

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 30-2025 | Friday 25 July 2025
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I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me. (Psalm 119:30, AMP)

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

Let's also be praying for restraint amidst the mounting tensions between Cambodia and Thailand over longstanding territorial disputes. [See](#)



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

London: church wins legal battle over street preaching ban

A West London church has successfully challenged a ban that restricted street evangelism in Uxbridge town centre. The Kingsborough Centre, formerly attended by footballer Bukayo Saka, took legal action after Hillingdon Council introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). This banned amplification, leafleting, and displaying Bible verses, prompting fears of criminalising Gospel outreach. Church members, stunned by the potential £1,000 fines, described the restrictions as 'oppressive.' Pastor Tunde Balogun stressed that street evangelism is a core expression of Christian faith and love for the community. Supported by the Christian Legal Centre, the church argued that the PSPO breached human rights. After review, the council reversed the order in May 2025, permitting religious preaching and the distribution of literature. The council will also cover £20,000 in legal fees. Pastor Balogun welcomed the outcome, praying that it sets a precedent for Christian freedom nationwide. Andrea Williams called open-air preaching 'a pillar of free speech.' The case highlights ongoing tensions around public faith expression in the UK.

Praise: God for this protection of Gospel freedom in West London. May open-air evangelism flourish across the UK. (2 Corinthians 3:17)
More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/church-wins-legal-battle-over-street-preaching-ban>

South Carolina: members praise God in tents after fire destroys historic church

After a devastating fire destroyed the historic Pleasant Grove Baptist Church building in South Carolina, the congregation gathered in tents on their church grounds to worship and praise God. Founded in 1869, the church had been a spiritual anchor in the Back Swamp community for over a century. The fire, which engulfed the 1910 building on Saturday afternoon, left nothing salvageable. Despite the emotional blow, Pastor Eugene Thomas and his members chose to remain grounded - literally and spiritually - by holding their Sunday service amidst the ruins. Churchgoers emphasised that the true church is not the building but the people. Community leaders, firefighters, and local historians expressed sorrow over the loss of one of Darlington County's oldest African American churches, while also commending the resilience and faith of its members. Pastor Thomas credited his congregation for the inspiration to worship on-site, describing their response as 'perfect.' Their act of faith amidst heartbreak served as a testimony of hope, perseverance, and the enduring presence of Christ among His people.

Praise: God for the unshaken faith of His people when buildings fall but hearts remain steadfast. (1 Peter 2:5a)
More: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/members-praise-god-in-tents-after-fire-destroys-historic-church.html>

British Isles

Repair 'social fabric' or risk repeat of summer riots, says No 10

Keir Starmer has warned his cabinet of growing civil unrest if urgent action isn't taken to restore Britain's 'fraying' social cohesion. At a recent cabinet awayday, Starmer and Deputy PM Angela Rayner urged ministers to address the rising tensions caused by rapid immigration, stagnant living standards, and strained public services. The warnings follow violent protests in Essex and last summer's Southport riots, which were fuelled by anger over crime and asylum policies. Starmer emphasised the need to restore trust and improve integration, while Rayner highlighted the deepening impact of economic insecurity and community isolation. Calls are increasing for a stronger focus on law and order, better housing policy, and support for deprived neighbourhoods. As protest activity increases, including threats of far-right involvement, concerns are mounting about the government's ability to defuse tensions. Ministers acknowledge a need for action to prevent further breakdowns in community resilience and unity. The government is now under pressure to balance national security concerns with addressing widespread social discontent.

Pray: for Godly leaders to restore peace, dignity, and justice in every UK community facing division. Pray that the Church will take the lead across our communities. (Matthew 5:9)

More: <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/summer-riots-protests-epping-nvdnpxtv2>

UK foreign aid cuts to hit Africa hard

The Government has confirmed sweeping cuts to foreign aid, reducing spending from 0.5% to 0.3% of gross national income to prioritise defence. The deepest reductions will affect Africa, particularly in vital areas such as children's education, women's health, and water sanitation, raising fears of increased disease and death. Bond, a UK coalition of aid organisations, warned that the most marginalised, especially women and children in conflict-affected regions like South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia, will suffer most. Despite claims of a strategic, targeted review, critics argue the government is deprioritising areas like gender equality and humanitarian crises. The UK will maintain funding for certain multilateral partners, including the World Bank's International Development Association and the Gavi vaccine alliance, while threatening cuts to underperforming global institutions. Aid advocates call for a renewed commitment to protecting vulnerable lives, accusing ministers of prioritising political interests over human dignity. These cuts come amid public scepticism over aid spending and international calls for the UK to do more, not less.

