

Prayer Alert

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Why are you downcast, my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God. (Psalm 43:5)

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](#)



JOIN US ON INTERSEED!

CONNECT – BLESS – GROW

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: homeless man risks life to save six-year-old

In Green Bay, Wisconsin, a homeless man, Weldon Tucker, is being hailed as a hero after saving a six-year-old girl from oncoming traffic. The child, Honeretta, who has autism, ran into a busy road while her family was moving house. Her grandmother's cries for help caught Tucker's attention, and without hesitation he ran into the street, risking his own life to pull her to safety. Mother Faith Roberts praised his quick thinking, especially since others nearby did not intervene. Tucker, currently receiving shelter assistance, downplayed his heroism, saying he simply acted instinctively and hoped anyone would do the same. The town's mayor will honor him publicly during a city council meeting, recognising his courage and selflessness. The family is deeply grateful, crediting God for Tucker's timely intervention, and seeing in him a powerful example of sacrificial love and compassion in action.

Praise: that we will be prepared to act selflessly to protect others, showing Christ's love in moments of urgency and danger. (John 15:13)
More: www.faithwire.com/2025/08/07/homeless-man-hailed-a-hero-after-rushing-into-traffic-to-save-autistic-child-selflessly-risked-his-life/

Japan: a great example of embracing Christ's peace in troubled times

Political unrest; environmental changes; natural disasters; human rights violations; war and famine; migration. The list could go on: all of them are causes of widespread anxiety and stress. While experts recommend practical strategies like healthy living, Christians also turn to prayer, scripture, service, and witness. History offers models of resilience during turbulent times, such as Japanese author, minister, and activist Toyohiko Kagawa. Born in 1888, he lived through poverty, war, natural disaster, and political unrest, yet maintained joy and hope. His poetry reflects a spirit unbound by chains, seeking light and peace in Christ. He worked for justice, environmental stewardship, women's suffrage, and peace, which earned him several jail sentences but also a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. His final words were 'Please do your best for world peace and the church in Japan'. His life shows us how to navigate chaos: embrace Christ's peace, shine his radiance, and let joy endure.

Praise: that we, like Kagawa, will embrace Christ's peace and radiance, remaining steadfast and joyful in turbulent and anxious times. (John 14:27)

More: www.godreports.com/2025/08/stars-in-times-of-turmoil-poet-toyohiko-kagawa/

British Isles

Number of UC claimants jumps dramatically

A record eight million people are now claiming Universal Credit (UC), the highest since its 2013 introduction, and a sharp increase from 6.9 million in July 2024. This has largely been driven by a surge in those not expected to work due to long-term illness, caring responsibilities, or being over pension age. This category grew by 39% in a year, now totalling 3.7 million. UC supports both unemployed individuals and low-income workers, with 2.2 million claimants currently in work. London has one of the highest claimant numbers, with over 364,000 people receiving benefits. A new breakdown by immigration status reveals that 83.8% of claimants are British or Irish nationals, 9.6% hold EU settled status, and smaller proportions are refugees or humanitarian arrivals. The Government has pledged welfare reforms, citing an 'unsustainable benefits bill'. The figures highlight ongoing challenges with health, employment, and cost-of-living pressures affecting millions across the UK.

Pray: that the Government will create fair, compassionate welfare policies, and that those in need will find lasting stability and hope. (Proverbs 31:9)

More: www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/britain-benefits-bill-universal-credit-claimants-record-high-b1242544.html

Students receive A-level, T-level, Btec results

Students across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland have received their A-level, T-level, and BTEC National results, with top grades once again rising slightly (28.3%, up from 27.8% in 2024). Despite ongoing recovery from the Covid disruption, a record number of 18-year-olds are predicted to gain entry to their first-choice universities. This year's cohort faced unique challenges: lower GCSE grades due to efforts to reduce pandemic-era grade inflation, and years of interrupted learning during national lockdowns. Education secretary Bridget Phillipson acknowledged persistent inequalities, particularly for white working-class students, and pledged continued reforms. The results also mark the fourth year of vocational T-level qualifications, which blend academic study with industry experience. Many students have used these pathways to secure jobs and prepare for future careers. Universities, seeking stability amid uncertain international admissions, may be more flexible in accepting students, with leaders urging recognition of the extraordinary circumstances these young people have overcome.

