

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 42-2025 | Friday 17 October 2025
www.prayer-alert.net | editor@prayer-alert.net

But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign Lord; in you I take refuge. (Psalm 141:8a)

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

Let's be praying for the Presidential elections taking place on Sunday, 19th October in Bolivia and Northern Cyprus - see the [Prayer Alert 2025 Elections Prayer Guide](#).



We invite the Prayer Alert community to join us on the free online Interseed House of Prayer app where we are praying and sharing thoughts on the weekly prayer guide issues and themes.

Interseed is available on the Android and iOS platforms. More info [HERE](#).

Invitation - to serve with the PA team!

How would you like to join our Prayer Alert team? We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England. If you appreciate what we do and are confident with browsing the internet, discovering relevant articles and basic editing, we would love to hear from you! Please hit 'reply', introduce yourself, and we will be in touch.

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

Praise Reports

[Footballer's faith guides him both on and off the pitch](#)
[France: a nun has become a powerful evangelist, thanks to social media](#)

British Isles

[Bursaries for trainee RE teachers to be axed](#)
[UK economy: encouraging forecast by IMF](#)
[NHS: will new cell therapy be a game-changer?](#)
[Controversial proposed oil field publishes climate impact figures](#)
[Scotland: doctors query Swinney's plan for walk-in health centres](#)

Europe

[Spain: a different approach to Africa and to migrants](#)
[Greece: parliament set to approve thirteen-hour workday](#)

Worldwide

[Gaza: conflicting emotions and remaining challenges as ceasefire takes hold](#)
[South Africa: Ramaphosa still pursuing genocide case against Israel](#)
[Madagascar: military takeover after president flees](#)
[India is losing sunlight](#)
[Venezuela closes embassy in Norway following the Nobel Peace Prize award](#)
[Mexico: deaths and devastation after torrential rains](#)

Praise Reports

[Footballer's faith guides him both on and off the pitch](#)

Patrick Chinazaekpere Dorgu, Manchester United's young Danish defender, openly acknowledges his Christian faith as the foundation of his life and career. For Dorgu, prayer is not a ritual but a rhythm - something he has practised since childhood and continues amid the pressures of elite sport. His faith keeps him grounded in both victory and disappointment, reminding him that his purpose lies beyond football. By embracing his full Igbo name, meaning 'God answers prayers', he is honouring his Nigerian roots and testifying to God's faithfulness. Dorgu's move to Old Trafford, which he believes was divinely arranged, reflects his conviction that God's plan governs every step. His example shows how belief can guide ambition, humility and resilience in a world where success often overshadows spirituality.

Praise: God for Patrick's testimony. Pray that young athletes will follow his example to find strength, identity and peace through faith amid the pressures of competition. (Philippians 4:13)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/manchester-united-patrick-dorgu-christian-faith-guides-him?

France: a nun has become a powerful evangelist, thanks to social media

Sister Albertine, a young French nun, has become a surprising yet powerful online evangelist. Through videos, social media posts and candid personal sharing, she invites many - especially younger people - to encounter Jesus. What makes her ministry effective is her authenticity: she speaks of her own struggles, questions and faith journey, and thereby becomes relatable. Her online presence challenges the stereotype of nuns as remote or rigid; instead, she shows a warm, accessible discipleship. By combining tradition with digital outreach, she bridges generational and cultural gaps. Her approach reminds us that God can use unexpected channels to draw hearts, and that faith expressed in vulnerability can reach places formal teaching sometimes cannot.

Praise: God for this surprising method of outreach. Pray that many hearts will open to Christ through such humble, sincere digital witness. (Luke 19:10)

More: www.womanalive.co.uk/opinion/a-french-catholic-nun-is-leading-many-to-jesus-online/20152.article

British Isles

Bursaries for trainee RE teachers to be axed

The decision to remove bursaries for trainee Religious Education (RE) teachers has sparked alarm among church and education leaders, who warn it will deepen an already severe recruitment crisis. The Government's new funding guidance for 2026–27 excludes RE, English, music, and art and design from bursary eligibility. Last year, RE trainees received £10,000 in financial support - a measure credited with boosting applications by 40%. The RE Policy Unit, representing national teaching bodies, called the cut 'devastating', noting that current recruitment stands at just 54% of target. The CofE's chief education officer, Rev Nigel Genders, said the decision threatens efforts to build 'religious literacy' and mutual understanding in an increasingly polarised society. RE is compulsory in all state schools, yet many lessons are taught by non-specialists due to shortages. Advocates argue that restoring bursaries is essential not only for education quality but also for social cohesion and informed citizenship.

