

Prayer Alert

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Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isaiah 56:7b)

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

We are all invited to join the World Prayer Centre, Birmingham's weekly Revival Prayer Hour each Wednesday morning at 9.30am. If you share our calling to pray into issues affecting our nation and a heartfelt desire to see revival in the British Isles - do join us! [More Info and Sign-up Here](#)



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

[Christian Lioness wins Young Player of the Euros](#)

England's Michelle Agyemang, 19, has been named UEFA Women's EURO 2025 Young Player of the Tournament. A bold Christian witness on and off the pitch, she wears crosses on her socks, shares gospel music as her pre-match soundtrack, and openly credits her faith for her journey. Agyemang is part of the Christian group Ballers in God and includes a cross in her Instagram bio. Her breakout performance during the tournament was marked by critical goals, including a last-minute equaliser in the semi-final and a crucial penalty in the quarter-final that helped the Lionesses progress. After England's thrilling win in the final, she gave glory to God in a live interview: "It's only by the grace of God." Remarkably, just four years ago she was a ball girl watching some of her now-teammates play at Wembley. Agyemang's humility, gratitude, and dedication shine through her story. She honours her teammates, coaches, and staff for their support, seeing her rise as a team effort and a testimony to God's faithfulness and grace.

Praise: God for Michelle's witness and talent. Pray that her faith and example inspires many young people. (Matthew 5:16)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-lioness-wins-young-player-of-the-euros>

[Oklahoma senior uses technology to preach around the world](#)

Arch Bonnema, a 72-year-old businessman from Oklahoma, has spent decades funding and participating in global mission work. For years, he worked in estate planning and precious metals sales to support monthly mission trips. While he previously focused on Africa, God unexpectedly opened doors for fruitful ministry in Pakistan, a country he never intended to visit. There, Arch has distributed nearly 30,000 Urdu-language Audio Bibles - small music-box devices ideal for Pakistan's 43% illiterate population. People gather around to listen, much like families once did with radios. Amazingly, over 90% of the devices still function after three years. Arch preaches via mobile phone six days a week to small groups gathered by his Pakistani team, often beginning at 11 p.m. Oklahoma time. He's also recruited 13 other U.S. pastors to join this digital mission via WhatsApp. Arch's passion for evangelism began as a teen and never waned. He and his wife have travelled to over 34 nations and completed 350 mission trips. "I've seen more salvations after 65," he says, praising God for technology that multiplies his reach.

Praise: God for Arch's faithfulness and innovation. May his bold witness continue to be inspiring and transforming lives for Christ. (Psalm 126:5)

More: <https://www.godreports.com/2025/07/oklahoma-senior-uses-technology-to-preach-around-the-world/>

British Isles

Israel condemns Keir Starmer over plan to recognise Palestine

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced that Britain will recognise a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly in September unless Israel halts its actions in Gaza and commits to a two-state solution. Citing widespread suffering, including starving children and destroyed communities, Starmer issued an ultimatum: Israel must agree to a ceasefire, permit humanitarian aid, and halt annexation plans in the West Bank. The move, backed by France and a large number of Labour MPs, drew sharp condemnation from Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu, who called it a reward for terrorism and warned it could endanger global security. The United States also expressed concern, with President Trump saying the decision risks rewarding Hamas. Foreign Secretary David Lammy added that Britain has a historic responsibility, referencing the Balfour Declaration, and insisted that the two-state solution remains the only path to peace. Critics of Israel's current actions view the recognition as a moral imperative. Starmer has launched a diplomatic effort to rally global support ahead of September, signalling a dramatic shift in UK foreign policy. See <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c23p8gl05r2o>

Pray: for international leaders to seek lasting peace with justice for both Palestinians and Israelis alike. (Psalm 34:14)

More: <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/keir-starmer-uk-recognise-palestine-tf59wpv3f>

IMF: 'Bank of England must cut interest rates to save UK economy'

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged the Bank of England to cut interest rates at least twice more in 2025 to support the UK economy. The Bank's base rate currently stands at 4.25%, down from a post-Covid peak of 5.25%, following efforts to reduce inflation, which has now eased to 3.6%. Despite slight improvements in GDP projections - 1.2% for 2025 and 1.4% for 2026 - the IMF warned that global trade uncertainty and fiscal deficits could disrupt recovery. Chancellor Rachel Reeves welcomed the UK's position as the fastest-growing G7 economy in Europe but faces criticism over recent tax increases, including higher National Insurance contributions and the extension of inheritance tax to pensions. Bank Governor Andrew Bailey suggested these tax hikes may be dampening business investment and wage growth. The IMF highlighted risks of financial market volatility and called for a cautious yet responsive approach. As global economic pressures persist, the UK must balance fiscal discipline with growth-friendly policies that promote employment, investment, and long-term stability. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn84gg2y5kpo>

