

# Prayer Alert

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[www.prayer-alert.net](http://www.prayer-alert.net) | [editor@prayer-alert.net](mailto:editor@prayer-alert.net)

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**As you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6,7)**

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

Let's pray for the Egypt parliamentary elections (first round) on 10–11 November and the Iraq parliamentary elections on 11 Nov. 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.

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## Praise Reports

### [Africa: Gospel spreading at 'explosive' rate'](#)

At the World Evangelical Alliance general assembly in Seoul, researcher Jason Mandryk from Operation World revealed that evangelical Christianity is growing faster in Africa than anywhere else in the world. In 1960 evangelicals comprised 8% of global Christians; today, with around 650 million believers, they exceed 25 percent. Nearly 70% of global Christian growth now occurs in Africa, where vibrant churches thrive amid rapid urbanisation and strong family life. Mandryk noted that while Western growth is modest, Africa, Asia and Latin America are reshaping the face of Christianity. Yet he warned that discipleship, leadership training and moral integrity must remain priorities if this expansion is to mature. David Tarus of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa said 90% of African pastors lack formal theological training, calling for education to reach local communities rather than relying on institutions. Both leaders urged clarity, humility and renewed holiness as the movement's influence widens. The shift, Mandryk said, shows that the 'future of Christianity' has already arrived - rooted in the Global South. [See https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/cofe-attendance-increases-again](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/cofe-attendance-increases-again)

Praise: God for Africa's vibrant church growth. Pray for strong discipleship and Spirit-filled leadership. (Daniel 12:3)  
More: [www.christianpost.com/news/the-gospel-spreading-at-explosive-rate-in-africa-wea-speaker.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/the-gospel-spreading-at-explosive-rate-in-africa-wea-speaker.html)

### [Asbury revival a 'mere tremor ahead of global Christian awakening'](#)

At the World Evangelical Alliance general assembly in Seoul, Asbury University president Kevin Brown reflected on the 2023 Asbury revival, praying it would one day be remembered as a mere 'tremor' before a global Christian awakening. What began as a small chapel meeting became a 16-day outpouring that drew 50,000 people from 287 universities worldwide. Brown believes that since then, spiritual renewal has continued to spread — seen in mass baptisms, worship gatherings like Baptise America and Gather 25, and growing Bible engagement across generations. He cited evidence of rising church attendance in both the USA and Europe, with England and Wales reporting a 50% increase since 2018. At the Lausanne Congress, Brown witnessed thousands from over 200 nations worshipping in unity, sensing a worldwide stirring among youth. He urged believers to pursue true revival, marked not by emotion but by unity - the oneness Jesus prayed for in John 17 - a heart-level allegiance to God reflecting the love between Father and Son.

Praise: God for renewed hunger for His presence and growing unity pointing to global spiritual awakening. (John 17:23)  
More: [www.christianpost.com/news/asbury-university-president-praying-revival-is-tremor-ahead-of-global-awakening.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/asbury-university-president-praying-revival-is-tremor-ahead-of-global-awakening.html)

## British Isles

### Starmer refuses to rule out raising income tax in budget

Keir Starmer has fuelled speculation that Labour may raise income tax in the autumn budget after refusing to reaffirm the party's election pledge not to increase income tax, national insurance or VAT. Questioned in the Commons, he cited bleak new productivity forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility, which have deepened the £20 billion gap facing Rachel Reeves. Treasury officials are modelling options including a 1p or 2p rise in the basic rate of income tax, possibly offset by cuts to national insurance, to raise up to £8 billion annually. Reeves is also considering freezing tax thresholds, potentially drawing more workers into higher bands, and reviewing the windfall profits levy on oil and gas firms to encourage new investment. Starmer, while claiming there would be 'no return to austerity', said the poor fiscal inheritance from the previous government demanded 'difficult choices'. Critics accused Labour of preparing tax rises because it cannot control spending, while supporters argue that fair reform is needed to restore economic stability. See also [https://apple.news/AWs5DCK5TTJu10Du9Yr\\_S3Q](https://apple.news/AWs5DCK5TTJu10Du9Yr_S3Q)