Pray: for a renewed commitment to religious education teaching which nurtures understanding, respect, and wisdom. (Proverbs 1:5)

More: www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/17-october/news/uk/serious-concern-over-cuts-to-bursaries-for-trainee-re-teachers

UK economy: encouraging forecast by IMF

The IMF has forecast that the UK will be the second-fastest-growing economy among the G7 nations this year - behind only the USA - despite ongoing global trade tensions. The IMF projects UK growth at a modest 1.3% in both 2025 and 2026, signaling resilience but also stagnation compared with past performance. Per capita growth, at less than 0.5%, remains the weakest in the G7. Inflation, however, continues to cloud the outlook: the UK is expected to record the highest price rises among advanced economies, driven by elevated energy and utility costs. The IMF anticipates inflation will ease to 2% by late next year, yet households still face financial strain. Rachel Reeves, attending the IMF's Washington meetings, pledged to tackle what she called a 'stuck' economy, while the Bank of England urged caution on rate cuts. Amid geopolitical uncertainty and trade disruptions, Britain's challenge is how to sustain growth without deepening inequality. Reeves has recently hinted that she may raise some taxes in the November budget: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2drpxpkp3o](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2drpxpkp3o)

Pray: for wisdom for Rachel Reeves as she prepares the budget. Pray for relief for struggling households. (Proverbs 31:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn092p27xn0o

NHS: will new cell therapy be a game-changer?

Scientists are pioneering a revolutionary cell therapy that could make the current treatments of autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's disease and multiple sclerosis obsolete: Led by Professor Ye Htun Oo at the University of Birmingham, the project uses a patient's own regulatory T cells to retrain the immune system, combating harmful autoimmune responses which lead to organ failure. This innovative approach may soon replace traditional treatments which often cause serious side effects such as hypertension, diabetes, and cancer risk. With more than 8,000 people currently awaiting transplants in the UK, and each procedure costing up to £100,000, the potential savings to the NHS are immense. The therapy, expected to be available within a decade, could transform the treatment of autoimmune liver disease and related conditions, offering hope for longer, healthier lives without dependency on harsh medications. While further trials are needed, experts describe this research as a 'game-changer' for modern medicine.

Pray: that the scientists will have wisdom, perseverance, and faith as they pursue healing through this new approach. (Isaiah 43:19a)

More: [inews.co.uk/news/breakthrough-cell-transplants-save-nhs-millions-3976102](https://www.inews.co.uk/news/breakthrough-cell-transplants-save-nhs-millions-3976102)

Controversial proposed oil field publishes climate impact figures

The full environmental impact of the proposed Rosebank oil field, the UK's largest undeveloped fossil fuel site some eighty miles north-west of Shetland, has now been revealed - and it is vast. The developers, Equinor and Ithaca Energy, have admitted that burning Rosebank's oil and gas could release nearly 250 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over 25 years, equivalent to two-thirds of the UK's current annual emissions. The figure, which dwarfs earlier estimates, follows a court ruling requiring a full assessment of the climate impact not just of extraction, but of using the fuels themselves. Environmental groups, including Greenpeace and Uplift, call the figures a stark warning that Rosebank is incompatible with Britain's 2050 net-zero goal. The Government's final decision, due after public consultation closes in November, will test its climate credibility. While the developers claim the emissions are 'not significant', critics insist that approving Rosebank would lock the UK into decades of pollution and contradict its clean energy ambitions.

Pray: for wise stewardship of the earth, and for wisdom for the Government as it considers the proposal in the light of this new evidence. (Psalm 24:1)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce3xzgdq3ro

Scotland: doctors query Swinney's plan for walk-in health centres

Scottish first minister John Swinney's plan to launch 15 new GP- and nurse-led walk-in health centres has sparked debate among medical leaders about staffing and feasibility. The proposal aims to ease the '8 am rush' for appointments by offering no-booking consultations from noon to 8 pm, seven days a week, potentially adding a million more appointments annually. However, doctors' groups, including the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) in Scotland, say they were not consulted and question how the services will be staffed given a declining full-time GP workforce. Although the number of doctors in Scotland has risen slightly since 2015, many now work part-time, and the number of GP practices has fallen by 10%. Health secretary Neil Gray insists Scotland's record 1,200 GP trainees can help fill gaps, but critics warn that workforce pressures and unclear logistics could limit the scheme's success. The initiative highlights growing tension between political ambition and the realities of primary care delivery.

