

# Prayer Alert

ISSUE 28-2025 | Friday 11 July 2025  
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**Be exalted in Your strength, Lord; we will sing and praise Your might. (Psalm 21:13)**

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](#).



**JOIN US ON INTERSEED!**  
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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.

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## 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

### [Their marriage was close to ending, but Gospel-centred son saved them](#)

Candace Cameron Bure has opened up about a deeply challenging season in her marriage to husband Valeri during 2020, revealing that they were close to separation. The turning point came unexpectedly through their eldest son, Lev. Although unmarried at the time, Lev confronted his parents with a heartfelt, Bible-based exhortation about marriage. In a recent podcast, Candace recalled Lev speaking for 45 minutes, Bible open, urging his parents to consider whether they had done everything possible to reconcile, and to offer further grace and kindness to each other. His gentle firmness and spiritual insight deeply moved his parents, prompting them to reflect and recommit to working through their difficulties. Candace described the conversation as a 'pivotal moment' which transformed the couple's relationship. She expressed profound gratitude for her children's courage and spiritual maturity, crediting their family's legacy of Christ-centred marriages as a sustaining influence. Lev has since married Elliot Dunham, continuing the family's legacy. Candace celebrated the wedding as a Spirit-filled, Gospel-focused occasion, underscoring their generational faith.

Praise: God for Lev's boldness and generational faith, bringing healing and unity to his parents' struggling marriage. Pray for strong Christ-centred marriages among people you know. (1 Peter 4:8)

More: [www.faithwire.com/2025/07/08/candace-cameron-bure-reveals-marriage-struggles-how-sons-gospel-centered-confrontation-saved-them/](http://www.faithwire.com/2025/07/08/candace-cameron-bure-reveals-marriage-struggles-how-sons-gospel-centered-confrontation-saved-them/)

### [Hope for Christians In a hugely dangerous place](#)

In Iran, one of the world's most dangerous places to be a Christian, the underground church is growing remarkably. Amid an oppressive regime enforcing Twelver Ja'afari Shia Islam, over one million believers now worship in secret, making Iran home to the fastest-growing Christian population globally. These followers meet discreetly in house churches of no more than fifteen people, risking arrest, loss of livelihood, and severe punishment. Stories like Azam's highlight this courage: shunned for pregnancy outside marriage, she found hope in Christ through a Christian woman's witness, discovering the One who bears shame and offers new life. Despite surveillance, threats, and societal rejection, Iranian Christians embody a faith purified through suffering, reminding believers worldwide that Christianity is not defined by comfort or buildings but by a willingness to risk all for Jesus. Their example challenges Western believers to strip away distractions and embrace genuine, sacrificial faith. Ministries like ICM partner with the underground church, discreetly distributing Scripture via micro SD cards, ensuring the Gospel continues to spread even in the darkest circumstances.

Praise: God for Iran's courageous believers; may the hidden churches flourish. May their example spark revival worldwide for Christ. (Psalm 126:5)

More: [www.christianpost.com/voices/one-of-most-difficult-places-to-be-christian-theres-hope.html](http://www.christianpost.com/voices/one-of-most-difficult-places-to-be-christian-theres-hope.html)

## British Isles

### UN criticises Starmer's welfare reforms

The UN has sharply criticised the Government's proposed welfare reforms, warning they could significantly worsen poverty among disabled people. Following a recent parliamentary vote that passed the benefits bill by 75 votes, secured only after last-minute concessions to Labour rebels, the UN's committee on the rights of persons with disabilities has raised ten pressing concerns about the legislation. Key issues include politicians' rhetoric suggesting disabled individuals exploit benefits and the reforms' potential impact on young claimants, women with disabilities, and those requiring high-level support. The UN warns that the bill could deepen existing economic hardship, echoing findings from earlier reports which linked previous welfare cuts to increased food bank reliance, homelessness, and mental health crises. Disability advocates have condemned the reforms as punitive, urging MPs to consider the profound human consequences before advancing the legislation. Parliament will further debate the bill in the coming days, amid mounting national and international scrutiny. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c80p1gdvyggo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c80p1gdvyggo)