Pray: for economic policies marked by righteousness, fairness, and growth that protect jobs and families nationwide. (Proverbs 30:8)

More: <https://www.gbnews.com/money/interest-rate-cut-economy-imf-reeves>

Knife crime soars by nearly 60% in London

Knife crime in London has surged by nearly 60% in the last three years and 86% over the past decade, according to a new report by Policy Exchange. A cluster of just 20 central London streets—including Oxford Circus and Regent Street—now accounts for one in every 15 knife attacks in the city. The rise in violent crime has prompted calls for a "zero tolerance" approach, including increased use of stop-and-search tactics. While controversial, the report argues that stop-and-search aligns with demographic crime data, with a higher percentage of arrests and charges involving black offenders than the general population representation. Commander Hayley Sewart of the Met Police reported that recent efforts, including hotspot policing, technological tools, and visible neighbourhood patrols, have already led to a 16% drop in knife-related crime and reduced homicide rates. Tributes have poured in for a father and son recently killed in a targeted attack, highlighting the human cost of this violence. Leaders stress that curbing knife crime requires a united approach from police, government, and society at large.

Pray: for healing in London's communities and wisdom for leaders tackling the roots of knife crime. (Psalm 82:4)

More: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/met-police-knife-crime-london-west-end-hotspots-southwark-murder-b1240642.html>

DWP benefit cuts hit people with Parkinson's and MS

The UK Government is facing pressure to widen access to its proposed "top tier" sickness benefits, following concerns that people with fluctuating conditions such as Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis (MS) may be unfairly excluded. Under current Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) proposals, only those whose symptoms "constantly" prevent work would qualify for enhanced universal credit and be exempt from regular medical reassessments. Labour MP Graeme Downie has tabled an amendment to expand eligibility to those with "evolving" or fluctuating conditions. He argues that the cost of living with conditions like Parkinson's - where even simple daily tasks may require expensive alternatives - requires consistent financial support. Parkinson's UK and other campaigners support the change, warning that current criteria fail to reflect the live realities of such illnesses. While ministers have agreed to remove similar restrictive clauses from the personal independence payment (PIP) system, the universal credit health element still raises concern. With cross-party backing, the amendment seeks to ensure compassion and fairness for those whose disabilities vary in severity from hour to hour.

Pray: for compassionate reform that protects the dignity and needs of those with fluctuating health conditions. (Proverbs 31:8-9)

More: <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/national/uk-today/25288536.dwp-benefit-cuts-hit-people-parkinsons-ms/>

Tommy Robinson: Police investigate alleged assault

Police are investigating an alleged assault at St Pancras International station in London after video footage surfaced showing right-wing activist Tommy Robinson, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, near a man lying motionless on the floor. The incident occurred on Monday evening around 8:40 p.m. A man was taken to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. British Transport Police confirmed they are seeking to question a 42-year-old man from Bedfordshire who reportedly left the country on a flight early Tuesday morning. The video, circulating widely online, does not show the alleged moment of assault, but captures Robinson pacing near the injured man and shouting to onlookers that he acted in self-defence. Robinson has since reposted a tweet asserting that he was attacked first. Police continue to review the footage and work to locate the suspect. The incident has sparked renewed public debate over Robinson's controversial public presence and past criminal record. Authorities urge anyone with additional information or footage to come forward to assist with the ongoing investigation.

Pray: for truth, justice, and healing for all affected, and for peace in public discourse. (Romans 12:17)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/police-investigate-assault-as-video-appears-to-show-tommy-robinson-at-station-13403457>

Nation falls silent a year after Southport attack

A year after the tragic attack that claimed the lives of Bebe King (6), Elsie Dot Stancombe (7), and Alice da Silva Aguiar (9) during a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in Southport, the nation paused for a three-minute silence to remember the victims. On July 29, 2024, the girls were fatally attacked by 17-year-old Axel Rudakubana. The attack also injured ten others and left deep psychological scars on many. Rather than floral tributes at the site, residents were invited to place flowers in Southport Town Hall Gardens and support charitable causes created in the girls' honour. Charities like Elsie's Story, Bebe's Hive, and Alice's Wonderdance now serve as living legacies. Families and school staff have spoken of both immense grief and the outpouring of kindness that has followed. The Council and community leaders have provided safe, respectful spaces for mourning, reflection, and healing. Across Sefton and the wider region, flags were lowered as a mark of respect. Amid devastating loss, hope and love continue to shine through such acts of remembrance and compassion.