Pray: for righteous priorities that protect the world's poorest from political compromise and neglect. (Proverbs 31:9)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1wpr39zg5xo>

Small boat people smugglers to have assets frozen and face UK ban

The UK government has announced sweeping new sanctions targeting the global network behind small boat crossings in the Channel. Over 20 individuals and companies involved in people smuggling are expected to be named, including gang leaders, corrupt officials, and suppliers of boats, engines, and forged documents. Sanctioned individuals will face asset freezes and UK bans, making it illegal for UK businesses or banks to work with them. Foreign Secretary David Lammy stated the move aims to hit the 'men in suits' driving this multi-billion-dollar criminal trade. The crackdown includes those using legal money transfer systems, such as Hawala, to finance operations. This comes as the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill moves through Parliament, introducing new offences and counterterrorism-style powers. A 'one in, one out' pilot with France will also attempt to manage arrivals via safe, legal routes. While challenges remain, the UK is urging its G7 allies to adopt similar sanctions and bolster international resolve against this destructive trade.

Pray: for the dismantling of trafficking networks and for lasting solutions to illegal migration and exploitation. (Psalm 82:4)

More: <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-07-21/recipients-of-new-sanctions-targeting-smuggling-gangs-to-be-announced>

Five-day doctor strike will go ahead, says BMA

A five-day strike by resident doctors (formerly known as junior doctors) in England will proceed starting 25 July, following talks between the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Government that failed to produce a resolution. Despite five days of discussion, the BMA stated that no credible offer for pay restoration was made. Health secretary Wes Streeting urged the union to postpone the strike, promising to continue talks, but the BMA maintained that pay remains central to the dispute. The Government offered non-pay improvements, such as exam fee coverage, greater rota transparency, and potential student loan forgiveness, but could not offer further pay increases. Resident doctors received a 5.4% pay rise this year, following a 22% increase over the past two years. However, the BMA argues real-terms pay remains 20% lower than in 2008. NHS England is attempting to limit disruption by restricting the cancellation of non-urgent treatments, a move some doctors warn could jeopardise safety. The strike risks renewed pressure on an already strained health system.

Pray: for breakthrough, humility, and a just resolution in this healthcare dispute affecting patients and professionals. (Romans 12:18)

More: https://www-bbc-co-uk.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c86gz61151zo.amp?amp_js_v=0.1&_gsa=1#webview=1&cap=swipe

'A crisis boiling over': Essex community divided over violent migrant protests

Epping, a historic Essex town, remains divided following ten days of protests outside the Bell Hotel, which houses asylum seekers. Tensions erupted after an Ethiopian resident was charged with sexual assault, prompting both peaceful demonstrations and violent clashes. Smoke flares, injuries to police, and arrests followed, with far-right figures reported among the protestors. While some locals insist the protests were motivated by child safety concerns, not race, others fear Epping is being manipulated by outsiders stirring hate. A growing police presence and physical barriers now surround the hotel, with more demonstrations expected. Local MP Dr Neil Hudson has urged the government to close the hotel and condemned violence as 'deeply troubling.' Residents voice mixed views - some fearful and disturbed, others dismissing the unrest as exaggerated by the media. The charity Hope Not Hate warns that far-right groups are exploiting community tensions to spread division. Amid growing anxiety and fractured public opinion, many call for the legal process to be respected and for peace to be restored to the community.

Pray: for healing and peace in Epping, and for truth and justice to prevail without fear or hatred. (Psalm 34:14)

More: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/epping-riots-immigration-asylum-seeker-hotel-essex-b2793779.html>

Minehead: Community's pain after deadly school bus crash

Minehead is mourning the loss of a 10-year-old boy after a tragic school bus crash injured several others. The bus, carrying over 60 students and staff, veered off the road while returning from a trip to the zoo. Churches in the town have responded swiftly, offering prayer, pastoral care, and safe spaces for grieving. Tommy Pratt, a trainee minister at Minehead Baptist Church, described the incident's deep impact on the close-knit community. Church members with ties to the school were among those affected, and many locals are still 'processing' the shock. Churches across denominations are coordinating efforts to support families, school staff, and medical workers. The Hub café has opened its doors for prayer and conversation, and churches are preparing Sunday services with space for lament and reflection. A GoFundMe appeal has raised over £15,000 for affected families. Amid sorrow, the community's unified and compassionate response has become a source of strength. Church leaders are praying for God's peace, healing, and comfort during this time of collective grief.

