

# Prayer Alert

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Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.  
(Hebrews 13:15)

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

Please pray for the Guinea-Bissau and Republika Srpska (Bosnia & Herzegovina) national elections taking place on Sunday 23 November. Also, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines general election on Thursday 27th November. 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

### A tragic accident, but God is still walking with him

Kelvin Burke's life was for ever changed at age 23 when a tragic accident in the Lake District left him a paraplegic, ending his promising hockey career and dreams of the Olympics. Raised in a strong Christian family in Northern Ireland, he had already seen the devastating effects of IRA violence on others, including his beloved hockey teacher. After the crash, Kelvin fought for survival in hospital while believers around the world prayed. Though his physical future seemed bleak, he experienced deep encounters with God, including a vision of Christ sharing his tears and suffering which renewed his hope. He went on to lead youth ministry, train for ordained ministry, and later serve as a hospital chaplain, where he saw many come to faith and find healing. Though still longing for physical restoration, he gratefully testifies to God's daily sustaining grace, a loving marriage, and a life used for God's glory, echoing Jesus' own prayer: 'Not my will, but yours be done'.

Praise: for Kevin's testimony. Pray that those facing long-term disability will know that God walks with them always. (2 Corinthians 12:9)  
More: [www.godreports.com/2025/11/paralyzed-at-23-he-learned-to-give-god-pre-eminence/](http://www.godreports.com/2025/11/paralyzed-at-23-he-learned-to-give-god-pre-eminence/)

### Church almshouse to sell altarpiece to further its 600-year-old mission

The decision by a Dorset almshouse to sell a rare 15th-century Flemish altarpiece has opened an unexpected path toward expanding its longstanding mission of caring for those in need. The Almshouse of Saint John the Evangelist and John the Baptist in Sherborne discovered the artwork's extraordinary value only after asking Sotheby's to store it during building work. Expert analysis revealed that the oak triptych, depicting five miracles of Christ including the raising of Lazarus, was crafted in late-medieval Brussels and could fetch £2.5–£3.5 million at auction. The trustees unanimously agreed that selling the piece would best serve the local community, noting that the costs of securing, conserving, and insuring such a valuable object would be unsustainable for a small charity. Proceeds from the sale are expected to fund the remodelling of the almshouse to create six new independent-living homes and support ongoing maintenance of the Grade I listed building, furthering its 600-year-old mission.

Praise: God for this unexpected windfall, and pray for His blessing on the vulnerable local residents who will benefit. (Proverbs 19:17)  
More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/almshouse-auctions-altarpiece-worth-millions-to-benefit-local-community](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/almshouse-auctions-altarpiece-worth-millions-to-benefit-local-community)

## British Isles

### Budget: differing views about how to rescue the economy

Kemi Badenoch has warned that the country risks bankruptcy if Labour raises taxes without reducing welfare spending. She accused Rachel Reeves of planning a 'stealth tax bombshell' in the upcoming Budget to fund increased benefits, including what most people believe is likely - scrapping the two-child benefit cap to address child poverty. Freezing income tax thresholds is also expected, which would draw more workers into higher tax brackets. Badenoch argued that welfare cuts are necessary for long-term economic stability, saying her party would restore the cap if returned to power. Labour strongly rejected her claims, warning Conservatives would return the country to austerity, resulting in cuts to schools, hospitals, and policing. Other parties also criticised the Conservatives' stance; Nigel Farage has proposed deeper spending cuts, and the Liberal Democrats have called both major parties punitive toward the public. As competing visions collide, the Budget will be a major test of how Britain balances fairness, economic security, and social responsibility.

Pray: for discernment among leaders to prioritise the vulnerable while stewarding the nation's resources with fairness and wisdom. (Proverbs 21:5)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgk2nmy5jno](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgk2nmy5jno)

### Starmer tells faith leaders of his concern about religious cohesion

Keir Starmer has urged religious leaders to help strengthen social unity in the UK, expressing deep concern about divisions affecting communities nationwide. Speaking at a Downing Street reception during Interfaith Week, he praised the vital contributions of faith groups while acknowledging that recent violence - including attacks on a Manchester synagogue and a mosque in East Sussex - has tested interfaith harmony. Starmer said the country is at a fork in the road, with a choice between shared patriotic renewal or a descent into toxic division marked by racism, hostility, and rising online abuse. He said he wanted to serve the whole country 'in all its reasonableness, its practicality, its tolerance, its live and let live, and its diversity.' He finished by making a commitment to continued work with faith leaders to bring about change, commenting, 'This has to be a partnership. We will play our part, but we recognise we can't do it on our own.'