Pray: for comfort and healing for all grieving this tragedy; may love outshine sorrow and fear. (Psalm 34:18)

More: <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/uk/southport-falls-silent-attack-anniversary/>

Europe

Ukraine: Trump shortens Russia's peace deal deadline

U.S. President Donald Trump has shortened his previously declared 50-day ultimatum for Russia to reach a peace deal in Ukraine, now stating that Vladimir Putin has "10 or 12 days" to agree or face severe economic sanctions. Speaking during a meeting with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland, Trump expressed frustration with ongoing Russian aggression, especially recent missile strikes on civilian areas, including care homes in Kyiv. Trump claimed he had come close to brokering a ceasefire with Putin five times but said a final agreement remains elusive. The initial 50-day delay had sparked criticism, with some arguing it gave Moscow undue leniency amid intensified summer offensives. Meanwhile, Ukraine's President Zelenskyy welcomed the decision to send more Patriot air defence systems and emphasised the need for increased protection from relentless Russian attacks. Ukraine's frontlines remain under pressure, though no collapse is anticipated. Trump's growing urgency reflects a strategic shift as the war enters its fourth year, with heightened expectations for swift action and greater Western coordination to defend Ukrainian sovereignty. [See also](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c87e0ydy3d4o)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c87e0ydy3d4o>

Pray: for divine intervention, courageous diplomacy, and lasting peace in war-torn Ukraine and Eastern Europe. (Matthew 5:9)

More: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/07/28/trump-says-hes-reducing-50-day-deadline-for-putin-to-agree-to-peace-in-ukraine>

Greece claims 'invasion' in Crete as it tries to halt asylum

Greece has suspended the right to seek asylum for at least three months amid a sharp rise in migrants arriving via the Libya–Crete route. The controversial policy, described by Migration Minister Thanos Plevris as necessary to avoid a national emergency, has been criticised by human rights advocates for violating EU and international law. Over 7,000 migrants reached Crete between January and June 2025, with overcrowded detention centres now housing refugees in harsh conditions. Many, like Mustafa from war-torn Sudan, are detained without legal recourse or access to proper shelter and care. Critics argue that even in times of crisis, the right to claim asylum must be protected. The government maintains the move is temporary and driven by national security and tourism concerns, while EU officials say they are reviewing the legality of Greece's actions. As desperation grows among detainees, the situation raises urgent ethical and legal questions about how Europe handles asylum in the face of rising migration, public fear, and political pressure.

Pray: for protection, justice, and compassion for all migrants seeking refuge amid war, fear, and hardship. (Exodus 22:21)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgp5rexnk2o>

Worldwide

Waves reach US west coast after Russian earthquake as Japan lifts tsunami warnings

One of the most powerful earthquakes in recorded history struck off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula on Wednesday, registering a magnitude of 8.8. Occurring in the Pacific Ring of Fire, the quake triggered tsunami warnings across Japan, Hawaii, the U.S. West Coast, and other Pacific nations, prompting evacuations of over two million people. Fortunately, no deaths were reported. Kamchatka, known for seismic activity, experienced intense tremors, causing panic and damaging buildings. Tsunami waves exceeding 5 meters struck Severo-Kurilsk, flooding ports and sweeping away boats. A volcano on Kamchatka also began erupting after the quake. In Peru, over half of Pacific ports were closed as a precaution. Videos from the region showed calm heroism in hospitals during surgeries and chaos as residents fled in fear. Though the most severe threats have passed, aftershocks are expected. Authorities have urged vigilance, and emergency services remain on high alert. This event underscores the vulnerability of nations situated on seismic fault lines and the need for preparedness and compassion in times of natural disaster.

Pray: for safety, comfort, and readiness as communities recover from earthquakes and face ongoing aftershocks. (Psalm 46:1)

More: <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/c34x9yrrg4t>

Gaza: Famine unfolding, says global hunger monitor

A famine is unfolding across Gaza, according to the UN-led Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which says conditions have "worsened dramatically" in recent months. Gaza's food consumption is now at its lowest since the Israel-Hamas conflict began, with over a third of the population going entire days without food. Malnutrition and starvation-related deaths are rising rapidly - at least 147 people have died, including 88 children. The IPC reports that famine thresholds have been breached in most of Gaza and for acute malnutrition in Gaza City. Although Israel has eased restrictions on aid entry, humanitarian groups say the volume remains critically insufficient. Aid convoys are often overwhelmed by desperate civilians, and the World Food Programme warns that unless unimpeded and large-scale aid is delivered immediately, mass starvation will intensify. Experts are calling for food, medicine, and essential supplies to be allowed in without obstruction. Despite denials from the Israeli government, evidence from UN agencies, clinics, and aid workers paints a dire picture. Without swift, unhindered intervention, Gaza faces an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.