Pray: for comfort, healing, and God's peace over Minehead's grieving families, churches, and schools. (Psalm 34:18)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/we-re-still-processing-it-minister-describes-community-s-pain-after-deadly-school-bus-crash-in-minehead>

Europe

Ukraine: new peace talks, says Zelensky

Volodymyr Zelensky has announced that Ukraine and Russia will engage in another round of talks on 23 July in Turkey. This comes at a time of intensified Russian drone attacks and continued escalation in the long-running conflict, now in its fourth year. While earlier talks have led to prisoner exchanges, little progress has been made toward achieving a lasting peace. Russia's conditions for ending the war include Ukraine's full withdrawal from the regions of the country now occupied by Russia, and international recognition of territories it has claimed since 2014, including Crimea. Ukraine, on the other hand, seeks a ceasefire, restoration of its borders (to 2013), return of all abducted children, release of civilians, and the exchange of prisoners of war. Donald Trump has voiced support for increased sanctions on Russia to pressure a resolution, urging both sides to reach an agreement swiftly. The world watches closely as diplomatic efforts resume amid deep divisions and ongoing violence.

Pray: that these talks bring meaningful steps toward peace, justice, and protection for the innocent. (Psalm 34:14)

More: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/07/22/new-round-of-russia-ukraine-peace-talks-taking-place-on-wednesday-zelensky-says>

France: cities impose curfews on children after drug violence

Several French cities have introduced night-time curfews for minors in response to escalating violence linked to drug trafficking. In Nîmes, where recent shootings and a brutal murder have shaken residents, authorities have imposed a 9pm–6am curfew for under-16s to shield children from violence and criminal exploitation. Mayor Jean-Paul Fournier described the situation as 'untenable,' blaming drug gangs for fostering a climate of fear. Other cities, including Béziers and Limoges, have implemented similar curfews. However, officials admit enforcement is challenging, with continued youth disturbances and attacks on police undermining their effectiveness. In Béziers, youths recently ambushed officers with fireworks, and Limoges saw unrest involving 100 people. The violence highlights a growing trend of gang activity spreading beyond Marseille, France's drug crime epicentre. In 2024, drug-related violence claimed 110 lives and wounded over 300. The government is responding with tougher laws, high-security prisons, and expanded investigative powers, but community leaders warn that more than policing is needed to protect young lives and restore peace.

Pray: for God's mercy to break the grip of violence and deliver France's youth from harm and exploitation. (Psalm 59:2)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3d1jdmg779o>

Worldwide

Bangladesh: at least fifty killed after jet crashes into school

A tragic accident occurred in Dhaka when a military training jet crashed into Milestone School and College, killing at least twenty people and injuring more than 186. The F-7 aircraft, which had just taken off for a training mission, experienced a mechanical fault and struck a two-storey school building, igniting a massive fire. Many of the victims were children, with seventeen confirmed dead and dozens more suffering critical burns. Witnesses, including students and teachers, described scenes of horror and devastation as the crash unfolded during school dismissal. Emergency services rushed to the site, with seven hospitals treating victims, most of them aged between 10 and 15 and suffering from fuel burns. Families frantically sought loved ones, and many volunteers offered to donate blood. The pilot, who died in the crash, reportedly tried to divert the aircraft away from populated areas. The government has launched an investigation and declared a national day of mourning.

Pray: for comfort to grieving families and healing to the children who were injured. (Psalm 34:18)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c75rprqr67o>

Syria: pastor and family massacred by terrorists, at least 20 dead

Pastor Khalid Mezher, leader of the Good Shepherd Evangelical Church in Suwayda, Syria, was murdered alongside around 20 members of his extended family in what church leaders are calling a targeted massacre. A convert from the Druze faith, Mezher was known for his bold Christian witness in a region torn by conflict. His murder occurred amid escalating violence between Bedouin fighters and Druze militias, with over 250 reported dead in one week. Suwayda has been under siege for 10 days with no food, water, or electricity. Church sources say Mezher was 'killed for his faith,' and many believers remain missing or cut off. Despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire, shelling continues. Christian leaders across Syria have condemned the killings and appealed for urgent international aid. Government forces have shifted roles in the conflict, but humanitarian access remains limited. Mezher's martyrdom has shaken the remnant Christian community in southern Syria, as calls for global prayer and intervention grow. The church in Suwayda now stands scattered, its future uncertain. [See https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/syria-suwayda-violence/](https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/syria-suwayda-violence/)

Pray: for God's comfort for grieving believers and international help to protect Syria's vulnerable Christian remnant. (Romans 8:35,37)

More: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/evangelical-pastor-family-killed-by-terrorists-in-syria-20-dead.html>