Pray: for economic integrity and righteous governance as leaders balance taxation, fairness, and national prosperity. (Matthew 22:21)  
More: [www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/tax-rise-budget-keir-starmer-hvxfcbch6](http://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/tax-rise-budget-keir-starmer-hvxfcbch6)

### Migrant sex offender given £500 after threat to disrupt deportation

The Government has confirmed that convicted sex offender Hadush Kebatu, an Ethiopian national mistakenly released from prison, was paid £500 before being deported. Kebatu, jailed for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl and a woman while living in an Essex asylum hotel, was freed in error from HMP Chelmsford, later re-arrested, and flown to Ethiopia under guard. Officials authorised the payment after he threatened to disrupt his removal, arguing it was cheaper than re-booking flights or facing legal delays that could cost taxpayers thousands. Ministers called the blunder 'deeply regrettable' and have ordered an independent inquiry, with one officer suspended and new release checks introduced. Opposition leaders condemned the payment as 'outrageous' and proof of a broken immigration system, while home secretary Shabana Mahmood said she acted swiftly to ensure deportation. Kebatu's mistaken release sparked local protests and renewed concern over public safety, asylum policy, and government competence in managing foreign offenders awaiting deportation. See <https://news.sky.com/story/wrongly-released-migrant-sex-offender-hadush-kebatu-claims-he-was-ignored-by-police-while-trying-to-hand-himself-in-13459823>

Pray: for justice, competence, and compassion in handling offenders and protecting communities across the UK. (Isaiah 1:17)  
More: [www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly9rxlvp85o](http://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly9rxlvp85o)

### Farage overtakes Starmer in poll on who would make better PM

A new poll has placed Reform UK leader Nigel Farage ahead of Keir Starmer as the public's preferred choice for prime minister - the first time he has led in such polling. The survey, conducted from 10 to 13 October among 1,141 people, found 33% favoured Farage and 30% Starmer, while 29% were undecided. Ipsos's Keiran Pedley said the result marks 'an intriguing shift' in the political landscape, with growing public confidence in Reform's economic and immigration policies - issues Britons see as most important. Separate YouGov research also shows Labour's support slipping to a record low of 17%, tied with the Conservatives, while Reform leads with 27%. The Greens have 16% and the Liberal Democrats 15%. Farage's growing appeal, fuelled by dissatisfaction with both major parties, signals rising volatility in UK politics. Pressure is mounting on Labour ahead of the autumn budget and next year's local and national elections.

Pray: for truth, integrity, and godly leadership to guide Britain amid political division and uncertainty. (Proverbs 14:34)  
More: [www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2126975/nigel-farage-keir-starmer-prime-minister](http://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2126975/nigel-farage-keir-starmer-prime-minister)

### Government doubles down on green ambition with new climate plan

The Government has unveiled its new 'Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan', reaffirming the UK's commitment to achieving net zero emissions while boosting economic growth. Energy secretary Ed Miliband said the plan will accelerate renewable energy, remove fossil fuels from the power grid by 2030, and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2037. After a High Court ruling that the previous strategy lacked evidence to meet legal climate targets, the new plan outlines measures to expand clean power, promote heat pumps, and improve access to electric vehicle charging, while avoiding a gas boiler ban. A companion 'Methane Action Plan' aims to curb emissions from this potent greenhouse gas. Environmental groups largely welcomed the renewed ambition, though campaigners urged stronger action on aviation and housing. Critics warned of high costs and delayed delivery. Miliband insisted the plan would bring cleaner air, warmer homes, and new green jobs - securing a sustainable, prosperous future for coming generations.

