# **Prayer Alert**

## ISSUE 45-2025 | Friday 07 November 2025

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You have defined and established all the borders of the earth, and the divisions of land and sea and of the nations. You have made summer and winter. (Psalm 74:17, AMP)

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.



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#### 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**

#### Warwickshire: Wall of Answered Prayers is proceeding

More than twenty years after the vision was first received, plans for the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer in Warwickshire are finally moving forward. The 169-foot-high monument, almost three times the size of the Angel of the North, will be made from a million bricks, each digitally linked to a unique story of answered prayer. Its creator, Richard Gamble, a former chaplain to Leicester City Football Club and the 2012 Olympics, describes it as 'a monument to make hope visible'. Designed as a Mobius strip symbolising eternity and God's unending faithfulness, the project has faced years of financial and engineering challenges. But a £30 million gift from a Christian Tory peer has now transformed its future, covering the majority of the £45 million cost. Gamble says the vision has always been about glorifying Jesus through the testimonies of His people. When completed, the wall will stand as a national landmark of faith, thanksgiving, and answered prayer.

Praise: God for providing miraculously for this monument of testimony. Pray that it may draw millions to faith. (Psalm 96:3)

More: anglicanmainstream.org/article/revealed-the-tory-peer-spending-30m-on-a-giant-monument-to-god/

## India: supreme court rejects accusations of forced conversion

On 17 October India's supreme court of India rejected a religious conversion case against officials of a noted agricultural university in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, after a protracted legal battle which started in April 2022. The officials, and also staff of a mission hospital, had been accused by a Hindu nationalist of coercing a woman into converting to Christianity and then forcing her to bring nearly sixty other women for a conversion meeting. The court found no credible evidence to substantiate the allegations, and stated that the complainant did not have the legal right to file the complaint. It also recognised serious procedural deficiencies and violations of due process. Delighted Christian community leaders have claimed the ruling as a historic victory which strengthens faith in the justice system and affirms the constitutional promise of religious freedom. It provides a crucial precedent for cases under similar state-level anti-conversion laws, and stands as a reminder that even in cases involving sensitive socio-religious issues, the principles of due process and statutory integrity remain paramount.

Praise: God for this notable victory. Pray that other similar cases will follow this legal precedent. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: persecution.org/2025/10/20/indias-supreme-court-rejects-religious-conversion-case/

#### Erika Kirk's powerful response when asked if she felt safe

In her first interview since the tragic assassination of her husband, Christian commentator Charlie Kirk, Erika Kirk said that her faith in Christ has overcome all fear. When asked if she felt safe, she replied, 'What are they going to threaten me with - going to heaven sooner to be with my husband?' She explained that her confidence is not recklessness but a trust in God's sovereignty: 'It's a fearlessness rooted in the understanding that I will have my day and my time whenever that is - when the Lord knows I've completed my mission.' She added that neither she nor her husband ever lived in fear, saying, 'If we did, we would never get anything done'. Her response has moved many believers worldwide, standing as a bold witness to courage in grief and unwavering hope in eternal life. Her peace in suffering testifies to the power of faith over fear.

Praise: God for Erika's fearless witness. May her steadfast trust inspire believers to live courageously for Christ. (Psalm 56:3) More: www.faithwire.com/2025/11/05/erika-kirks-powerful-response-when-asked-if-she-feels-safe-is-living-in-fear-following-charlie-kirks-assassination/

### Bake Off pushed me to rely on Jesus, says winner Jasmine

Great British Bake Off champion Jasmine Mitchell, 23, has shared how her Christian faith sustained her throughout the high-pressure competition. The youngest-ever contestant to win 'Star Baker' five times, Jasmine said that she leaned heavily on prayer: 'Walking to the tent, I would just pray the Lord's Prayer in my head. It didn't take away the stress, but I felt God walking beside me.' Balancing filming with her medical studies, she described the experience as a 'complete miracle' of God's sustaining grace. She also spoke openly about her journey with alopecia, saying she once prayed for her hair to return, but realised God's healing meant becoming whole and confident in who He made her to be. Her church community has been a constant encouragement, quietly sharing her bakes and supporting her faith-filled journey. 'God has healed me to make me more whole', she said, 'and I'm learning to see myself the way He sees me.'

