

# Prayer Alert

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I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11)

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

### USA: church's Ramen shop gives love of Jesus in a bowl

In a quiet corner of Sequim, Washington State, a church-run Ramen shop is offering more than food—it's serving love, dignity, and the presence of Jesus. Designed as a 'pay-what-you-can' eatery, the space hums with peace and welcome. Visitors from all walks of life - students, elderly neighbours, the homeless - gather to enjoy nourishing meals in an atmosphere of grace. Each guest chooses their own broth, toppings, grains and greens, reclaiming choice where it's often lost. Behind the counter, a pastor-chef and volunteers serve up bowls of care and compassion, sustained by generous patrons who 'pay it forward'. It's an economy of grace, where no one is turned away, and everyone is treated with honour. The building itself feels soaked in prayer, a sanctuary where the love of Jesus is tangible. The Ramen Shop isn't just feeding stomachs; it's restoring souls - offering sanctuary, table fellowship, and the quiet declaration: you belong.

Praise: God for this sanctuary of soup and grace; may many experience Jesus through shared meals and loving welcome. (Acts 2:46)  
More: [www.godreports.com/2025/08/churchs-pay-it-forward-ramen-shop-gives-love-of-jesus-in-a-bowl/](http://www.godreports.com/2025/08/churchs-pay-it-forward-ramen-shop-gives-love-of-jesus-in-a-bowl/)

### Filmmakers set out to prove that the impossible still happens

In their new documentary Show Me Your Glory, Eric and Kameron Swithin explore whether God still performs miracles today. Their journey began with Eric's questions about the absence of biblical-style healings in church life. His curiosity grew into personal experience as he witnessed and participated in prayers that brought visible healing and change. The film captures this tension: why some prayers are answered with power while others appear to go unanswered. While filming, they saw both divine healing and God's provision through medical means. One colleague had an aggressive brain tumour successfully removed during production. Another moment of awe came during an outdoor shoot when a storm visibly parted on the weather radar as they prayed, passing around their set like the Red Sea. The film shares eight real-life testimonies, alongside a book detailing sixteen miraculous stories. Among them is Sarah, once addicted and near death, now fully restored. Kameron reflects, 'God showed me that with Him all things are possible'. Their story is a powerful reminder that the God of miracles is still at work today.

Praise: God that He still heals and restores today; may faith rise as stories of miracles are shared. (Hebrews 13:8)  
More: [www.faithwire.com/2025/08/05/does-god-still-miraculously-heal-filmmakers-say-the-impossible-still-happens-and-set-out-to-prove-it/](http://www.faithwire.com/2025/08/05/does-god-still-miraculously-heal-filmmakers-say-the-impossible-still-happens-and-set-out-to-prove-it/)

## British Isles

### Reeves must raise tax to cover £41bn gap, says thinktank

The Government faces a £41.2 billion shortfall that could force Rachel Reeves to raise taxes this autumn to meet her own borrowing rules, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR). Reeves has pledged that day-to-day spending will be covered by tax revenue and that national debt must fall as a share of income within five years. NIESR recommends moderate tax rises, including reforming council tax and expanding the scope of VAT, to reassure investors. Labour has previously ruled out tax hikes on 'working people', but Reeves now faces a difficult balance between honouring manifesto promises, controlling debt, and funding public services. NIESR also urged the Government to focus on growth, productivity, and welfare reform. The poorest 10% remain worse off than before Covid. With sluggish growth projected, the autumn Budget is expected to be the most challenging of this Parliament. Breaking news: the Bank of England has cut its interest rate to the lowest for four years, which will benefit those paying mortgages. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yprwyxjlxo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yprwyxjlxo)

Pray: for God-honouring economic leadership that protects the vulnerable while upholding fiscal responsibility and truth. (Romans 13:7)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn85vyd1epzo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn85vyd1epzo)