Pray: for students navigating results and next steps, that they find encouragement, opportunity, and confidence in their future. Pray especially for those whose grades are not as good as they hoped. (Jeremiah 29:11)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c15lv2xyy5o

Essex: council applies for injunction to stop asylum seekers being housed in hotel

Epping Forest District Council has applied for an interim High Court injunction to stop asylum seekers being housed at the Bell Hotel. In recent months hundreds of people have demonstrated outside the hotel, protesting against its current use. The council says there is a clear risk of further escalating community tensions. Council leader Chris Whitbread expressed frustration over having to take legal action, while a spokesperson noted that the hotel's location, near schools and a care home, adds to residents' anxiety. The protests intensified after a hotel resident was arrested and charged with multiple offences, though he denies the allegations. Refugee charity Care4Calais has said that some asylum seekers are now scared to go outside. The Home Office says it has reduced the number of asylum hotels from 400 in summer 2023 down to 210. Meanwhile, the leader of Dudley council has said that housing asylum seekers is a drain on the local economy: [see](#)

Pray: for wisdom, justice, and compassion to guide decisions impacting asylum seekers and local communities. (Psalm 146:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2xj0444kvo

England: fourth heatwave increases water crisis

England is facing a deepening water crisis, with five regions officially in drought and six more experiencing prolonged dry conditions - the worst since 1976. Despite brief storms in July, river flows and reservoir levels continue to decline, exacerbated by the fourth heatwave of the summer which began on 12 August. An amber heat health alert now covers key regions, including London and the south-east, as temperatures threaten to break this year's record of 35.8°C. The UK Health Security Agency warns the heat could further strain public water supplies and navigation channels. The National Drought Group, composed of government bodies and industry stakeholders, has called for urgent, coordinated action. While the public has made efforts to reduce water use, concerns persist over damaged crops, reduced farm yields, and long-term food security. Farmers, in particular, face devastating losses. They are calling for improved water infrastructure and a more effective planning system to tackle both drought and flood threats in future climate extremes. Meanwhile, the Met Office has warned that extreme weather is becoming the new normal in the UK: [see](#) See also the Europe article on wildfires.

Pray: that communities and leaders act wisely to steward water resources and support those most affected. (Isaiah 41:17)

More: news.sky.com/story/uk-weather-water-shortfall-declared-nationally-significant-as-amber-heat-health-alert-comes-into-force-13410279

Europe

Trump warns of 'severe consequences' if Putin refuses to agree to a ceasefire

Donald Trump has warned of 'very severe consequences' if Vladimir Putin refuses to agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine during their meeting in Alaska on 15 August. While not detailing the measures, Trump has previously suggested economic sanctions and hinted at a follow-up meeting that could include Volodymyr Zelensky. Concerns persist among European leaders and Kyiv that any peace proposal might involve Ukraine surrendering territory - particularly the Donbas region - in exchange for halting further Russian advances. In a high-level virtual call hosted by Germany, Zelensky, Trump, and key European leaders reaffirmed their commitment to Ukrainian sovereignty and continued pressure on Moscow. Zelensky dismissed Putin's threats as bluffs, insisting that sanctions and united international resolve remain crucial. The Alaska summit is seen as both a diplomatic opportunity and a high-stakes gamble, with Ukraine's territorial integrity and the broader stability of Europe hanging in the balance. Meanwhile, on 12 August Russian troops tried to make a big advance, possibly to put extra pressure on Kyiv to cede territory: [see https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-tries-make-sudden-advance-ukraine-before-trump-putin-summit-2025-08-12/](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-tries-make-sudden-advance-ukraine-before-trump-putin-summit-2025-08-12/)

Pray: that all the concerned leaders act with wisdom and courage to uphold justice, protect the innocent, and preserve peace. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/european-leaders-donald-trump-ukraine-phone-call-putin-meeting-b1242603.html