Pray: for justice, compassion, and courage as leaders decide welfare policies affecting society's most vulnerable. (Proverbs 31:8)

More: [news.sky.com/story/un-criticises-starmer-welfare-reforms-and-warns-measures-will-increase-poverty-rates-13394228](https://news.sky.com/story/un-criticises-starmer-welfare-reforms-and-warns-measures-will-increase-poverty-rates-13394228)

### Remembering 7/7: hope shines through the pain and grief

Twenty years after the 7/7 terrorist attacks that claimed 52 lives in London, survivors, bereaved families, and emergency workers gathered at St Paul's Cathedral to remember and reflect. The solemn service featured the gentle fall of 52,000 white petals, symbolising each life lost. Deep emotion marked the readings of victims' names, with family members like Saba Edwards, who lost her mother Behnaz Mozakka, and Thelma Stober, a survivor who lost a leg, sharing the weight of enduring grief. Bishop Sarah Mullally delivered a message of hope as 'an act of resistance' against terror and hatred, acknowledging the long journey toward healing. Outside the cathedral, the sun broke through grey skies, reflecting a glimmer of hope amid sorrow. Later, around 500 people gathered at Hyde Park's 7/7 memorial, where steel pillars stand in silent tribute. Families like the Foulkes and Taylors spoke movingly of pain that evolves over time, urging others to cherish life.

Pray: for comfort, healing, and lasting peace for all affected by terror, and hope to prevail. (Psalm 34:18)

More: [www.thetimes.com/uk/london/article/7-7-memorial-service-news-zsrpszmqx](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/london/article/7-7-memorial-service-news-zsrpszmqx)

### Southport survivor fought to save others, says mum

Heart-wrenching testimonies were shared at the Southport inquiry, revealing the harrowing courage of young survivors of the 29 July 2024 knife attack at a dance workshop. A mother described how her seven-year-old daughter, referred to as C1, 'fought like hell' to save herself and others, despite being stabbed 33 times by 17-year-old Axel Rudakubana. CCTV footage showed C1 attempting to escape before being dragged back by her attacker, suffering catastrophic injuries. Despite her own wounds, she shielded other children and urged them to flee. Parents of other survivors, including a nine-year-old girl critically injured, spoke of the lifelong physical and emotional scars their daughters now bear. They emphasised the stark reality that, in those terrifying moments, the children had to protect themselves, comfort one another, and summon remarkable bravery. The inquiry aims to uncover not only the events of that tragic day but also broader issues regarding how young people become entangled in extreme violence. The session adjourned until September, with further evidence and systemic reviews expected in its next phase.

Pray: for deep healing, justice, and resilience for these children and families facing unimaginable trauma. (Psalm 9:9)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce83r3jjzjeo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce83r3jjzjeo)

### Birmingham council pull plug on bin strike negotiations

Birmingham faces escalating disruption as the Unite union is threatening bin strikes 'beyond Christmas' following the city council's decision to end negotiations. Bin workers have been on an all-out strike since March, leaving many streets piled with rubbish. Unite's general secretary, Sharon Graham, condemned the council's proposals as 'fire and rehire,' accusing leaders of imposing pay cuts of up to £8,000 (a quarter of some workers' salaries) and forcing staff to choose between lower pay or redundancy. Council leader John Cotton defended the move, citing the authority's ongoing equal pay liabilities, which have cost hundreds of millions and threaten Birmingham's financial stability. He stressed the urgent need to reform the city's waste services to improve efficiency and ensure long-term sustainability, while still offering options like voluntary redundancy and redeployment. Expressing regret over the stalemate, he insisted further concessions would jeopardise essential services and financial recovery. ACAS, the conciliation service, remains open for dialogue. Residents continue to endure the consequences of uncollected waste.