### Channel migrants: 'no specified number' to be returned to France

Home secretary Yvette Cooper has confirmed there is 'no specified number' of migrants set to be returned under the UK-France 'one in, one out' agreement, now in effect. The scheme enables the UK to return illegal Channel-crossers to France while accepting an equal number of vetted asylum seekers with ties to Britain. Though early estimates suggest around 50 returns per week, this is modest compared to the 800 weekly arrivals this year. Critics argue that the plan addresses only a small portion of illegal arrivals and lacks true deterrence. The treaty was agreed between Prime Minister Starmer and President Macron following months of negotiations. The Home Office has pledged £100 million to support enforcement, fund 300 new National Crime Agency officers, and bolster anti-smuggling technology. Migrants returned to France cannot reapply via the legal route. The treaty remains active until 2026, with ongoing reviews planned. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c860py73pglo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c860py73pglo)

Pray: for a compassionate yet effective immigration policy that balances justice, mercy, and national security. (Psalm 146:9a)  
More: [www.itv.com/news/2025-08-04/detentions-expected-in-days-as-uk-france-migrant-deal-comes-into-force](http://www.itv.com/news/2025-08-04/detentions-expected-in-days-as-uk-france-migrant-deal-comes-into-force)

### Struggling families need grants for school uniforms

As the back-to-school season approaches, a major debt advice charity is urging the Government to introduce a statutory school uniform grant for England. While families in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland receive support of £93 to £200 per child, just 22 out of 153 English councils offer any dedicated help, creating a postcode lottery of support. The average uniform cost now exceeds £340 for primary pupils and £450 for secondary students. Money Wellness says current Department for Education reforms, such as limiting branded items, will not be enough for low-income households. With council budgets under pressure, many families are turning to uniform banks for affordable or donated items. Some families welcome the destigmatisation of second-hand clothing and its environmental benefits. Campaigners stress that without a consistent national scheme, children risk being disadvantaged based on where they live.

Pray: for provision and practical help for families under pressure, and fair access to education for all children. (Psalm 82:3)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5ye47gj4q4o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5ye47gj4q4o)

### No 10 declines to say if Palestine will be recognised

Downing Street has refused to confirm whether the UK will proceed with recognising Palestinian statehood in September if Hamas remains in power or hostages are not released. Keir Starmer previously stated that recognition depends on Israel meeting certain conditions, including a ceasefire, increased humanitarian aid to Gaza, halting annexation of West Bank land, and engaging in a peace process. However, critics argue the move could reward Hamas, especially in light of comments by its leader Ghazi Hamad claiming recognition is a 'fruit' of the 7 October attacks. Families of British hostages and some Labour MPs have voiced strong objections, insisting recognition should be tied to the hostages' release. Despite calling Hamas 'pariahs' with no future role in Gaza, Starmer's spokesperson said no single party will hold veto power over the decision. The Government insists its focus remains on increasing aid, ending suffering in Gaza, and promoting a two-state peace solution. A final decision is expected at the UN General Assembly in September. [See https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/uk/palestine-action-overwhelm-police/](https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/uk/palestine-action-overwhelm-police/)

Pray: for truth, justice, and divine wisdom for leaders navigating the complexities of Middle East peace. (Matthew 5:9)  
More: [news.sky.com/story/no-10-decline-to-say-if-palestine-will-be-recognised-with-hamas-in-power-13406850](https://news.sky.com/story/no-10-decline-to-say-if-palestine-will-be-recognised-with-hamas-in-power-13406850)

### Anglicans decry appointment of lesbian Archbishop of Wales

The election of Bishop Cherry Vann, an openly lesbian cleric, as the next Archbishop of Wales has drawn sharp criticism from senior leaders across the global Anglican community. Vann, currently Bishop of Monmouth and a patron of a pro-LGBT group, will be enthroned at Newport Cathedral. She has stated that gay marriage in the Church is 'inevitable', though she acknowledges theological opposition within the Church in Wales. The Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) called the appointment a 'serious error'; chairman Archbishop Laurent Mbanda has warned that it compromises biblical truth and bows to cultural pressure. Nigerian Primate Henry Ndukuba accused the Church in Wales of sacrificing the authority of Scripture for a postmodern agenda. Justin Badi Arama of South Sudan labelled the move a 'divisive rejection' of historic Anglican teaching. The controversy reignites tensions between progressive and conservative Anglicans worldwide. Former archbishop Justin Welby also faced criticism for appearing to shift from traditional biblical views on sexuality during his tenure.