Greece: wildfires threaten large city, European heatwave

Fast-moving wildfires have reached the outskirts of Patras, Greece's third-largest city, forcing mass evacuations, including a children's hospital, and destroying thousands of hectares in the surrounding region. Entire villages have been emptied, homes and businesses lost, and hundreds of vehicles incinerated. Strong winds and soaring temperatures, reaching 38°C, have worsened the crisis, while smoke has caused respiratory problems for many residents. Across Greece, over 4,800 firefighters are battling more than 20 blazes, with EU water bombers requested for support. The crisis is part of a broader southern Europe heatwave, with deadly fires in Spain, large outbreaks in Portugal, Albania, and Italy, and record-high temperatures threatening lives and infrastructure. Meteorologists say such extremes are becoming more frequent and intense due to human-induced climate change. See also UK article 'fourth heatwave'.

Pray: for protection over those in wildfire zones and strength for all working to save lives and land. (Nahum 1:7)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy5dqxd0z1o

France: Macron admits violence against Cameroon independence movement

Emmanuel Macron has publicly acknowledged the violence committed by French forces in Cameroon during and after the country's independence struggle from 1945 to 1971. A joint report by Cameroonian and French historians has detailed how France's colonial authorities and army used severe repression, including mass killings, internment camps, and support for brutal militias, leading to tens of thousands of deaths. Macron named four independence leaders killed during French-led military operations and accepted France's responsibility, but stopped short of offering an apology or addressing calls for reparations. Cameroonian responses have been mixed: some see acknowledgment as a positive step, while others say it is insufficient without concrete acts of justice. The report followed years of pressure for France to confront its colonial history, and Macron has taken similar steps regarding atrocities in Senegal, Rwanda, and Algeria, though often without formal apologies. The admission opens the door for further research and debate about France's colonial legacy and reconciliation.

Pray: that France, and other colonial nations, confront past injustices truthfully and work toward reconciliation and healing. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly39dd36epo

Worldwide

Nigeria: women vaccinators lead the battle against polio

In a camp just outside Lagos, female vaccinators like Eucharia and Aishatu are leading the charge against polio. Though Nigeria was declared free of wild poliovirus in 2020, the country continues to battle outbreaks of vaccine-derived polio (cVDPV), especially in under-immunised and conflict-affected regions. Women have proved indispensable in this effort, often gaining household access where male health workers cannot due to cultural or security concerns. Despite facing mistrust, misinformation, and physical danger, these women build trust through persistence, community dialogue, and personal sacrifice. Many supplement their modest income through small businesses, unintentionally turning polio campaigns into a platform for female empowerment and entrepreneurship. Their efforts have not only improved vaccination rates but also strengthened public health infrastructure and spurred broader social change. While wild polio is now endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan, Nigeria's experience offers vital lessons. Its fight against polio, led by women, supported by community trust, and bolstered by innovative strategies, has reshaped how public health can be delivered in fragile settings.

Pray: that these women vaccinators remain safe, supported, and effective in reaching every vulnerable child. (Proverbs 31:20)

More: www.aljazeera.com/features/2025/8/13/health-champions-local-women-lead-the-fight-against-polio-in-nigeria

Israel: plans to build 3,000 houses in contested West Bank settlement area

Far-right finance minister Bezalel Smotrich has announced plans to approve over 3,000 housing units in the contested E1 settlement area between Jerusalem and Maale Adumim in the occupied West Bank. Long frozen due to international opposition, the project would physically separate East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, undermining prospects for a contiguous Palestinian state. Smotrich declared the plan would 'bury the idea' of such a state, describing it as an assertion of Israeli sovereignty. Settlement expansion is considered illegal under international law, though Israel disputes this. The announcement comes amid growing international momentum toward recognising Palestinian statehood, which Israel opposes. Critics warn that the move deepens annexation, fuels conflict, and blocks the path to peace. Smotrich, together with national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, was sanctioned by the UK in June over 'repeated incitements of violence against Palestinian communities' in the occupied West Bank: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8xgk1ek19lo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8xgk1ek19lo)

Pray: for leaders on all sides to pursue peace, justice, and reconciliation, resisting actions that entrench division and conflict. (Romans 12:18)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgdzxpkkdd7o

