

Prayer Alert

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Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done. (Psalm 105:1)

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

Please pray for the Japan upper house election on 20 July. See the [2025 Elections 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.

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Praise Reports

[Singer's angelic encounter: 'so powerful'](#)

Jenn Johnson, worship leader with Bethel Music, has shared a powerful testimony of encountering an angel during a critical moment in hospital. Speaking to CBN News, she described seeing an angel appear in her hospital room just before undergoing a C-section for her daughter's birth. The angel, bald with a gold earring, simply looked at her, nodded, and turned away - but the peace Johnson felt in that moment was overwhelming. The encounter inspired her song 'Mention of Your Name', born from the deep reassurance she received when she needed it most. 'Peace went through my body', she said, recounting how unafraid she was despite the gravity of the situation. The experience left her longing for more such glimpses of heaven. Johnson also shared a separate miracle: the healing of her leg after it had been lifeless for two years due to a back condition. After being prayed for, sensation returned instantly. These encounters have deepened her faith and stirred hope in many who hear her story.

Praise: God for His comforting presence and healing power; may many be stirred to seek His glory. (Psalm 91:11)
More: www.faithwire.com/2025/07/16/singer-reveals-shocking-angelic-encounter-so-powerful/

[How a latter-day Joseph changed the world](#)

James O Fraser, a missionary to China in the early 1900s, is being remembered as a 'latter-day Joseph' whose quiet faithfulness sparked a spiritual awakening. Working among the Lisu people in remote southwest China, he faced immense challenges: isolation, language barriers, and demonic opposition. Yet he persevered with prayer and sacrificial service, often spending entire nights in intercession. Instead of rushing to convert, Fraser devoted himself to translating Scripture and creating a phonetic alphabet for the Lisu language. His patient work laid the foundation for a revival that would later sweep through the region. When the Chinese church faced decades of persecution, the Lisu believers endured and multiplied - in large part due to Fraser's early efforts. Today, they are one of the few people groups in China where a whole Bible-based Christian culture exists. Fraser's life illustrates how deep prayer and obedience can shape nations. Though largely unknown in his lifetime, his legacy is likened to that of Joseph in Egypt: faithful, prophetic, and world-changing through God's hand.

Praise: God for James Fraser's legacy of prayer and perseverance; may we also plant seeds which outlive us. (John 15:16a)
More: www.godreports.com/2025/07/how-a-latter-day-joseph-changed-the-world/

Unwavering pastor John MacArthur passes to his reward

Pastor John MacArthur, a pillar of evangelical preaching and unwavering Bible teacher, went to be with the Lord on 14 July, aged 86. For over five decades, he led Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, transforming it into a global centre for expository preaching. Rooted in a family of preachers, MacArthur embraced the gospel from childhood, devoting his life to the verse-by-verse exposition of Scripture. His ministry, Grace to You, broadcast sermons across 2,400 stations in nine languages. His books, including 'The Gospel According to Jesus' and 'The MacArthur Study Bible', shaped countless believers. MacArthur's theological clarity, bold convictions, and unwavering stand for biblical truth distinguished him from cultural drift. He trained thousands, and remained faithful through trials - including legal battles over religious freedom during the Covid pandemic. Though often controversial, his voice was prophetic, courageous, and Christ-honouring. MacArthur's legacy lives on in the lives he influenced. See also <https://www.christianpost.com/news/lion-of-the-pulpit-7-reactions-to-john-macarthur-death.html>

Praise: God for John MacArthur's faithful voice and legacy; may bold truth continue to be preached worldwide. (2 Timothy 4:7)

More: www.godreports.com/2025/07/unwavering-pastor-john-macarthur-passes-to-his-reward/

British Isles

'Betrayed' Afghan interpreter says family 'waiting for death' after UK data breach

Ali, an Afghan interpreter who served with British forces in Helmand Province, has spoken out after learning he was among those affected by a major Ministry of Defence data breach. His role, which involved translating Taliban communications, made him a prime target. Though he was relocated to the UK in 2021 following Taliban threats and a car bomb attack, he now fears for his family, who are still in Afghanistan. His worst fears were confirmed when he learned that his personal information - and potentially that of his family - had been exposed. Ali believes this led to his father's death after Taliban forces detained and beat him. Multiple requests for his family's relocation to the UK have been denied. Ali feels utterly betrayed by the government he served. Now he faces the impossible choice of returning to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan to try to protect his loved ones. His plea is urgent and heartrending: 'If the British government can't save my family, then I will go back and try myself.' See <https://www.channel4.com/news/factcheck/factcheck-the-secret-afghan-data-leak-explained>

Pray: for justice, protection, and urgent intervention to safeguard Ali's family and others endangered by this breach. (Psalm 82:4)

