the world's most peaceful nation, while Russia and Ukraine occupy the lowest positions due to ongoing conflict. Assessing 163 countries using indicators such as societal safety, security, and militarisation, the report reveals global peacefulness has declined for the sixth consecutive year, falling by an average of 0.36%. The USA ranks 128th, trailing nations like Bangladesh and Honduras, and both it and Israel placed lowest in the militarisation domain. The report highlights growing geopolitical tensions, the breakdown of traditional alliances, and a record 59 active state-based conflicts - the most since World War II. Nonetheless, some positive trends emerged, including declining homicide rates and fewer violent demonstrations in parts of Central and North America. The rankings signal widespread concern for peace and security worldwide.

Pray: earnestly for global peace, wise diplomacy, and God's intervention to quell conflicts and heal divided nations. (Romans 14:19)

More: www.newsweek.com/peaceful-country-report-lists-ukraine-russia-last-see-first-2092040

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