Pray: for mercy, open aid corridors, and an end to the suffering of Gaza's starving children. (Psalm 146:7)

More: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/07/29/gaza-famine-ipc-israel-palestinians/>

Beijing: 30 dead and 80,000 evacuated after flooding

At least 30 people have died and over 80,000 have been evacuated following devastating rainstorms and floods in Beijing and surrounding regions. Chinese authorities confirmed the deaths, with 21 caused by drowning - many in underground spaces that filled rapidly - and others from electrocution and building collapses. The Miyun District northeast of Beijing recorded nearly 543mm of rain. The storms have severely impacted infrastructure, cutting power to 136 villages and damaging 31 roads, complicating rescue and relief efforts. President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang have urged "all-out efforts" to rescue the missing, resettle the displaced, and minimise further casualties. An orange alert - the second-highest emergency level - remains in effect as more rain is forecast. The deluge has affected several provinces including Hebei, Jilin, and Shandong. China's National Development and Reform Commission has allocated £21 million in emergency funding to support relief operations. With fears of additional flooding and landslides, authorities are on high alert, monitoring rivers, reservoirs, and urban drainage systems to prevent further tragedy. Relief efforts continue as the region battles ongoing extreme weather.

Pray: for protection, comfort, and swift relief for flood victims across Beijing and Northern China. (Nahum 1:7)

More: <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-07-29/at-least-30-people-dead-and-80000-evacuated-after-heavy-flooding-in-beijing>

Cambodia and Thailand agree to ceasefire

Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire following deadly border clashes that escalated last week. The breakthrough came during mediation talks in Malaysia, hosted by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Both Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai acting leader Phumtham Wechayachai expressed gratitude for the mediation efforts of Malaysia, China, and U.S. President Trump - who reportedly made ceasefire a condition for future trade discussions with Washington. Clashes between the two nations have historical roots, including a long-standing dispute over an 11th-century temple near the border. The most recent escalation, which began after the death of a Cambodian soldier in May, displaced over 300,000 people. The ceasefire, effective from midnight local time, will be followed by a meeting between military commanders and defence attachés, coordinated under ASEAN. Both sides described the talks as constructive and expressed hope for rebuilding trust and restoring normalcy. This agreement marks a vital step toward long-term peace and stability in a region long plagued by territorial tensions and sporadic violence.

Pray: for lasting peace and reconciliation between Cambodia and Thailand after years of border conflict and tension. (Psalm 34:14)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/c93dy4g436nt>

New York shooting: gunman 'went to wrong floor'

A tragic mass shooting unfolded in a Manhattan skyscraper when Shane Tamura, 27, entered the building housing the NFL headquarters and killed four people before taking his own life. Tamura, a former high school football star and casino security guard, left a note blaming the NFL for concealing the risks of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a brain disease linked to repeated head trauma. Believing he suffered from CTE, he intended to confront the NFL but mistakenly took the wrong elevator. Among those killed were NYPD officer Didarul Islam, Blackstone executive Wesley LePatner, Rudin Management staffer Julia Hyman, and security guard Aland Etienne. An NFL employee was also injured but survived and managed to warn colleagues. The rifle used was self-assembled and the revolver legally purchased. President Trump, local officials, and researchers have commented on the tragedy. The case has renewed concerns over gun violence, mental health, and the long-term impacts of contact sports. Investigations continue in Nevada and New York as families and communities grieve the senseless loss.

Pray: for comfort and healing for the families devastated by the Manhattan shooting and its wider consequences. (Psalm 34:18)

More: <https://www.thetimes.com/article/20734a65-6307-431d-97d1-d079fe2a9da2>

Pastors and other Christians Brutalized in Odisha State, India

Twenty pastors were brutally attacked in Kotamateru village, Odisha state, India, while attending a Christian seed-blessing ceremony on June 21. Local villagers, armed with axes, knives, and wooden sticks, ambushed the pastors as they left the event, accusing them of religious conversions. Despite prior verbal police approval and peaceful intentions, the pastors were violently assaulted, leaving 30 injured and 10 hospitalized with severe wounds. Among the victims was Sukra Madi, 52, who remains in critical need of surgery his family cannot afford. Eyewitness accounts and video evidence confirm the deliberate nature of the attack, yet no arrests have been made. Police instead pressured Christians into a coerced "compromise" agreement, allegedly using language barriers to secure misleading signatures. When over 7,000 Christians protested the police inaction, authorities responded by filing criminal charges against 30 Christian leaders. This incident reflects a broader pattern of increasing hostility towards Christians in India, which now ranks 11th on Open Doors' World Watch List. Pastors and families continue to pray for justice, healing, and freedom to worship peacefully.

Pray: for healing, provision, and justice for persecuted Christians in Odisha and across India today. (Psalm 82:4)

More: <https://christiannews.net/2025/07/29/pastors-and-other-christians-brutalized-in-odisha-state-india/>

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