Praise: God for Jasmine's radiant faith and testimony. May her joy in Christ inspire others to trust Him fully. (Nehemiah 8:10) More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/great-british-bake-off-jasmine-christian-faith

## **British Isles**

## Train knife attacks: 'hero' LNER worker saved many lives

Train company LNER has praised employee Samir 'Sam' Zitouni, 48, for his extraordinary bravery during a mass stabbing on a 6.25pm service from Doncaster to King's Cross. Samir, a customer host with over 20 years' service, was critically injured while intervening to protect passengers. CCTV footage confirmed his heroic actions saved many lives. British Transport police described his response as 'nothing short of heroic'. LNER managing director David Horne said, 'In a moment of crisis, Sam did not hesitate to protect those around him. We are so proud of him and continue to support his family.' Samir's relatives expressed deep gratitude for the outpouring of love, calling him 'a hero - he's always been a hero to us'. The suspect, Anthony Williams, 32, has been charged with eleven counts of attempted murder in connection with this and related knife attacks across Cambridgeshire and London. Prayers continue for Samir's full recovery and for those traumatised by the violence.

Pray: giving thanks for Samir's bravery. Pray for his healing and comfort, and for protection, peace, and courage across Britain's public spaces. (Psalm 27:1)

More: news.sky.com/story/train-company-lner-extremely-proud-of-rail-worker-in-critical-condition-after-mass-stabbing-as-family-call-him-hero-13463705

## Police hunt for two men mistakenly released from prison

Police are searching for two inmates who were wrongly released from Wandsworth Prison within days of each other. Brahim Kaddour-Cherif, 24, an Algerian convicted sex offender, was mistakenly freed on 29 October, and 35-year-old William Smith, a convicted fraudster, on 3 November. The incidents have triggered fierce criticism of justice secretary David Lammy, who recently pledged to tighten controls after another mistaken release in Essex. Kaddour-Cherif, who overstayed a visa issued in 2019, was on the sex offenders' register for five years, while Smith had received a 45-month sentence for multiple fraud offences but was wrongly recorded as having a suspended sentence. The ministry of justice has ordered an independent inquiry to uncover the causes of repeated failures. Prison officers report widespread confusion, overcrowding, and low morale at Wandsworth. The police are continuing the manhunt for both men, amid growing concern over the integrity of the UK's prison system.

Pray: for justice, accountability, and reform to restore safety, competence, and public trust in the nation's prisons. (Micah 6:8) More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1d0kll2vn4o

## Chancellor lays the ground for a 1970s-style tax increase

Rachel Reeves has indicated she is willing to break Labour's election pledges by raising income tax for the first time in half a century, prioritising what she called 'the national interest over political expediency.' Addressing reporters in Downing Street, Reeves warned that 'we will all have to contribute' to stabilise the economy and repair a £30 billion deficit. She is considering a 2p increase in income tax coupled with a 2p cut in national insurance, shifting the burden from workers to pensioners and landlords. The proposal, expected to raise £6 billion annually, has divided Labour MPs: some warn it risks alienating voters, while others praise Reeves for taking tough, necessary decisions. Critics from the Conservatives and Reform UK accuse her of breaking promises and 'hammering working people'. Reeves insisted she will not walk away, saying she was appointed to turn Britain's economy around and will finish the job despite political risk.

Pray: for integrity and justice in national decision-making, balancing fiscal responsibility with compassion for struggling families. (Romans 12:17b) More: www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/rachel-reeves-news-announcement-rgdbkfnww

## Liverpool: boy arrested after attack on firefighters and police

A 14-year-old boy has been arrested after fireworks were fired at firefighters and police officers attending a blaze at Knowsley Heights, near Liverpool. Emergency services were called shortly before 7pm after reports of fireworks being directed at the high-rise building. Fire crews quickly extinguished a blaze on a third-floor balcony, but during the operation fireworks were launched towards emergency workers. A female police officer suffered a minor leg injury, and a teenager was also treated for firework burns. Merseyside Police confirmed the boy was arrested on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life. Chief inspector Kevin Chatterton condemned the 'disgraceful' attack, saying it was only by sheer good fortune that no one was seriously injured. Knowsley Council leader Graham Morgan praised the professionalism of emergency services and vowed to hold those responsible to account. The fire service urged the public to respect first responders, warning that violence against them will not be tolerated.