Pray: for resolution, fairness, and provision for all affected, ensuring community wellbeing and financial stewardship. (Matthew 5:9)

More: [www.itv.com/news/central/2025-07-09/birmingham-bin-worker-redundancies-likely-as-strike-negotiations-over](https://www.itv.com/news/central/2025-07-09/birmingham-bin-worker-redundancies-likely-as-strike-negotiations-over)

### Less meat and smaller portions in school meals, caterers say

Schools across England are struggling to provide nutritious meals as rising costs outpace government funding for free school lunches. Michael Hales, incoming chair of the Lead Association for Catering in Education (LACE), reports caterers are reducing meat portions, using cheaper ingredients, and serving smaller meals to cope with financial shortfalls. While the government recently announced an expanded free meals programme - potentially benefiting an additional 500,000 children by 2026 - the funding increase of just 3p per meal, to £2.61, falls far below actual costs, estimated at £3.45 per meal. Headteachers say they are having to divert tens of thousands of pounds from educational resources to cover meal deficits. Parents, expressing concern over declining meal quality and nutrition, have called for significant investment in school food programmes. Regional disparities further complicate matters, with higher funding rates in London, Wales, and Scotland. Without intervention, schools will struggle to meet government food standards and ensure children receive the healthy meals essential for learning and well-being.

Pray: for provision, justice, and creativity to ensure every child receives nutritious food vital for learning. Pray for families struggling on low incomes. (Psalm 146:7a)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k7dv1mnpvo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k7dv1mnpvo)

### **Wales: sexual abuse claims against former bishop and vicar**

The Church in Wales faces deepening scandal as fresh historical sexual abuse allegations emerge against former bishop Anthony Pierce, already jailed earlier this year for child sexual abuse, and an unnamed former vicar. BBC Wales said that warnings about Pierce's predatory behaviour surfaced as early as 1986, yet he rose to become Bishop of Swansea and Brecon in 1999. Survivors like Alisdair Adams, who endured unwanted sexual advances, question how he advanced within church ranks despite earlier concerns. Other victims described how Pierce's inaction allowed further abuse, such as that perpetrated by choirmaster David Gedge. Additional testimony highlighted a culture of secrecy, intimidation, and institutional protectionism, with victims and whistleblowers often silenced or discouraged from speaking out. Calls are mounting for an independent inquiry to investigate the Church's failures. In response, the Church in Wales has apologised, pledging a comprehensive safeguarding audit and cultural review to restore trust. However, survivors remain sceptical, fearing systemic issues persist beneath public assurances of reform and accountability.

Pray: for truth, healing, justice, and lasting change for all harmed by abuse and institutional failures. (Ephesians 5:11)

More: [www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg5zygv9p69o](http://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg5zygv9p69o)

## **Europe**

### **Russia: minister's death a warning to ruling elite**

Russia has been rocked by the sudden death of transport minister Roman Starovoi, who was found dead from a gunshot wound just hours after being dismissed by Vladimir Putin. With the presumption that he took his own life, this rare occurrence has sparked shock and speculation across Russian media. He had previously served as governor of the Kursk region, where he oversaw the construction of costly but ultimately ineffective defensive fortifications along the Ukrainian border. His former deputy and successor have since been arrested on fraud charges, and some believe Starovoi feared imminent prosecution himself. Analysts have drawn parallels to Soviet-era purges, suggesting the growing sense of fear and repression within Russia's political elite. State media has downplayed the event, with only brief mention on national television. But for Russia's governors and ministers, Starovoi's death sends a chilling signal: in today's political climate, even stepping down can come with grave consequences.

Pray: for truth, justice, and courage for those navigating leadership under oppressive and fearful systems. (Jeremiah 1:8)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0l49310z2go](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0l49310z2go)

### **Migrant boat crossings: France and UK aiming to curb the flow**

Emmanuel Macron and Keir Starmer are engaged in critical talks aimed at curbing illegal Channel crossings in small boats. During Macron's historic state visit to the UK, the first by a French president since 2008, the two leaders are negotiating enhanced border enforcement, including a 'one in, one out' migrant returns deal. The plan would allow the UK to return asylum seekers to France in exchange for accepting migrants with family ties in Britain. Macron stressed the importance of EU-level cooperation and reaffirmed the shared responsibility to combat irregular migration with humanity and fairness. Talks also include expanding French police powers to stop boats in shallow waters - a shift already showing signs of implementation. Despite optimism, challenges remain, including opposition from some EU countries. Small boat arrivals in the UK reached a record high in the first half of 2025, which underscores the urgency of finding ways of curbing the flow. Both nations hope for tangible progress in their joint response to people-smuggling networks.