Pray: for faith communities to resist division and work together in compassion, respect, and shared responsibility for peace. (Ephesians 4:3)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/prime-minister-holds-interfaith-event](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/prime-minister-holds-interfaith-event)

### Immigration: home secretary's new proposals

Shabana Mahmood is under mounting pressure to provide clarity and compassion after confirming that only a 'few hundred' asylum seekers will initially be admitted under the UK's newly-announced 'safe and legal' routes. The home secretary has paired these routes with strict measures, copying Danish policies, aimed at deterring illegal crossings, including asset confiscation and the enforced removal of families who decline financial incentives to return home. Critics - including Labour MPs, refugee advocates, and UNHCR - argue that such limited pathways will do little to reduce dangerous Channel crossings or support those fleeing war and persecution. Organisations warn that people cannot afford to wait years for routes to expand, and that uncertainty will only deepen despair. Additionally, proposals to withdraw financial support from families with denied claims have sparked moral outrage, particularly over their impact on children. As the Government seeks to reshape asylum policy, many insist that protection, dignity, and fair family reunification remain essential to any credible system.

Pray: for Ms Mahmood and her colleagues to know how best to protect vulnerable families, pursue justice with mercy, and create paths to safety rooted in human dignity. (Leviticus 19:34)

More: [www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/nov/18/shabana-mahmood-faces-calls-for-compassion-and-clarity-over-hardline-asylum-policies](http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/nov/18/shabana-mahmood-faces-calls-for-compassion-and-clarity-over-hardline-asylum-policies)

### Digitised immigration system causes problems for many

Flaws in the Home Office's digitised immigration system has left many lawful residents struggling to prove their rights and access essential services. According to a detailed report by the3million, widespread flaws in the eVisa system - introduced to replace physical immigration documents - have caused severe disruption, including people being refused flights, suspended from work, and denied benefits or healthcare. Technical failures have led to incorrect personal information, merged identities, inaccessible accounts, and wrongful immigration statuses being displayed. Some individuals have even been told they received refugee status in error, while others have lost job opportunities or been pushed into hardship when their status inexplicably changed. Solicitors warn that these failures amount to a 'digital status crisis'; it is likely that many more cases have not been reported. A High Court challenge argues that the system leaves people without alternative proof of status, while campaigners call for an urgent independent review before digital IDs are expanded further. The Home Office maintains that most users experience no problems.

Pray: that the Home Office will quickly correct the errors, so that all vulnerable residents can securely access their lawful rights. (Psalm 146:9a)

More: [inews.co.uk/news/home-office-evisa-flaws-thousands-unable-work-4023848](http://inews.co.uk/news/home-office-evisa-flaws-thousands-unable-work-4023848)

### UK not adequately prepared for defence, say MPs

A new report from the parliamentary defence committee warns that Britain is not adequately prepared to defend itself, its overseas territories, or its NATO allies from modern threats. Despite plans to boost domestic defence production - including six new munitions factories and increased spending toward 'war-fighting readiness' - MPs say progress is too slow; the country remains over-dependent on the USA for critical capabilities such as intelligence, air-to-air refuelling, and troop transport. Noting severe gaps in air and missile defence, they are concerned that promised improvements in civil resilience are moving at a 'glacial pace'. The committee's chair Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi urged the Government to communicate more clearly with the public about real security risks, including drone incursions and cyber threats, noting that national defence requires national engagement. Ministers say new factories and investments will create jobs and strengthen security, but the report insists urgency is needed. The report coincides with concerns about a Russian spy ship operating just outside British territorial waters: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gpgj6d4e60](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gpgj6d4e60)