Pray: for unity, truth, and faithfulness within the global Anglican Church amid deep divisions on sexuality. (Psalm 119:105)  
More: [www.christian.org.uk/news/global-anglicans-decry-appointment-of-lesbian-archbishop-in-wales/](http://www.christian.org.uk/news/global-anglicans-decry-appointment-of-lesbian-archbishop-in-wales/)

## Kate Forbes stepping down from politics

Scotland's deputy first minister Kate Forbes has announced she will step down from politics at the 2026 Holyrood elections to prioritise family life. In a letter to first minister John Swinney, Forbes - who has represented Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch since 2016 - expressed deep gratitude for her time in office, but said she didn't wish to miss more of her daughter's early years. A committed Christian, Forbes has often drawn attention for her faith-based positions, including her public opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage. These views sparked controversy during her 2023 SNP leadership bid, which she lost to Humza Yousaf. When Yousaf resigned in 2024, she declined to stand again and supported Swinney. Despite political challenges, Forbes has been a vocal advocate for Christian engagement in public life. Speaking to the Evangelical Alliance, she urged believers to step into political service, citing the positive impact of Christian values across Scottish communities.

Pray: that more Christians would be stirred to serve in public life with integrity and Christlike courage. (Colossians 3:23)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/kate-forbes-stepping-down-from-politics](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/kate-forbes-stepping-down-from-politics)

## Europe

### Ukraine: Trump claims 'great progress' in talks with Putin

Donald Trump has described talks on 6 August between his envoy Steve Witkoff and Vladimir Putin as 'highly productive', claiming that 'great progress' has been made toward ending the Ukraine war. The Kremlin issued a vague statement confirming the exchange of 'signals' but did not give further details. The meeting occurred days ahead of Trump's ceasefire deadline, amid mounting frustration over stalled peace efforts. Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders were briefed on the talks and reiterated the need to end the war. Despite Trump's threats of increased sanctions, including raising the tariff on India to 50% for buying Russian oil, Russia has continued its attacks on Ukrainian cities. Three years into the invasion, peace talks have repeatedly failed, and Russia's preconditions remain unacceptable to Kyiv. Meanwhile, the USA has approved \$200 million in military support to Ukraine, with Trump still open to meetings with both Putin and Zelensky. The humanitarian toll of Russian strikes remains devastating and ongoing.

Pray: for genuine breakthroughs in peace efforts, and for protection over innocent lives caught in conflict. (Psalm 140:1,2)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr5rdl1y8ndo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr5rdl1y8ndo)

### Greece: prime minister blocks full investigation into huge fraud scandal

A major scandal has erupted in Greece, with European prosecutors accusing senior government officials, including ministers and MPs, of orchestrating a large-scale scheme to defraud the EU of agricultural subsidies. It is claimed that individuals illegally claimed payments for non-existent or unusable pastureland, depriving legitimate farmers of support. However, those who have been accused are likely to evade justice because, despite widespread criticism, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is blocking a full-scale investigation, using legal loopholes and his party's parliamentary majority. A 3,000-page dossier has implicated former agriculture ministers and top officials in a coordinated effort to bypass controls, intimidate investigators, and ensure fraudulent payments were processed. Despite internal warnings and blocked payments, whistleblowers were forced out, and payments resumed under political pressure. Even though the extent of damages has not yet been assessed, Brussels has ordered Greece to forfeit nearly €400 in funding, over a fifth of the direct payments it had been due to receive next year. The case offers damning evidence that after three bailouts and a financial crisis that lasted over a decade, Greece still hasn't cleared out the rot.