Pray: that UK-France cooperation brings lasting solutions that protect lives and uphold human dignity. (Psalm 82:3)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr4wdv69796o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr4wdv69796o)

### **Armenia: bitter dispute escalates between PM and the church**

A deepening rift between prime minister Nikol Pashinyan and the Apostolic Church, is threatening to polarise the nation of three million. Tensions erupted after Pashinyan accused Catholicos Karekin II, the Church's spiritual head, of fathering a child and supporting a coup plot, allegations Karekin denies. The conflict, rooted partly in fallout from Armenia's 2020 defeat in the Nagorno-Karabakh war, has escalated with arrests of senior clergy and opposition figures, sparking alarms over religious freedom and national unity. Church bells rang an alarm at St Echmiadzin, historically reserved for invasions, signalling the detention of Archbishop Mikael Adjapakhyan, who was later arrested alongside others accused of plotting a coup. The dispute intertwines personal grievances, political rivalries, and historical tensions linked to the powerful 'Karabakh clan'. The World Council of Churches has voiced deep concern, calling for wisdom and justice to prevail. Meanwhile, Armenians fear the confrontation may fracture their society further, both politically and spiritually. See <https://oikoumene.org/resources/documents/statement-by-the-world-council-of-churches-on-recent-developments-concerning-the-armenian-apostolic-church>

Pray: for truth, peace, and righteous leadership amid Armenia's turmoil between church authority and government power. (Ephesians 4:3)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/7/8/in-armenia-a-bitter-dispute-escalates-between-pm-pashinyan-and-the-church](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/7/8/in-armenia-a-bitter-dispute-escalates-between-pm-pashinyan-and-the-church)

## **Worldwide**

### **Texas floods: over 100 dead, over 160 still missing**

In the wake of the catastrophic flash floods in Texas on 4 July, governor Greg Abbott has said that at least 109 people are confirmed dead and 161 are still missing. Among the missing are five children and a counsellor from Camp Mystic, a century-old Christian girls' summer camp, where 27 lives were lost. Torrential rains caused the Guadalupe River to rise by eight metres in under an hour, turning areas like Kerrville and nearby counties into disaster zones. The devastation at Camp Mystic was profound, with personal belongings strewn across muddy grounds. Survivors recounted harrowing rescues, including airlifts and children escaping through cabin windows. Ten-year-old Lucy Kennedy recalled sensing danger before the flooding began and was later reunited with her mother, who also lost their home in the disaster. Amidst political disputes over emergency preparedness and federal weather service funding, Texas communities are grieving, searching, and beginning the long road to recovery from one of the deadliest flash floods in recent memory. For more information about Camp Mystic, see <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/camp-mystic-texas-floods>

Pray: for comfort, strength, and healing for grieving families and all those affected by the Texas floods. (Psalm 147:3)  
More: [news.sky.com/story/more-than-160-people-still-missing-after-deadly-texas-floods-including-young-children-13394323](https://news.sky.com/story/more-than-160-people-still-missing-after-deadly-texas-floods-including-young-children-13394323)

### **Afghanistan: ICC issues arrest warrants for two leaders**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for two senior Taliban figures - supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada and chief justice Abdul Hakim Haqqani - accusing them of crimes against humanity through systematic gender-based persecution. Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, girls have been banned from education beyond sixth grade, women forced into veiling and isolation, and LGBTQ individuals have also been targeted. This is the first time an international tribunal has legally recognised LGBTQ people as victims of gender-based crimes against humanity. Though the Taliban dismissed the warrants as fuelled by 'enmity and hatred for the pure religion of Islam', international rights groups have praised the move as a historic and necessary step toward accountability and justice for the victims of ongoing gender-based oppression in Afghanistan. The decision came the day after the UN General Assembly expressed 'serious concern about the widespread and systematic oppression of all women and girls in Afghanistan', and called for the Taliban to 'swiftly reverse these policies'.