Sudan: at least forty dead in a week in worst cholera outbreak in years

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) says that Sudan's Darfur region is facing its worst cholera outbreak in years, with at least forty deaths reported in the past week and more than 2,470 deaths nationwide since August 2024. The crisis has been caused by the two-year war between Sudan's army and the paramilitary RSP, which has displaced millions and severely restricted access to clean water. In Tawila, 380,000 displaced people survive on an average of only three litres of water a day - less than half the emergency minimum. Contaminated sources, damaged sanitation systems, and mass displacement have accelerated the disease's spread, which now reaches beyond Sudan into Chad and South Sudan. MSF's head of mission has warned that heavy rains are worsening conditions: he said, 'Survivors of war must not be left to die from a preventable disease.' Without urgent humanitarian intervention, the outbreak threatens to spiral further, endangering countless lives in an already devastated region.

Pray: for swift relief efforts to bring clean water, medical care, and hope to Sudan's suffering communities. (Psalm 107:19-20)

More: www.rte.ie/news/2025/0814/1528383-sudan-cholera-outbreak/

China / USA: trade truce extended for a further ninety days

Donald Trump has extended the trade truce with China by another ninety days, narrowly avoiding a major escalation between the world's two largest economies. The announcement came just hours before the previous deadline was to expire, averting a spike in US tariffs on Chinese imports and likely retaliatory action from Beijing. Both governments confirmed the extension, maintaining existing terms while allowing more time for negotiation. This delay is seen as a temporary relief for global markets and US companies which depend on trade with China. Earlier trade disputes saw tariffs soar to triple digits, severely disrupting international commerce and sparking volatility in financial markets. Although current tariff levels remain high, they are significantly lower than the peak rates imposed in May. Talks between Washington and Beijing continue, with hopes for a more permanent resolution and a possible summit between Trump and Xi Jinping later this year. However, key issues remain unresolved.

Pray: that the two countries will prioritise peace and fairness in resolving their trade disagreements. (James 3:18)

More: www.africanews.com/2025/08/12/us-and-china-extend-trade-truce-for-another-90-days/

Zimbabwe: ban on street vendors and second-hand clothes

The government has ordered the immediate removal of street vendors from Harare's central business district and reaffirmed a national ban on the import and sale of second-hand clothes. Local government minister Daniel Garwe cited concerns over urban disorder, the rise in illicit nighttime activities, and the negative impact on formal businesses. However, opposition politicians believe street vending stems from desperation, not defiance: they argue that many citizens rely on informal trade for survival amid chronic unemployment and economic mismanagement. One has said that such policies, without viable alternatives, only deepen suffering. Instead of punitive measures, she has called for inclusive economic reform, skills development, and gradual integration of informal traders into formal markets. Previous crackdowns failed because they didn't address the underlying causes of poverty.

Pray: that the government will pursue justice with compassion and provide sustainable solutions for the economically vulnerable. (Proverbs 31:8,9)

More: www.zimlive.com/night-vending-second-hand-clothes-banned-as-garwe-warns-of-national-threat/

Peru: president issues amnesty for hundreds accused of atrocities

President Dina Boluarte has signed a contentious law pardoning soldiers, police, and civilian militias accused or convicted of atrocities during Peru's 1980–2000 armed conflict against Maoist rebel groups Shining Path and Tupac Amaru. The measure, despite an order from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to suspend it, will release those over 70 and halt or overturn more than 600 trials and 156 convictions. Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission estimates that there were 70,000 deaths and 20,000 disappearances during the conflict, with state forces responsible for significant abuses, including 83% of documented sexual violence cases. Human rights organisations and UN experts have condemned the law as a betrayal of victims and a blow to decades of accountability efforts. Critics warn it undermines justice for survivors of massacres, torture, and enforced disappearances, while supporters describe it as honouring those who fought insurgency. The law deepens debate over justice, reconciliation, and impunity in Peru's fragile democracy.

Pray: for truth, justice, and healing for victims of violence, and for leaders to act with integrity and compassion. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr5rend0ngeo

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