More: news.sky.com/story/betrayed-afghan-interpreter-says-family-waiting-for-death-under-taliban-after-uk-military-data-breach-13397647

Surprise inflation jump complicates interest rate decision

The UK's economic outlook has been shaken by a surprise rise in inflation, complicating plans for an anticipated interest rate cut in August. Despite a strong start to the year, recent data shows inflation quickening unexpectedly, particularly in food prices, adding to the burden on households already grappling with prolonged cost-of-living pressures. While markets had largely assumed a rate cut from the current 4.25% was imminent, the spike in inflation has introduced renewed caution. Former Bank of England policymaker Andrew Sentance called any cut next month 'irresponsible'. The Bank must now weigh current inflation against forecasts that predict a return to its 2% target by 2026. Complicating the picture further is the weakening jobs market, with unemployment expected to rise to 4.9%. While other major economies, like the eurozone, maintain stable inflation, the UK remains vulnerable to wage and tax-related price pressures. However, energy prices are expected to fall in the autumn, which may ease inflation, and there are signs of sectoral recovery and no current risk of recession.

Pray: for economic stability and wise decision-making as leaders balance inflation, interest rates, and the cost of living. (Proverbs 30:8)

More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/c70xy9nv7p7o

All Co-op members' data accessed in cyberattack

All 6.5 million members of the Co-op had their personal data stolen in a major cyberattack in April, the retailer's chief executive Shirine Khoury-Haq has confirmed. While no financial or transaction data were taken, names, addresses, and contact information were accessed. The breach prompted the shutdown of IT systems, disrupting supply chains and payments. Khoury-Haq expressed deep sorrow, especially recalling the distress of IT staff working to repel the attackers. The attack was one of three targeting major UK retailers this spring, alongside Marks & Spencer and Harrods. Four suspects, aged 17 to 20, have been arrested under suspicion of offences including blackmail, money laundering, and cybercrime. Devices were seized from their homes. In response, the Co-op has partnered with The Hacking Games to help young people with cyber skills pursue careers in cybersecurity instead of crime. The breach underscores the growing vulnerability of digital infrastructure and the emotional toll such attacks take on staff and customers alike.

Pray: for protection over digital systems, and for the raising up of ethical experts to combat cybercrime with integrity. (Psalm 12:7)

More: www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/co-op-data-hack-cyber-attack-698bvvr0p

Scotland: trans changing room row nurse cleared of misconduct

NHS nurse Sandie Peggie has been cleared of gross misconduct after raising concerns about sharing a changing room with a transgender doctor, Dr Beth Upton. Peggie was suspended in January 2024 following an incident at a hospital in Kirkcaldy, where she reported feeling 'embarrassed and intimidated' when Dr Upton began undressing in front of her. The disciplinary case was part of a wider employment tribunal, with Peggie claiming discrimination under the Equality Act. NHS Fife argued it followed national guidance, but admitted it lacked a formal policy on trans facilities at the time. The tribunal also heard arguments over the rights of women with religious beliefs or trauma histories who might not wish to share changing spaces with trans-identifying males. The incident was logged as a 'hate incident', yet the internal panel found no evidence of misconduct, recommending reflective dialogue instead. Peggie has since urged NHS Fife to respond to the UK supreme court ruling which reasserted the legal definition of 'woman' as biological. This complex case highlights the ongoing tensions between transgender rights and women's privacy in public services.

Pray: for clarity, compassion, and truth in policies affecting women's dignity and safety in shared spaces. (Proverbs 31:9)

More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/cm2mp5jley8o

Courier fraud victims lose £22m

Courier fraud has led to nearly £22 million in losses across the UK from April 2024 to March 2025, with the Thames Valley region suffering over £2 million in victim losses - the second highest after London. New figures show an average loss of £16,000 per victim, with 135 reports made to Thames Valley Police alone. The scam typically involves fraudsters posing as police or bank officials who convince victims they must urgently withdraw cash or purchase high-value items for a fictitious investigation. The victims then hand over money or goods to a courier, never to see them again. Detective inspector Duncan Wynn has urged the public to treat unsolicited calls with suspicion and reminded them that neither police nor banks will request cash withdrawals, computer access, or item pickups. Police commissioner Matthew Barber warned that criminals exploit public trust in institutions, using high-pressure tactics to deceive, particularly targeting the elderly. Authorities have said they will crack down on this predatory crime, and are calling for heightened public vigilance.