Japan: prime minister expected to resign

Japan's prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba, is expected to resign following a major electoral defeat that saw his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lose its coalition majority in the upper house. Ishiba, who has held office for less than a year, has struggled with waning public support and the rise of nationalist parties like Sanseito, which campaigned on a 'Japanese first' platform. The LDP has faced increasing pressure over issues such as inflation, a shrinking workforce, and growing immigration concerns - areas populist groups have capitalised on. Despite initially pledging to remain in office, Ishiba is now consulting former prime ministers about his future. He is also pursuing a controversial \$550 billion trade deal with the United States that would lower tariffs on Japanese goods in exchange for greater U.S. market access. While the proposed deal has economic significance, Ishiba's political fate appears sealed. Observers warn that the shifting political landscape could steer Japan towards more nationalist policies if moderate leadership continues to weaken. [see](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpwq4dljjdko)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpwq4dljjdko>

Pray: for Japan to be led by those who value justice, humility, and peace in times of political change. (Micah 6:8)
More: <https://www.thetimes.com/world/asia/article/japanese-prime-minister-shigeru-ishiba-resign-xfr8pd83r>

Brazil: police raid ex-president's home

Brazil's supreme court has ordered strict sanctions on former president Jair Bolsonaro amid an ongoing criminal trial accusing him of plotting to overturn the 2022 election. Police raided his home and headquarters, fitted him with an electronic ankle tag, and imposed bans on foreign contacts, embassies, and social media use. The court cited flight risk concerns, though Bolsonaro denied any intention to flee, calling the measures a 'supreme humiliation.' The USA has reacted controversially, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio revoking visas for Brazilian justices involved, labelling the trial a 'political witch hunt.' Bolsonaro's close ties with Donald Trump and claims of US interference have sparked a diplomatic storm. Allegations include collusion with the USA to impose retaliatory trade tariffs. Meanwhile, he could face over 40 years in prison if convicted of orchestrating a coup, with charges also implicating his son. As tensions rise, the situation highlights deepening global political entanglements and ongoing challenges to democratic accountability in Brazil.

Pray: for justice to prevail in Brazil without political manipulation, and for peace among nations amid rising tensions. (Psalm 37:28)
More: https://amp-cnn-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/amp.cnn.com/cnn/2025/07/18/americas/brazil-bolsonaro-intl?amp_js_v=0.1&_gsa=1#webview=1&cap=swipe

Sudan: oil-rich region becomes new focus of civil war

Sudan's war has entered a dangerous new phase, with fierce fighting erupting in the oil-rich Kordofan region. Control of Kordofan is strategic - it holds vital oil infrastructure and could shift the war's trajectory. The army, led by Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, is attempting to push out the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), commanded by Gen Mohamed 'Hemedti' Dagalo, who once supported al-Burhan before a violent split in 2023. Airstrikes by the army have killed dozens of civilians in towns like el-Fula and Abu Zabad, drawing condemnation from the UN. Meanwhile, the RSF has also been accused of massacres, with over 450 civilians, including children, killed in recent attacks. The conflict, now in its third year, has displaced 12 million and claimed 150,000 lives. Analysts warn the RSF's local tribal support could give them the upper hand in parts of Kordofan. Both sides are now locked in a deadly struggle over the region's towns, oil fields, and supply routes. Humanitarian agencies are calling for urgent international action to stop the bloodshed.

Pray: for God's intervention to stop the violence in Sudan and to protect innocent lives caught in the crossfire. (Psalm 34:14b)
More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx209jr79gko>

Algeria: president offers to mediate between Malian authorities and rebel Tuaregs

Algeria's president, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, has offered to mediate between Mali's military-led government and northern rebel groups, including Tuareg and Arab nationalists, amid escalating regional tensions. However, he clarified that he would only step in if formally invited by Mali. His statement comes after Mali's junta withdrew from a previous Algeria-brokered peace deal and replaced UN peacekeepers with Russian Africa Corps mercenaries, formerly Wagner. Algeria has refused to tolerate mercenary forces on its 1,400 km shared border, despite its own longstanding ties with Russia. Mutual accusations have intensified, with both countries alleging drone strikes and cross-border incursions. Mali has accused Algeria of harbouring militants who conduct attacks from Algerian soil, a claim Algiers denies. The withdrawal of the UN's MINUSMA peacekeeping force in 2023 has left a security vacuum in northern Mali, now filled by armed factions and foreign operatives. Tebboune's call for diplomacy reflects Algeria's concern over instability and the threat of wider conflict spreading across the Sahel region.

Pray: for genuine peacemaking efforts and lasting reconciliation between Mali's leaders and rebel groups. (Matthew 5:9)
More: <https://www.africanews.com/2025/07/21/algerias-president-tebboune-offers-to-mediate-between-malian-authorities-and-rebel-tuareg/>

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Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with
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