Pray: for bold yet balanced leadership as Britain pursues green growth and stewards creation responsibly. (Psalm 24:1)  
More: [www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/government-ed-miliband-labour-reform-uk-conservatives-b2854689.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/government-ed-miliband-labour-reform-uk-conservatives-b2854689.html)

### Study shows benefits of prostate cancer screening for over-50s

A major European study has found that offering routine prostate cancer screening to all men over 50 could save thousands of lives. The 23-year trial of 162,000 men across eight countries showed that regular prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood tests reduced prostate cancer deaths by 13%, matching the life-saving impact of breast and bowel cancer screening. The findings strengthen calls for the UK to introduce a national prostate screening programme. Experts say earlier detection allows curative treatment before symptoms appear, though some warn of overdiagnosis and overtreatment of harmless tumours. Advances such as MRI scanning and precision surgery now reduce these risks. Prostate cancer is the UK's most common cancer, causing more than 12,000 deaths a year. Health officials will review the results next month, and advocates say the evidence is now overwhelming. Campaigners urge government action to protect men's health, noting that high-risk groups such as black men and those with family histories remain especially vulnerable.

Pray: for swift wisdom in adopting effective screening to save lives and bring hope to families. (Psalm 103:2-3)  
More: [www.thetimes.com/uk/healthcare/article/prostate-cancer-screening-over-50s-cuts-deaths-gcbx5557r](http://www.thetimes.com/uk/healthcare/article/prostate-cancer-screening-over-50s-cuts-deaths-gcbx5557r)

### Teenagers overwhelmed by pressure of 'perfect' Christmas

A new survey by the Children's Society reveals that over half of UK teenagers (56%) feel overwhelmed by expectations surrounding Christmas. The poll of nearly 2,000 young people aged 13 to 16 found that school deadlines, social media pressure, and family expectations are major stress factors. Almost a third cited looming exams, while 28% said constant exposure to 'perfect' online images of gifts, parties, and families made them feel inadequate. One in five admitted finding it hardest to 'look happy' when they didn't feel it. Although some teens found social media uplifting, many said it made them feel worse, especially when reminded of holidays or lifestyles they couldn't afford. Many wanted less pressure to perform and more understanding from adults. Mark Russell, CEO of the Children's Society, said many young people feel crushed by constant demands, urging greater access to early mental health and wellbeing support. The charity's mission is to help teenagers find peace, perspective, and the true joy of Christmas.

Pray: for peace, understanding, and hope for young people burdened by pressure during the Christmas season. (Matthew 11:28)  
More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christmas-pressure-leaves-half-of-uk-teens-overwhelmed](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christmas-pressure-leaves-half-of-uk-teens-overwhelmed)

## Europe

### Spain / France: 'game-changer for women's health'

A groundbreaking approach to diagnosing endometriosis offers potential to revolutionise research and treatment of the disease. Affecting one in ten women, endometriosis often goes undiagnosed for years. Traditionally, diagnosis involves invasive procedures like laparoscopy. However, scientists in Spain and France have developed a method of analysing blood-derived stem cells (MenSCs) directly from menstrual samples. This preserves the cells' molecular integrity, allowing researchers to study endometriosis more accurately. By using a technique common in cancer diagnosis, researchers achieved an 81% accuracy rate in distinguishing endometriosis patients from healthy individuals. This non-invasive method, developed by endogene.bio and collaborators, could reduce diagnosis time from years to weeks. The study has gained attention from the pharmaceutical industry, as potentially it could transform endometriosis management and patient care. The co-founder of endogene.bio says: 'This world-first approach to endometriosis research and diagnosis is truly game-changing for women's health.'

Pray: giving thanks for this advance. Pray for scientists as they continue to research ways of improving detection of such diseases. (Jeremiah 33:6)

More: [hospitalthimes.co.uk/scientists-develop-breakthrough-in-detecting-endometriosis-in-menstrual-blood/](https://hospitalthimes.co.uk/scientists-develop-breakthrough-in-detecting-endometriosis-in-menstrual-blood/)

### Spain: trauma and anger continue, one year after Valencia floods

In October 2024, devastating floods swept through Spain's Valencia region, leaving 229 people dead and countless others traumatised. Among the victims were Miguel and Sara, a father and daughter who perished together while trying to save their car from rising waters. For their widow and mother, Toñi García, the pain remains raw – just one example of the human cost behind the natural disaster known as the Dana. One year later, Valencia continues to rebuild both its cities and its spirit. Memorials honour those lost, while reconstruction and new safety protocols aim to prevent a recurrence. Yet grief and trauma linger, especially among children who now fear the rain which once brought destruction, and anger at the handling of the Dana on the day it struck refuses to fade. As towns like Paiporta rise from the ruins, residents are striving for resilience and renewal.