Pray: that truth and justice will prevail in Greece, exposing corruption and restoring integrity in leadership and governance. (Exodus 23:8)

More: [www.politico.eu/article/greece-mitsotakis-farm-funds-fraud-eppo-opekere-agriculture-farmer-pasture/](https://www.politico.eu/article/greece-mitsotakis-farm-funds-fraud-eppo-opekere-agriculture-farmer-pasture/)

## Worldwide

### Gaza: is Netanyahu contemplating a full occupation?

After nearly two years of war in Gaza, Benjamin Netanyahu is reportedly preparing to escalate the conflict further by ordering a full military occupation of the territory, despite international outrage, domestic opposition, and dissent within Israel's own military. Critics allege that his push is politically motivated, aimed at preserving his fragile coalition and delaying his corruption trial. Analysts question whether the Israeli army, already strained and suffering from troop shortages and internal resistance, can sustain such an operation. Over 600 ex-military officials have urged Donald Trump to intervene diplomatically, stating that in their professional opinion, Hamas no longer poses a strategic threat. Despite widespread destruction, the goal of rescuing all the Israeli captives has not been achieved. Public support continues to decline, and many accuse Netanyahu of prioritising political survival over peace or national security. Further escalation could deepen the humanitarian catastrophe and international isolation.

Pray: for wise advice for Netanyahu, and for a swift and just resolution in Gaza which values human life, accountability, and lasting peace. (Psalm 106:3)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/6/what-do-israelis-military-think-of-netanyahus-plan-to-occupy](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/6/what-do-israelis-military-think-of-netanyahus-plan-to-occupy)

### Africa: over 22,000 killed by Islamist militants in a year

A new report has revealed that over 22,000 people, most of them Christians, have been killed by Islamist militants across Africa in the year to June 2025. This marks a 60% increase in violence since 2023. The Jama'at Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) network, now controlling more than half of Burkina Faso, was responsible for over 80% of fatalities in the Sahel region. In Somalia, al-Shabaab killed more than 6,000 people, while the Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) is emerging as a global IS hub. The Allied Democratic Forces, linked to IS, claimed a deadly church attack in eastern Congo, killing 43 during a night service. Media restrictions and loss of state control across 950,000 square kilometres are masking the true scale of violence. The report warns of growing danger to Christian communities throughout Africa.

Pray: for the persecuted Church in Africa: may God shield, strengthen, and deliver His people from evil. (Psalm 82:4)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/22-christians-killed-by-islamist-militants-in-africa](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/22-christians-killed-by-islamist-militants-in-africa)

### India: relationships with the USA take a downward turn

US-India relations entered a turbulent phase when Donald Trump tore into India for its continued oil imports from Russia and slow progress on trade negotiations. Formerly close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump, accusing India of funding Russia's war in Ukraine, has vowed to raise tariffs on Indian exports to 50%. India regards its Russian energy imports as economically necessary; it has a longstanding relationship with Russia and is among the largest importers of Russian oil. Modi's government has so far resisted Trump's pressure, particularly over opening up US access to the heavily protected agriculture and dairy sectors. In response to Trump's belligerent language, Modi has called on citizens to buy only Indian-made goods, leading to greater economic self-reliance. Political commentators note that it will be very difficult for Modi to give any large concessions in a trade deal, given the growing anger within India towards Trump.