Pray: for the Government to act speedily to increase the country's level of preparedness in this increasingly dangerous world. (Psalm 127:1)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqjw5g24rlyo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqjw5g24rlyo)

## Europe

### Ukraine: two ministers dismissed over corruption allegations

Ukraine has been shaken by its most serious political crisis since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, after parliament voted to dismiss the energy and justice ministers in response to a major corruption investigation. The probe centres on an alleged \$100 million scheme involving contracting at the state nuclear agency, implicating figures with close ties to the presidency and fuelling public outrage during a time of national sacrifice. Justice minister German Galushchenko and energy minister Svitlana Hrynychuk both resigned under pressure from Volodymyr Zelensky before lawmakers voted to remove them. While both deny wrongdoing, the scandal has energised opposition voices demanding deeper reforms, including changes within the president's inner circle. Anti-corruption authorities have said their investigation, whose chief suspect is Zelenskiy's former business partner, includes other state agencies. With Ukraine still fighting for its survival against Russian aggression, the crisis underscores the critical need for transparency, accountability, and public trust in wartime leadership.

Pray: for integrity and courage among Ukrainian leaders to reject corruption and protect the nation's people and future. (Proverbs 29:4)  
More: [www.reuters.com/world/ukrainian-parliament-sacks-justice-minister-galushchenko-2025-11-19/](http://www.reuters.com/world/ukrainian-parliament-sacks-justice-minister-galushchenko-2025-11-19/)

### Poland: partnership with IJM to combat human trafficking

Poland is one of the highest-risk areas for trafficking in Europe, with 209,000 people currently trapped in modern slavery and many more vulnerable due to migration and regional conflict. Women and children make up the overwhelming majority of those exploited for sex. The country's geography - bordering seven nations and serving as a transit hub - makes it a key route for traffickers. Although Poland has earned top marks from the USA for its commitment to combating exploitation, law enforcement resources remain stretched too thin to meet the growing need for protection. International Justice Mission (IJM), the world's largest anti-trafficking organisation, has now launched a formal partnership in Poland, building on its success in Romania and other regions. Working with authorities, NGOs, and survivors, IJM will focus on strengthening investigations, ensuring survivor care, and driving systemic change, with the aim of protecting millions from abuse and exploitation.

Pray: for safety, rescue, and restoration for every person threatened by exploitation, and for strength for IJM as it continues to battle human trafficking. (Psalm 82:4)  
More: [www.ijm.org/news/building-safety-and-freedom-in-poland](http://www.ijm.org/news/building-safety-and-freedom-in-poland)

## Worldwide

### Gaza: Christians face an almost impossible choice

Gaza's small Christian community, long rooted in the land where their faith began, is now confronting an existential crossroads. As a fragile ceasefire wavers and destruction remains widespread, believers like Elias al-Jalda face the stark question of whether their community can survive. With homes destroyed and more than two years spent sheltering in churches - some of which were themselves struck, causing tragic loss of life - daily existence has become a struggle for food, water and safety. Yet amid the devastation, they have discovered a profound solidarity, forming close-knit bonds in shared suffering. Many are choosing to leave while they can, echoing a wider regional trend in which ancient Christian populations across the Middle East have dramatically dwindled. Still, Elias and others hold on to hope, believing that Christian presence should remain in the birthplace of their faith.

Pray: that the exhausted Christian families in Gaza will find protection, strength, and renewed hope as they decide what choice to make for the future. (Psalm 31:24)  
More: [www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/gazas-christians-are-facing-an-impossible-choice/20482.article](http://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/gazas-christians-are-facing-an-impossible-choice/20482.article)

### Ethiopia: sexual violence as a weapon in forgotten war

Women and girls in Ethiopia's Amhara region are facing a hidden crisis of conflict-related sexual violence as fighting between the national army and Fano militias continues. Survivors describe soldiers entering homes, threatening family members, and committing rape as a weapon of intimidation and punishment. Many victims, some as young as eight, are left in physical pain, psychological trauma, and deep shame, fearing stigma from their communities and even from their churches. Limited medical access means many do not receive the urgent treatment which could prevent HIV or pregnancy. Health workers report rising cases, but say that the numbers available represent only a fraction of the suffering, especially as law and order has broken down and accountability is rare. Rights groups warn that the violence reflects a pattern of impunity within Ethiopia's security forces. For women like Enat, who is now raising a child conceived by rape, survival is overshadowed by fear, loss, and an uncertain future - yet also remarkable courage.