Pray: for protection over emergency workers, and for young people to learn respect and responsibility in their communities. (Romans 12:17,21)

More: www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/bov-14-arrested-after-tower-32820724

#### Starmer announces multi-million pound clean power deals as he heads to COP30

Keir Starmer has unveiled multi-million-pound clean energy investment deals as he heads to the COP30 climate summit in Brazil. The agreements, worth over £115 million, include £15 million for a new operations centre at the Port of East Anglia, £100 million for Belfast Harbour to deliver two Irish Sea wind farms, and Statera Energy's plans for a major battery site in Greater Manchester. Downing Street says the projects will create more than 600 skilled jobs, describing them as 'national renewal in action'. Starmer said the UK will continue leading on climate action, promising to champion future generations and working people alike. Energy secretary Ed Miliband called clean power 'the engine of Britain's economic renewal'. Yet critics question Labour's ability to meet its net zero goals after scaling back international commitments, including rainforest protection funds. Conservative and Reform UK leaders argue that net zero targets are unrealistic and harmful to UK industry. See also the world article about the Earthshot Prize winners.

Pray: for godly stewardship of creation and wise, balanced leadership in national energy and environmental policy. (Psalm 24:1) More: www.itv.com/news/2025-11-05/starmer-reveals-new-uk-clean-energy-investments-ahead-of-cop30

## Anger voiced over bishops' Living in Love and Faith decision

The Church of England's eight-year-long Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process, aimed at reaching unity on same-sex relationships, has drawn fierce criticism from across the spectrum following new decisions by the House of Bishops. The bishops agreed to further synodical discussions on formal blessings for same-sex couples and on whether clergy may enter same-sex marriages. Critics say the Church is more divided than ever. Rev Joshua Penduck called the process 'needlessly painful,' leaving both conservatives and LGBTQ+ believers 'weary and vulnerable'. The deans of Canterbury and Southwark expressed deep disappointment; David Monteith said he feels 'marginal and uncatered for', and Mark Oakley confessed, 'In thirty years of ministry, I haven't recognised myself in these debates'. Bishop Martyn Snow, who previously led LLF, acknowledged mistakes but defended the process as an effort to model love amid disagreement. He urged the Church to rediscover grace and humility in navigating these deep divisions.

Pray: for repentance, love, and unity within Christ's body, that truth and grace may prevail over division and pain. (1 Peter 4:8) More: www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/31-october/news/uk/anger-voiced-over-house-of-bishops-living-in-love-and-faith-decision

## **Europe**

### Russia / USA: resumption of nuclear testing in tit-for-tat decisions

Vladimir Putin's announcement that Russia may resume nuclear testing marks one of the most dangerous escalations in global security since the Cold War. He has instructed senior military and intelligence officials to prepare proposals for possible tests at the Novaya Zemlya site in the Arctic - where the Soviet Union in the past had detonated more than 200 nuclear devices, but none since 1990. The move follows Donald Trump's declaration that the USA would restart its own nuclear tests, for the first time since 1992. Both leaders' actions revive fears of an uncontrolled arms race, just as the last major nuclear treaty between Washington and Moscow nears expiry. Analysts warn that renewed testing could shatter global non-proliferation norms and invite imitation from other states.