Pray: for protection over the vulnerable and wisdom for police as they combat deceitful schemes targeting the unsuspecting. (Proverbs 12:22)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yg7nzyp4no

Welby accused of 'undermining biblical ethics' over sexuality

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has drawn criticism for remarks suggesting he was 'thick' to have opposed same-sex relationships, prompting concerns that he is undermining biblical ethics. His comments come during a sensitive period for the Church of England, which is still navigating the divisive Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process on human sexuality. Rev Jonathan Ford, a former General Synod member, warned that Welby's words could further fracture the Church and diminish confidence in biblical morality. Ford noted that biblical ethics have historically shaped Western civilisation, and rejecting them leaves a moral vacuum. He said that many Anglicans globally hold conservative views, questioning where the Church of England stands amid growing liberal influence. At the General Synod's meeting in York, LLF remained unresolved due to internal divisions and the absence of unified episcopal leadership. Ford also called for a 'year of national repentance', urging the Church to recommit to Scripture, acknowledge past failings, and prioritise Christ-like living over institutional self-preservation.

Pray: for godly leadership and a return to biblical truth in the Church of England during this time of moral confusion. (Psalm 119:105)
More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/welby-accused-of-undermining-biblical-ethics

Europe

France: prime minister proposes axing two public holidays

There has been widespread criticism after prime minister François Bayrou proposed eliminating two public holidays - Easter Monday and 8 May (Victory in Europe day) - to help reduce the national budget deficit. He argues that France's debt is a critical threat, increasing by €5,000 every second, and that cutting holidays is part of a necessary strategy to recover €43.8 billion in savings. The proposal comes alongside other austerity measures, including freezing public spending, ending tax breaks for the wealthy, and reducing the civil service, while also increasing defence spending by €3.5 billion in 2026. His plan faces fierce opposition from the far-right and left-wing parties, with threats of a no-confidence vote which could topple the government, as happened to Bayrou's predecessor. Critics have decried the holiday cuts as attacks on French heritage and workers' rights. Despite the political risks and deep parliamentary divisions, Bayrou insists the reforms are essential to preserve national stability. President Macron, although deeply unpopular, has consistently resisted suggestions that he should step down before the end of his second term, in 2027.

Pray: that Macron and Bayrou act with wisdom, justice, and compassion in resolving economic and political crises. (James 1:5)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2d02dz6gedo

Türkiye: Kurdish fighters disarm, engage in peace process

On 11 July thirty Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) fighters publicly disarmed in Sulaimaniyah, northern Iraq, marking the start of a renewed peace process with Türkiye aimed at ending a forty-year conflict that has claimed around 40,000 lives. Following a call in February by jailed PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan to end armed struggle, senior PKK leaders agreed to political engagement in April. The process may lead to amnesty for fighters and the restoration of political and cultural rights for Kurds within Türkiye. However, analysts warn that the Turkish government's secrecy around the process raises questions about public support and long-term success. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Iraq has so far remained neutral, though local parties may use the peace process for political gain. Meanwhile, the PKK has incentives to disarm, because it is militarily weaker than it was and is more marginalised. However, if the process fails, violence could return to Iraq's Qandil Mountains, further destabilising the region and risking renewed conflict between the PKK and Turkish forces.

Pray: that peace efforts between the PKK and Türkiye will succeed and bring lasting reconciliation and justice. (Isaiah 2:4)
More: www.aljazeera.com/features/2025/7/15/how-will-the-pkks-disarmament-play-out-in-the-region

Worldwide

Israel bombs Syrian forces attacking a Druze area, then Damascus

Deadly violence has erupted in Suweida between Druze militias and Bedouin tribes, resulting in at least two hundred deaths, including children and civilians. The fighting, which began after the abduction of a Druze merchant, quickly escalated, prompting Syria's interim government to send troops into the previously autonomous Druze region. Israel launched airstrikes against these troops, claiming they were targeting the Druze, with whom Israel shares strong ties. The strikes drew international criticism and further inflamed tensions. Despite a ceasefire declared by Syria's defence minister, reports emerged of government forces bombing Suweida, executing Druze civilians and looting homes. A Druze spiritual leader initially called for cooperation with authorities, but later urged resistance. Syria accused Israel of full responsibility for the violence, while the USA urged Israel to halt its strikes. The Israeli military has already carried out hundreds of strikes across Syria to destroy the country's military assets since the fall of the Assad regime. Breaking news: Israel has now bombed Damascus, targeting the presidential palace and the ministry of defence building. See <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/07/16/middleeast/damascus-syria-airstrikes-intl>

Pray: for peace, protection, and justice for the Druze and all civilians caught in the escalating conflict. (Psalm 140:1,2)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c89e3j4e911o

Cuba: minister resigns after saying there are no beggars in the country

Labour and social security minister Marta Feito Cabrera has resigned following widespread backlash over her comments denying the existence of poverty and homelessness in Cuba. Speaking in the National Assembly, Feito claimed that those seen begging were merely 'disguised' and that street workers and recyclers lived 'easy' lives funded by untaxed income. Her remarks provoked outrage from citizens and leaders alike, including the president, who criticized the lack of empathy and said that the revolution should not leave anyone behind. Amid Cuba's worsening economic crisis, due partly to the longstanding and widely criticised US sanctions (recently tightened by Donald Trump) but also to fuel shortages and inflation, many are struggling to access basic needs. Feito's resignation was accepted after she 'acknowledged her errors'. The incident has sparked renewed debate on the government's handling of poverty, inequality, and transparency.