Pray: for God's protection, justice, and healing for abused women in this area, and greater publicity about the violence being perpetrated. (Psalm 147:3)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2p8dpw1rwo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2p8dpw1rwo)

### Brazil: tussle between conservationists and musicians over endangered trees

Tim Baker has spent more than four decades crafting world-class bows for violins and cellos - the very tools which, as he puts it, give musicians their 'voice'. But now his longstanding craft is caught in the middle of an urgent conservation battle. Brazilwood, also known as pernambuco, is the prized, endangered timber used in most professional bows, beloved for its strength and resonance. With the tree's population reduced by 84% due to centuries of overharvesting and ongoing illegal logging, Brazil is pushing for the highest level of international trade protection. Advocates say drastic action is needed to save the species, but musicians fear that tighter restrictions could ground performers, expose their bows to confiscation, and make global touring nearly impossible without complex permits. Conservationists and performers alike agree that the status quo is unsustainable, but they need to agree on a plan that protects both music and nature.

Pray: for wisdom in knowing how to protect these endangered trees while allowing string players to continue using their 'voices'. (Psalm 90:17)  
More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2025/11/18/conservationists-want-to-protect-brazilwood-so-why-are-musicians-alarmed](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2025/11/18/conservationists-want-to-protect-brazilwood-so-why-are-musicians-alarmed)

### South Africa: Water Warriors battle flood risks and pollution

In Alexandra, South Africa's oldest township, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, local volunteers known as the Alexandra Water Warriors are working tirelessly to protect their community from worsening flood risks and pollution. Using garbage-trapping nets across the Jukskei River, they are trying to prevent debris from clogging the waterway - a growing danger linked to illegal dumping and climate-intensified flash floods. The stakes are high: when the river overflows, bridges disappear underwater and children are unable to reach school. Despite limited resources, the Water Warriors plant native trees, clean riverbanks, and recycle collected waste into items that can bring in income. Their efforts have significantly reduced visible pollution, demonstrating the power of grassroots action in a place overshadowed by extreme inequality: Alexandra lies within sight of affluent Sandton, yet lacks basic infrastructure support. As world leaders gather in Johannesburg to discuss climate resilience, communities like Alexandra urgently need the global partnership and investment they cannot secure alone.

Pray: for greater support for vulnerable communities working to protect their environment and safeguard their future together. (Galatians 6:9)

More: [www.africanews.com/2025/11/19/volunteers-help-clean-the-polluted-jukskei-river-prone-to-flash-floods/](http://www.africanews.com/2025/11/19/volunteers-help-clean-the-polluted-jukskei-river-prone-to-flash-floods/)

### South Korea / North Korea: cautious proposal for talks

South Korea's proposal for military talks with North Korea reflects a cautious but important effort to prevent dangerous escalation along the demilitarised zone. After months of incidents where North Korean troops crossed the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) while constructing defensive barriers, Seoul is urging both sides to reaffirm a clear and mutually recognised boundary. Missing marker posts from the 1953 armistice have led to differing interpretations of where the line actually lies, increasing the risk of accidental clashes as tensions rise under Kim Jong-un's recent directive to harden the border. This marks the first direct proposal for dialogue since Lee Jae Myung took office as South Korea's president, signalling a willingness to pursue communication even as military channels remain largely severed. With warning shots fired and provocations mounting, aligning expectations on the MDL could help restore stability and rebuild fragile trust. Whether Pyongyang will respond remains uncertain, but Seoul hopes the move sparks broader engagement for peace.

Pray: for wisdom and restraint among leaders on both sides, and for genuine steps toward lasting security and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. (Psalm 34:14)

More: [asianews.network/south-korea-proposes-talks-with-north-korea-to-prevent-border-clashes/](https://asianews.network/south-korea-proposes-talks-with-north-korea-to-prevent-border-clashes/)

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