Pray: for Putin and Trump, and other world leaders, to exercise restraint and keep all lines of dialogue open, in pursuit of lasting peace. (Psalm 46:9a)

More: www.gbnews.com/news/world/vladimir-putin-plans-detonate-nuclear-bomb

#### Netherlands: winners and losers after election

The Netherlands' latest election has upended expectations, signalling both renewal and deep division in Dutch politics. After two years of turmoil and paralysis, centrist liberal party D66, led by 38-year-old Rob Jetten, surged to an unprecedented victory, capturing 26 seats and dethroning the far-right PVV of Geert Wilders. Jetten's optimistic, reform-minded campaign, focused on housing, education, and stability, resonated with voters weary of scandal and polarisation. Meanwhile, Christian Democrat leader Henri Bontenbal's call for 'decent politics' also struck a chord, reviving his party's fortunes. The left, however, suffered a major setback: Frans Timmermans' GreenLeft-Labour alliance fell short, prompting his resignation. Though Wilders' PVV lost eleven seats, he remains a potent opposition voice, vowing to continue disrupting from the sidelines. Coalition-building will now test Jetten's leadership in a fragmented landscape, where bridging ideological divides may prove harder than winning the vote itself.

Pray: for humility among Dutch leaders to seek unity above rivalry and to build government through cooperation, not division. (Philippians 2:3,4) More: www.politico.eu/article/dutch-election-2025-winners-losers-rob-jetten-geert-wilders-frans-timmermans/

## France: two citizens released by Iran after more than three years

Iran's release of French citizens Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris, after more than three years in detention, marks a cautious diplomatic breakthrough between Tehran and Paris. The couple, accused of espionage by Iran (a charge France has consistently rejected), were freed from Evin prison and are now safe at the French embassy in Tehran, awaiting full repatriation. Their detention, widely viewed as part of Iran's pattern of 'hostage diplomacy', strained bilateral relations and drew condemnation from European governments. The timing of their release follows reports of a prisoner exchange involving an Iranian woman previously held in France. While France celebrates this humanitarian outcome, the case underscores the precarious position of foreign nationals in politically charged environments and the moral complexity of negotiating freedom under coercive diplomacy. For Kohler and Paris, freedom comes after 1,277 days of unjust imprisonment - and for France, it signals relief tempered with renewed diplomatic caution.

Pray: for healing and restoration for the two who have been freed, and for other European nationals who have been unjustly imprisoned in Iran to be released. (Psalm 9:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj0en7ljzjpo

## Worldwide

## **Environment: five innovative Earthshot Prize winners**

A star-studded Earthshot Prize ceremony in Rio de Janeiro celebrated global ingenuity and hope for the planet, honouring five remarkable winners across its key categories. Brazil's re.green, which uses Al and satellite technology to restore vast tracts of the Atlantic forest won the for Protect and Restore Nature category. The city of Bogotá, Colombia, took the Clean Our Air prize for cutting pollution through electrification and green urban design. The Revive Our Oceans award went to the High Seas Treaty, a landmark global accord creating the first legal framework for high-seas protection. Nigeria's Lagos Fashion Week earned the Build a Waste-Free World award for transforming fashion sustainability in Africa. Finally, Bangladesh's Friendship received the Fix Our Climate award for its pioneering community resilience work: by 2030 it will protect 4,000 miles of coastline with mangroves and expand disaster relief for 50 million people. Each winner embodies Earthshot's vision - turning urgent

environmental challenges into enduring hope. Prince William, the founder of the Earthshot Prize, said: 'Tonight we have felt extraordinary optimism from these innovators. Their work is the proof we need that progress is possible. Their stories are the inspiration which gives us courage.'

Pray: giving thanks for these innovative initiatives. Pray that others will be inspired to protect creation and restore harmony between people, nature, and future generations. (Genesis 2:15)

More: earthshotprize.org/news/the-earthshot-prize-announces-2025-winners/

#### Nigeria: Trump's military threats over 'Christian genocide'

Donald Trump's threats to cut aid and launch military strikes against Nigeria over alleged 'Christian genocide', while resonating with US evangelicals, might misrepresent and oversimplify the country's complex crisis. Nigeria's conflicts, spanning insurgency, banditry, and communal clashes, are not purely religious but deeply rooted in ethnicity, identity, and government failures. Analysts warn that US intervention, whether through sanctions or drone strikes, could devastate civilians already trapped between terrorists and insecurity. History shows that 'precision' attacks often result in innocent casualties, worsening humanitarian crises. Arguably, Trump's decision to freeze most foreign assistance programmes have exacerbated the problem, resulting in job losses for about 28,000 health workers and pushing vulnerable Nigerians deeper into hardship. His threats pose a dilemma for President Tinubu. If he cooperates, he might appear weak, but defying Washington might risk economic and military pain.