Pray: for comfort to all who grieve, and strength for communities rebuilding lives and faith after unimaginable loss. (Psalm 10:17)

More: [www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2dp775nd1o](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2dp775nd1o)

## Worldwide

### Caribbean: hurricane causes huge devastation, many deaths

One of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes ever recorded, Hurricane Melissa has left a trail of devastation across Jamaica, Haiti, and Cuba, killing at least 33 and displacing hundreds of thousands. Striking Jamaica as a Category 5 storm with winds of up to 185 mph, it tore roofs from homes, flooded entire communities, and crippled power and communication lines across the region. In Haiti, where fragile infrastructure magnified the disaster, scores are dead or missing after floodwaters swallowed coastal towns. Cuba also faces collapsed buildings and blocked roads, with hundreds of thousands forced into shelters. In Jamaica, 77% of the island lost power: emergency services were inundated by floods and unable to conduct emergency operations. Two airports have reopened, with the UN and other agencies ready to deliver aid. Amid the chaos, local leaders and residents describe scenes of heartbreak and resilience - families salvaging what little remains, emergency workers battling through mud and wreckage, and governments scrambling to restore hope. Recovery will be long, painful, and costly.

Pray: for rescuers to have strength and persistence, and for survivors to find strength, unity, and hope as they rebuild their lives. (Nahum 1:7)

More: [apnews.com/article/hurricane-melissa-cuba-jamaica-flooding-winds-275a4d2d41a0ff3f382053865eefe295](https://apnews.com/article/hurricane-melissa-cuba-jamaica-flooding-winds-275a4d2d41a0ff3f382053865eefe295)

### Gaza: ceasefire fragile after Israeli airstrikes kill 100+

On 29 October, Hamas reported that Israeli airstrikes in Gaza had resulted in at least 104 Palestinian deaths, including 46 children. Israel's defence minister accused Hamas of an attack in Gaza which killed an Israeli soldier, and of breaching the terms on returning deceased hostages' bodies. Although Hamas denied involvement in the attack, asserting its commitment to the ceasefire, the IDF said it had targeted what it described as 'terror targets and terrorists', killing numerous individuals, including thirty armed group commanders. The strikes caused significant destruction, hitting homes, schools, and residential blocks: each side has accused the other of ceasefire violations. Despite the violence, Donald Trump downplayed the likelihood of renewed hostilities, supporting Israel's right to retaliate. The conflict shows the fragile nature of the ceasefire and the ongoing volatility in the region – which has also been highlighted by the call by Amnesty International to investigate whether a US airstrike on Yemen in April was a war crime. See <https://www.africanews.com/2025/10/29/amnesty-calls-for-probe-into-us-airstrike-that-killed-dozens-of-migrants-in-yemen/>

Pray: that in spite of these airstrikes, the ceasefire will hold. Pray for the safety of all the civilians in Gaza. (Psalm 34:14)

More: [www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgjdy5eevn2o](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgjdy5eevn2o)

### Brazil: at least 64 dead after massive law enforcement operation

At least 64 people, including four police officers, have been killed during a massive law enforcement operation in Rio de Janeiro - the deadliest in the city's history. Governor Claudio Castro hailed the raids as a decisive blow against organised crime, but the high civilian toll has sparked national and international alarm. Operation Containment targeted the powerful Comando Vermelho gang, deploying 2,500 officers with helicopters and armoured vehicles across the Alemão and Penha favelas. Bystanders were reportedly caught in the crossfire, reigniting debate over police tactics, human rights, and the heavy cost of Brazil's drug war. For many residents of Rio's poorest neighbourhoods, the tragedy underscores a grim reality - they are trapped between violent gangs and aggressive law enforcement. Human rights groups have questioned the timing of such a large-scale operation, less than two weeks before the UN climate summit COP30 begins. As Brazil heads for a national election in 2026, the threat of criminal violence and drug trafficking is expected to take centre stage.