Pray: for wise planning, cooperation among leaders and clinicians, and strength for healthcare workers serving Scotland's communities. (Proverbs 16:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp3d5e950ego

Europe

Spain: a different approach to Africa and to migrants

In contrast to many Western nations, Spain is charting an independent path on migration and relations with Africa. While the USA, UK, France, and Germany are reducing development aid, prime minister Pedro Sánchez is deepening his country's engagement with Africa through investment, diplomacy, and dialogue. The socialist-led government's strategy emphasises shared prosperity, education, and sustainable growth, reflecting Madrid's belief that Europe and Africa 'form part of the same geopolitical space'. Alongside this vision, Spain continues to experience migration pressures, with 45,000 crossing from Africa to Spain or the Canary Islands in 2024. Yet unlike many European leaders, Sánchez acknowledges migrants' contributions and backs 'safe, orderly, and regular' mobility schemes such as 'circular migration agreements' which give West Africans short-term visas to come to Spain for limited periods of seasonal work, mainly in agriculture, and then return. By coupling realism with empathy, Sánchez is seeking to balance security with solidarity, presenting a model of cooperation rooted in dignity, opportunity, and mutual benefit.

Pray: giving thanks for this just and compassionate approach to migration; pray for its success in fostering good relationships with African countries. (Hebrews 13:2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn409ld50kvo

Greece: parliament set to approve thirteen-hour workday

Greece is poised to introduce one of Europe's most controversial labour reforms - a thirteen-hour workday for private-sector employees. The new legislation, expected to pass parliament despite widespread protests, would allow workers in industries such as manufacturing, retail, and hospitality to take on a sixth workday and extended hours, with higher pay for overtime. The government argues that this flexibility will help address labour shortages and support economic growth amid an aging population. However, unions and opposition leaders have condemned the move as a step backward, heightening job insecurity, disrupting work-life balance and legalising overexploitation. One in five Greeks works more than 45 hours a week, the highest rate in the EU, and outdone by only four other countries in the world; low salaries force many to work two jobs to cover the soaring cost of living, in particular high housing costs. Officials insist the extra hours will be voluntary and regulated, but many groups are deeply sceptical.

Pray: for fair labour practices, protection for workers, and leaders who value rest, justice, and human flourishing over profit. (Psalm 90:17)

More: www.politico.eu/article/eu-first-greece-introduce-13-hour-workday/

Worldwide

Gaza: conflicting emotions and remaining challenges as ceasefire takes hold

Israel and Hamas have taken a crucial first step toward ending the devastating two-year war in Gaza, releasing hostages and prisoners under a US-brokered ceasefire. The exchange brought immense relief and celebration across Israel and Gaza, even as [both sides remain wary](https://www.npr.org/2025/10/13/nx-s1-5573139/palestinians-prisoners-released) (<https://www.npr.org/2025/10/13/nx-s1-5573139/palestinians-prisoners-released>). Yet, the deeper challenges - Hamas's refusal to disarm, Israel's reluctance to accept a Palestinian state, and questions over Gaza's future governance - still threaten the deal's stability. For many, the sight of freed hostages reuniting with loved ones offered a rare moment of shared humanity amid years of grief. In Gaza, war-worn families welcomed returning prisoners but faced the grim reality of shattered homes and a crippled economy. As Donald Trump signed a declaration for peace, witnessed by twenty world leaders ([see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c709jxxrrvlo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c709jxxrrvlo)), both Israelis and Palestinians have to grapple with the cost of vengeance and the fragile hope of renewal. The region stands at a crossroads between restoration and relapse into conflict.

Pray: giving thanks for the ceasefire and exchange of hostages and prisoners. Pray that Israel and Hamas will be prepared to continue the process, overcoming the significant obstacles which stand in the way of lasting peace. (James 3:18)

More: www.nytimes.com/2025/10/09/world/middleeast/israel-hamas-deal-what-to-know.html

South Africa: Ramaphosa still pursuing genocide case against Israel

Cyril Ramaphosa has reaffirmed that the new Gaza ceasefire will not alter his country's genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice. Speaking before parliament, he said South Africa remains committed to pursuing justice, adding that 'true reconciliation requires accountability'. Filed in December 2023, the case accuses Israel of committing genocidal acts in Gaza and has drawn support from countries including Spain, Ireland, Türkiye, and Colombia. The ICJ has already ordered provisional measures for Israel to prevent further atrocities and allow humanitarian aid, though compliance has been limited. With more than 67,000 Palestinians reported killed since October 2023, global human rights organisations are continuing to press for justice. South Africa also co-chairs the Hague Group, a coalition formed in January 2025 to hold Israel accountable through legal, diplomatic, and economic measures beyond the ICJ proceedings.