Pray: for wisdom for Nigeria's government in knowing how to protect all citizens regardless of religion or ethnicity. Pray for Donald Trump to show restraint and use wiser methods of influencing the situation. (Proverbs 15:22)

More: www.premiumtimesng.com/features-and-interviews/832822-analysis-civilians-in-nigerias-conflict-zones-risk-more-harm-if-trump-orders-military-action.html

## Pakistan / India: 2,000 Sikh pilgrims allowed to cross border

Pakistan's reception of Sikh pilgrims from India on 4 November marked a rare moment of goodwill amid lingering hostilities between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. After deadly border clashes in May shut down the Wagah-Attari crossing, the arrival of over two thousand pilgrims to celebrate Guru Nanak's 556th birth anniversary signals a cautious reopening of people-to-people ties. Pilgrims were warmly welcomed with flowers and rose petals before travelling to Nankana Sahib, Guru Nanak's birthplace, and other sacred sites. Pakistan's high commission in New Delhi said that its decision was consistent with efforts to promote 'inter-religious and inter-cultural harmony and understanding'. For many Sikhs, visiting these shrines represents both spiritual renewal and a poignant reminder of Punjab's divided heritage since partition. Yet, tensions remain high, with the Kartarpur Corridor (allowing visa-free access to the temple) still closed and both nations trading accusations over recent violence in Kashmir.

Pray: giving thanks for this goodwill gesture. Pray that it will lead to better relationships between the two countries. (Romans 14:19) More: www.dawn.com/news/1953115/pakistan-welcomes-sikh-pilgrims-from-india-in-first-major-crossing-since-may-conflict

## Pacific: airstrikes kill two more in US 'war on drugs'

The latest US strike on a vessel in the Pacific, ordered by Donald Trump, has drawn renewed condemnation and concern. Two people were killed in what was described as an anti-narcotics operation, bringing the total death toll from similar maritime attacks to at least 67 since September. Despite claims that the vessels targeted were involved in drug trafficking, Washington has yet to provide evidence, prompting accusations of extrajudicial killings. Human rights advocates, including the UN's Volker Turk, have warned that such actions violate international law and risk killing innocent fishermen. The escalation has drawn condemnation from Venezuela's president Nicolas Maduro, who regards Trump's intensified 'war on drugs' as a pretext to topple him from power. With an aircraft carrier about to join other US vessels already in the region, the world watches anxiously, fearing that a campaign meant to stop drugs could instead fuel regional instability and human suffering.

Pray: for the protection of innocent lives and for wisdom among leaders to pursue justice through peace, not violence. (Psalm 34:14) More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/11/5/us-kills-two-more-people-in-latest-strike-on-vessel-in-the-pacific

## Tanzania: unprecedented level of protest after landslide presidential election

The recent election which saw president Samia Suluhu Hassan win with 98% of the vote has exposed deep cracks in Tanzania's democratic foundations. The landslide result - achieved amid opposition arrests, media restrictions, and reports of violence - has drawn widespread criticism from observers and foreign governments. What followed was unprecedented in Tanzania's history: mass youth-led protests erupting across major cities, demanding electoral justice and democratic reform. The unrest reflects a broader generational awakening in Africa, where frustration with corruption, repression, and economic inequality is driving young citizens to demand accountability. With around 77% of the population aged under 35, the country's future hinges on how leaders respond to this rising tide of civic resistance. Despite the violence and censorship surrounding the protests, they reveal a powerful truth: citizens are no longer content with symbolic democracy. Tanzania's youth are asserting their right to shape their nation's destiny. Going forward, the demand for a new constitution should be the priority.

Pray: for courage among Tanzanians to stand firm and continue to pressurise the government, and for leaders to embrace justice, transparency, and reform. (Amos 5:24)

More: is safrica.org/iss-today/denied-fair-elections-tanzanians-make-their-mark-through-protests

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

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