Pray: that India and the USA will seek mutual respect and wisdom in resolving tensions with integrity and balance. (Romans 12:18)

More: [asianews.network/us-president-trumps-sharp-india-criticism-on-tariffs-russia-oil-corner-pm-modi-as-rift-deepens/](https://asianews.network/us-president-trumps-sharp-india-criticism-on-tariffs-russia-oil-corner-pm-modi-as-rift-deepens/)

### Brazil: former president Bolsonaro put under house arrest

Brazil's supreme court has placed former president Jair Bolsonaro under house arrest as he stands trial for allegedly plotting a coup to overturn the 2022 election won by Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Justice Alexandre de Moraes, citing violations of restrictions on Bolsonaro's social media activity and political messaging, has ordered the measure. Bolsonaro, accused of leading an armed criminal group and attempting to abolish democratic rule, faces up to twelve years in prison if convicted. The prosecution links him to the January 2023 storming of Brazil's congress and other institutions by his supporters. Bolsonaro denies all charges, calling the case a political witch hunt. The ruling has sparked political tensions, with Donald Trump's administration imposing tariffs on Brazil and sanctions on Moraes, which Lula has called 'unacceptable'. Bolsonaro's movements are now restricted, and his communications have been seized; only close family and lawyers are allowed to visit. There have been widespread rallies to protest this decision: [see](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/3/rallies-held-in-brazil-in-support-of-embattled-bolsonaro-facing-legal-peril)

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/3/rallies-held-in-brazil-in-support-of-embattled-bolsonaro-facing-legal-peril>

Pray: that justice in Brazil proceeds with fairness, integrity, and truth, fostering reconciliation and protecting democratic stability. (Proverbs 17:15)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/4/brazil-supreme-court-justice-orders-house-arrest-of-embattled-bolsonaro](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/4/brazil-supreme-court-justice-orders-house-arrest-of-embattled-bolsonaro)

### USA: vaccine projects lose funding

The US health department is to cancel \$500 million in funding for 22 mRNA vaccine projects targeting viruses such as flu and Covid-19, including those by Pfizer and Moderna. Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr, a vaccine sceptic, claimed mRNA technology poses more risks than benefits for respiratory viruses. Health experts strongly disagreed, noting that the vaccines were pivotal in slowing Covid-19 and saving millions of lives. They warned that withdrawing support undermines one of the most effective tools for pandemic preparedness. Kennedy argued the department would fund alternative vaccine platforms with broader safety records. However, experts say that viruses mutate naturally and that mRNA vaccines are remarkably safe, effective, and faster to develop than traditional vaccines. The decision is part of broader changes Kennedy has made to vaccine policy, including removing Covid vaccines from the recommended immunisation schedule for healthy children and pregnant women.

Pray: for adequate protection against future pandemics and emerging viral threats. Pray that vital research will be able to continue. (Proverbs 27:12)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c74dzdddmjjo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c74dzdddmjjo)

### Nigeria: illegal export of over 1,600 live birds prevented

Customs officials have intercepted a shipment of over 1,620 live parrots and canaries at Lagos' international airport, bound for Kuwait without the required permits. The birds, including protected ring-necked parakeets and yellow-fronted canaries, were seized during a routine inspection on 31 July. A spokesman said that the airport remains under strict surveillance to prevent illegal trafficking. As a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Nigeria must ensure such exports have legal documentation, which this shipment did not have. Authorities are investigating those behind the attempted export. The rescued birds were handed over to the National Park Service for rehabilitation. Conservationists view this seizure as a major success in Nigeria's ongoing struggle against wildlife trafficking. Although the country is a key transit hub due to porous borders, widespread corruption, and weak enforcement, the interception is a sign of positive change in the fight against illegal wildlife trade, which globally generates \$8–10 billion annually.

Pray: that Nigeria, and other countries, will continue to protect endangered species and dismantle networks exploiting creation for profit. (Proverbs 12:10)

More: [www.africanews.com/2025/08/06/lagos-airport-seizes-more-than-1600-exotic-birds-headed-for-kuwait/](https://www.africanews.com/2025/08/06/lagos-airport-seizes-more-than-1600-exotic-birds-headed-for-kuwait/)

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