Pray: for peace in Brazil's streets, protection for the innocent, and wisdom for the police as to the best method of countering criminal activity. (Proverbs 21:21)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/10/28/police-operation-in-rio-de-janeiro-favelas-leaves-dozens-dead](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/10/28/police-operation-in-rio-de-janeiro-favelas-leaves-dozens-dead)

### South Korea: president's delicate balance as he hosts Xi and Trump

South Korea stands at a delicate crossroads, balancing its security alliance with the USA and its economic reliance on China. Recent rallies in Seoul captured this tension vividly, with protesters denouncing both Donald Trump and the Chinese Communist Party - reflecting deep divisions over the nation's direction. President Lee Jae Myung faces immense diplomatic pressure as he hosts both Trump and Xi Jinping on 30 October, hoping to ease trade disputes while maintaining South Korea's fragile political stability. In August, when Lee visited the USA, things seemed to go well, with Trump reducing tariffs on South Korean goods from 25% to 15%. However, relations soured after immigration officials detained more than 300 workers at the Hyundai plant in Georgia, and Trump has increased his trade demands. Meanwhile, anti-China sentiment has grown, fuelled by old grievances and modern fears of interference. Breaking news: Trump has hailed his meeting with Xi as 'amazing', even though it did not result in a formal trade deal: [see https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crl25x11gjpo](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crl25x11gjpo)

Pray: for wisdom for the three leaders. May they seek justice, peace, and mutual respect rather than rivalry and division. (Proverbs 21:1)  
More: [www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy7eyg0808xo](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy7eyg0808xo)

### Thailand / Cambodia: peace agreement, but soldiers not yet released

After a peace agreement was signed in Kuala Lumpur on 26 October, Donald Trump and senior US officials had expected the immediate release of eighteen Cambodian soldiers captured by Thailand. However, Thailand's prime minister Anutin Charnvirakul has imposed conditions on their release, primarily the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the border. At a bilateral meeting on 28 October, Cambodian prime minister Hun Manet reiterated Cambodia's commitment to the agreement and appealed for the soldiers' release, but Anutin stated that this would start only after significant and speedy progress on the withdrawal of the weapons, a condition agreed upon by both parties. The first phase of the withdrawal has already taken place, with Cambodia moving a number of battle tanks back to their base. The situation underscores the complex diplomatic negotiations involved.

Pray: for diplomatic efforts to ensure that the terms of the peace agreement are fully carried out. Pray for a lasting peace in the region. (Isaiah 2:4)  
More: [asianews.network/cambodia-commits-to-peace-as-thailand-sets-conditions-for-release-of-captured-soldiers/](https://asianews.network/cambodia-commits-to-peace-as-thailand-sets-conditions-for-release-of-captured-soldiers/)

### Nigeria and South Africa removed from global 'grey list'

Nigeria, South Africa, Mozambique, and Burkina Faso have been removed from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF's) global 'grey list', marking a crucial milestone in Africa's financial integrity efforts. Once seen as high-risk for money laundering and terrorist financing, these nations have implemented sweeping reforms which have restored investor confidence and strengthened global partnerships. Nigeria's tighter oversight of mobile money and anti-money-laundering laws, and South Africa's expanded powers for financial regulators, have begun rebuilding trust in governance and transparency. Mozambique and Burkina Faso have improved their ability to track illicit cross-border transactions linked to armed groups. The delisting signals international recognition of progress - but it also serves as a reminder that vigilance and accountability must continue. For ordinary citizens, these reforms bring promise of greater economic stability, job creation, and stronger consumer protection: neighbouring countries could experience a confidence rebound, especially in attracting greater international investment.

Pray: for African leaders to be wise stewards, ensuring increased prosperity for all their people. Pray for financial transparency in every country. (Proverbs 10:9)  
More: [www.africanews.com/2025/10/29/nigeria-south-africa-removed-from-global-money-laundering-watchlist/](https://www.africanews.com/2025/10/29/nigeria-south-africa-removed-from-global-money-laundering-watchlist/)

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C/O World Prayer Centre, 167 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 1SW

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