Pray: for justice, protection, and restored dignity for Afghan women, girls, and all targeted by persecution. (Psalm 9:9)  
More: [edition.cnn.com/2025/07/08/asia/icc-arrest-warrant-taliban-leaders-women-intl](https://edition.cnn.com/2025/07/08/asia/icc-arrest-warrant-taliban-leaders-women-intl)

### **Guinea: human rights activists disappeared a year ago**

A full year has passed since Guinean activists Oumar Sylla (known as Foniké Menguè) and Mamadou Billo Bah were forcibly disappeared on 9 July 2024, with no word on their whereabouts. Arrested by armed men in Conakry and reportedly taken to the Loos archipelago, the two members of the now-banned National Front for the Defence of the Constitution (FNDC) are believed to have endured torture and secret detention. Their case reflects a troubling rise in forced disappearances under Guinea's ruling junta, which human rights organisations describe as a 'climate of terror.' Other victims include civil society leader Abdoul Sacko - abducted, tortured, and abandoned in the bush - and lawyer Mohamed Traoré, also abducted and abused. Despite initial promises of investigations, authorities have remained silent. Amnesty International has called for immediate and transparent inquiries, but families continue to wait in anguish. As hope fades, the international community is urged to demand accountability for Guinea's growing list of enforced disappearances.

Pray: for the safe return of these two activists, and for comfort for their families. Pray that the government will be held to account for these instances of injustice. (Psalm 10:14)

More: [www.africanews.com/2025/07/08/amnesty-international-denounces-lack-of-investigation-into-activists-abduction/](https://www.africanews.com/2025/07/08/amnesty-international-denounces-lack-of-investigation-into-activists-abduction/)

### **Suriname: first woman president faces challenges**

Jennifer Geerlings-Simons has made history as Suriname's first female president, elected amid political and economic turmoil. The 71-year-old physician and lawmaker was backed by a two-thirds parliamentary vote after inconclusive May elections and growing dissatisfaction with outgoing president Chandrikapersad Santokhi's austerity measures; his administration has also faced corruption allegations. Geerlings-Simons, who ran unopposed, will assume office on 16 July along with her running mate Gregory Rusland. She inherits a nation burdened by debt, economic instability, and public frustration, but one with the hopeful prospect of offshore oil production starting in 2028. Her administration has pledged to stabilise state finances through stricter tax enforcement, but economists warn of a difficult path ahead, with debt repayments nearing \$400 million annually. As Suriname approaches its 50th year of independence, the country (which is one of the continent's poorest nations, with a rich ethnic tapestry) looks to Geerlings-Simons for leadership in a time of fragile transition and high expectations.

Pray: that the new president will lead with wisdom, justice, and courage as Suriname faces many challenges. (Proverbs 21:1)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/economy/2025/7/7/suriname-elects-first-female-president-amid-economic-uncertainty](https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2025/7/7/suriname-elects-first-female-president-amid-economic-uncertainty)

### **Bangladesh: did Sheikh Hasina authorise killing protesters?**

A leaked audio recording verified by BBC Eye reveals that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina authorised lethal force against student-led protesters during last year's deadly unrest. In the recording, Hasina is heard instructing security forces to use lethal weapons and to shoot wherever protesters are found. The protests, initially sparked by opposition to civil service job quotas, escalated into a mass movement that led to Hasina's ousting in July 2024, [after fifteen years in power \(https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/53147-bangladesh-interim-government-to-be-formed-after-prime-minister-flees\)](https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/53147-bangladesh-interim-government-to-be-formed-after-prime-minister-flees). According to UN investigators, up to 1,400 people were killed in what became Bangladesh's deadliest violence since its 1971 independence war. The leaked call, which has been authenticated by audio forensics experts, occurred on 18 July, as outrage grew over video evidence of police killings. Hasina, now in exile in India, faces charges of crimes against humanity in a special tribunal. The recording is considered a key piece of evidence in the proceedings.

Pray: for justice to be done in this case. Pray for healing for the victims, survivors, and families affected by the Bangladesh crackdown. (Isaiah 10:1)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn41z5qd1vo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn41z5qd1vo)

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Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with  
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