Pray: that leaders, in Cuba and elsewhere, respond with humility, sensitivity, and understanding to those less fortunate than themselves (Proverbs 14:31)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/7/16/cuban-minister-resigns-after-suggesting-beggars-are-pretending

Nigeria: 'We live in fear': five Christians killed during Bible study

Five Christians were killed and three others injured during a Bible study on Friday in Kaduna State by armed Fulani extremists. The victims, members of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), had gathered peacefully when the attackers struck. The killings are part of a continuing pattern of violent persecution targeting Christian farming communities in the Middle Belt region, where believers live in constant fear. The area has seen 110 kidnappings in the past six months, with many communities unable to sleep safely or work their land. Despite persistent attacks, the Nigerian government is widely criticised for its inaction. International voices have called for Nigeria to be redesignated as a Country of Particular Concern. While this designation was made under the Trump administration in 2020, it was removed by the Biden administration in 2021 without explanation, a move condemned by religious freedom advocates. Nigeria remains the deadliest country for Christians globally, with 90% of Christian martyrs in 2022 killed there.

Pray: for Nigeria's persecuted Christians - for safety, justice, and strength to remain faithful amid brutal opposition. (Matthew 5:10)

More: www.faithwire.com/2025/07/16/we-live-in-fear-muslim-extremists-kill-5-christians-during-bible-study-in-nigeria/

Canada / USA: air quality alerts due to widespread wildfires

Air quality alerts have been issued across Canada and northern USA as smoke from widespread wildfires continues to degrade air conditions, prompting urgent health warnings. Environment Canada has warned residents, especially in Ontario and Toronto (where air quality recently ranked among the worst globally), to limit outdoor exposure. Similar alerts have been issued in US cities like Chicago, where unhealthy ozone levels and residual smoke from Canadian fires are posing additional concerns. Wildfires raging across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and northern Ontario have forced tens of thousands to evacuate, with emergency responders working to assess the rapidly changing situation. Also, political tensions emerged after some Congress members said Canada's wildfires were 'making it difficult for Americans to enjoy their summer'. Scientists attribute the increasing intensity and frequency of wildfires to climate change; Canada is believed to be warming at twice the global rate.

Pray: for protection, healing, and wisdom amid wildfire crises and worsening environmental conditions. (Nahum 1:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c79q42y07wpo

Malaysia: calls for more thought about elephant relocations

Human-elephant conflict in Malaysia has resulted in nearly five thousand complaints and RM40 million (£7 million) in losses over the past four years, prompting conservationists to call for a deeper, more strategic approach than the long-standing practice of elephant translocation. Prof Dr Ahmad Ismail of the Malaysian Ecological Association stressed the need for a comprehensive understanding of elephant biology, behaviour, and ecology to manage habitats effectively. He also called for strengthening ecological corridors and fostering cooperation with state governments. Meanwhile, the government wildlife department has initiated a year-long translocation operation involving 25 elephants, beginning in Johor and expanding to other conflict-prone states. A commentator, noting that limited natural landscapes leave elephants with nowhere to roam, says, 'The elephants and all other forms of wildlife were here first'. This discussion underscores the need for proper funding and stronger commitment to preserving Malaysia's remaining forests and natural resources.

Pray: that Malaysia will find ways of adopting lasting, science-based solutions for peaceful coexistence between humans and elephants. (Proverbs 12:10)

More: asianews.network/calls-grow-for-malaysian-government-to-rethink-handling-wildlife-beyond-translocation/

USA: leading Republican breaks with Trump over refusal to release Epstein files

A political storm is brewing in Washington as divisions deepen over the Trump administration's refusal to release files related to deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. House speaker Mike Johnson, a close Trump ally, broke ranks by expressing public support for the files' release, citing the need for transparency. However, he later voted to block a Democrat-led resolution calling for that very action. The justice department, led by attorney general Pam Bondi, denies the existence of a client list in the files, and maintains the matter is closed - sparking outrage among both Democrats and Trump's MAGA supporters, who had been promised accountability. While bipartisan lawmakers are pressing for a House vote, Democrats in Congress and the Senate are pushing legislation to preserve and disclose all Epstein-related documents. The issue has become a flashpoint for demands for transparency and oversight, exposing cracks within the GOP and giving Democrats an opportunity to frame themselves as champions of accountability and reform.

Pray: that truth, justice, and transparency will prevail in all investigations involving exploitation, corruption, and abuse of power. (Luke 8:17)

More: www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/07/15/mike-johnson-epstein-files-democrats-house-vote/

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