Pray: for lasting justice rooted in truth, compassion, and peace. Pray for comfort for all who mourn in Gaza for innocent lives lost. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.africanews.com/2025/10/15/ramaphosa-gaza-ceasefire-wont-halt-south-africas-genocide-case-against-israel/

Madagascar: military takeover after president flees

Madagascar has plunged deeper into political turmoil after Colonel Michael Randrianirina announced that the military was seizing control of the nation, moments after parliament voted to impeach president Andry Rajoelina. He said that the armed forces would form a governing council and appoint a civilian-led government, suspending both the constitution and the constitutional court. The move followed weeks of youth-led protests over widespread poverty, power shortages, and corruption ([see https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/54226-madagascar-protests-continue-despite-government-dissolution](https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pa-pray/regions/worldwide/item/54226-madagascar-protests-continue-despite-government-dissolution)): a critical moment came on 11 October, when Colonel Randrianirina and soldiers from his elite CAPSAT unit joined the demonstrators and turned against the president. The crisis evokes painful memories of Madagascar's history of coups, including the 2009 uprising that first brought Rajoelina to power. With 75% of citizens living in poverty, frustrations among the young have erupted into demands for reform and dignity. As soldiers and protesters fill the streets, Madagascar stands at a crossroads between renewed authoritarian rule and the hope for democratic renewal.

Pray: for peace and wise leadership in Madagascar. Pray that the military government can quickly address the problems which have caused all the protests. (Proverbs 14:34)

More: news.sky.com/story/armed-forces-taking-control-of-madagascar-military-colonel-says-13450130

India is losing sunlight

India is facing a quiet but alarming environmental shift: it is literally losing sunlight. Over the past three decades, scientists have recorded a nationwide decline in sunshine hours, with clouds and air pollution jointly dimming the skies. Aerosols from vehicle emissions, crop burning, and industrial growth scatter sunlight and change cloud behaviour, blocking more solar radiation. According to recent studies, aerosols have reduced sunlight reaching the ground by about 13%, while clouds contribute an additional 31–44% loss. The impact extends far beyond gloomy days: it threatens agriculture, health, and India's booming solar energy sector. Pollution already cuts solar power output by up to 41%, costing hundreds of millions in lost energy each year. Cleaner air could unlock enormous renewable potential and protect crop yields vital for millions. The Earth's surface has gradually been receiving more sunlight since the 1980s, a process known as global brightening, but India risks running on fumes instead of full power, beneath a shroud of smog.

Pray: for clear skies over India, cleaner air, and wise leadership to restore creation's balance and sustain its people. (Genesis 1:28)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr5qygr6d5yo

Venezuela closes embassy in Norway following the Nobel Peace Prize award

Venezuela has announced it will close its embassies in Norway and Australia, days after opposition leader María Corina Machado was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The move, confirmed by Norway's foreign ministry, came without explanation but follows years of diplomatic tension between Nicolás Maduro's government and Western nations. Norway expressed regret at the decision, emphasising that the Nobel committee operates independently of its government. Machado, who remains in hiding, received the Peace Prize for her 'extraordinary examples of civilian courage'. She dedicated the award to Donald Trump and the 'suffering people of Venezuela'. Barred from last year's disputed election, she remains a powerful symbol of resistance to Maduro's rule. The closures underscore Venezuela's shifting alliances amid growing isolation from democratic nations. For the White House's reaction to the Peace Prize award, [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c7842qg15p6o](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c7842qg15p6o)

Pray: for peace, justice, and freedom in Venezuela, and for wisdom for Trump to act wisely in his relationship with Maduro and in the war against the drug cartels. (Matthew 5:6)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/10/14/venezuela-to-close-norway-embassy-after-opposition-leader-wins-nobel-prize

Mexico: deaths and devastation after torrential rains

At least 64 people have died and 65 remain missing after torrential rains and floods devastated five Mexican states. The deluge, triggered by remnants of Hurricane Priscilla and Tropical Rainstorm Raymond, caused rivers to burst their banks and unleashed deadly landslides which wiped out entire communities. President Claudia Sheinbaum said that around 100,000 homes were damaged, and some had 'practically disappeared'. She added that there had not been any meteorological signs 'which could have indicated that the rain was going to be of this magnitude'. Thousands of soldiers and emergency responders have been deployed to deliver food, water, and medical aid, while power crews are working to restore electricity to hundreds of thousands affected. Officials said the rainfall, exceeding 280mm in some areas, was impossible to predict at such magnitude. As survivors search for missing loved ones, grief and exhaustion hang over devastated regions.

Pray: for comfort to grieving families, safety for rescuers, and strength for Mexico's communities as they rebuild their lives. (Psalm 147:3)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/10/13/mexico-flooding-death-toll-rises-to-64-with-dozens-still-missing

Please feel free to distribute Prayer Alert to anyone you feel will benefit from its ministry. All we ask is that you do not edit or change it in any way or charge for its use without contacting us first for written permission

Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with
C/O World Prayer Centre, 167 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 1SW

The views expressed in Prayer Alert and on our website are those of the authors, organisations and websites named, and are not necessarily those of the Prayer Alert Editorial Team, the Prayer Alert Steering Group or the World Prayer Centre or any of its employees or trustees. While we try to ensure that the information we provide is correct, mistakes do occur and we cannot guarantee the accuracy of our material. If you do notice any mistakes then please let us know.