

Prayer Alert

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The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him. (John 1:9-10)

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

Please pray for the presidential election (second round) taking place in Chile on 14 December - 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

[Two atheists come to faith after watching 'The Chosen'](#)

Actor Jonathan Roumie, who portrays Jesus in the hit series 'The Chosen', says the show's heartfelt depiction of Christ has led even lifelong atheists to embrace Christianity. He said that two men who had never believed in God were sent the series by friends. Unexpectedly, they were captivated by the first episode, began reading Scripture and attending church, and ultimately converted. He called their transformation remarkable, noting that many viewers express similar experiences. Roumie said his own deep relationship with Christ shaped the sincerity of his performance, helping him convey love, compassion, and authenticity. He also described the emotional and spiritual weight of filming Season 6 (to be released in 2026), which depicts Jesus' crucifixion; he prayed for insight into Christ's suffering and sensed God responding.

Praise: God for the transformation of these two lives. Pray that many who encounter Christ through storytelling will come to faith in the same way. (John 12:32)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/the-chosen-inspires-atheists-to-embrace-christianity-says-actor-jonathan-roumie

[Joe Rogan finds Bible 'fascinating', notes Christian kindness](#)

Joe Rogan has spoken openly again about his growing interest in Christianity, saying he finds the Bible deeply compelling and is moved by the kindness of believers he has met. He says he no longer believes Scripture is merely myth, but an ancient record conveying real truth, even if he is still discerning how literally to take its claims. He recently discussed Revelation with his daughter, acknowledging the mystery of how its prophecies will unfold. Rogan has been attending a non-denominational church in Austin, where the Christians' sincerity and consistent kindness - even in the car park - have deeply impressed him. He described the Bible as 'fascinating,' and said Christianity 'works,' noting how the believers he knows live out their faith with remarkable grace. Over the past year he has been increasingly willing to explore faith publicly, hosting long conversations about Jesus, the supernatural, and the Resurrection, which he now finds more persuasive than secular explanations of the universe. Rogan's journey continues to draw widespread attention. See <https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pa-pray/praise-reports/item/53846-joe-rogan-is-attending-church-consistently>

Praise: God that He is stirring Joe's heart; may his search lead him to saving faith in Christ. (Jeremiah 29:13)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/joe-rogan-finds-bible-fascinating-notes-christian-kindness.html

British Isles

Hillsborough enquiry: victims' relatives will never get justice

A major new report has confirmed extensive police failings before and after the 1989 Hillsborough stadium disaster, which killed 97 Liverpool fans - the UK's worst sporting tragedy. After a decade-long investigation, the Independent Office for Police Conduct found that twelve officers would have faced charges of gross misconduct had they not already retired, leaving families devastated that no one will ever be held accountable. Those who lost loved ones in the crush condemned the outcome as another profound injustice. The report also criticised the initial police review as biased and found further evidence clarifying how police decisions, including the opening of an exit gate, led to the fatal overcrowding. Previous inquests concluded that supporters had been unlawfully killed and discredited early attempts to blame fans. Despite official apologies and admissions of catastrophic failure, no officer has ever been convicted. Families say the proposed 'Hillsborough Law' cannot compensate for truth acknowledged without accountability.

Pray: that comfort, justice, and enduring strength uphold all who still carry grief from the Hillsborough tragedy. (Psalm 34:17)

More: www.aljazeera.com/sports/2025/12/2/report-finds-widespread-police-failings-over-uks-hillsborough-disaster

London: nursery worker admits to many sexual assaults and indecent images

A deeply disturbing safeguarding scandal has unfolded in north London after nursery worker Vincent Chan admitted to 26 charges including sexual assault and creating severe indecent images of children in his care. The investigation began after a whistleblower raised concerns, leading police to uncover extensive, distressing evidence on Chan's devices and on iPads at Bright Horizons nursery, which has since closed. Detectives described the case as among the most harrowing and complex they had encountered. Parents listened in tears as charges were read in court, later issuing a joint statement expressing shock, anger, and a sense of betrayal by the nursery's management and safeguarding failures. Bright Horizons acknowledged that the abuse had occurred despite its procedures and has commissioned an independent review of its practices. Education secretary Bridget Phillipson said that her department was working with Ofsted and local leaders to assess what more can be done to keep children safe. Chan, who had passed standard DBS vetting checks, will be sentenced on 23 January.

Pray: that every affected family will receive deep healing, protection, and steadfast support as they grieve. (Psalm 147:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2k4qd8q97eo

Doctors' appointments: Streetworking and BMA in major row

A row has erupted over England's move to require all GP surgeries to offer online booking for non-urgent appointments, with Wes Streetworking accusing the British Medical Association (BMA) of acting like 'moaning minnies'. While he praised GPs for rapidly adopting the system - now used by more than 98% of practices - the doctors' union is concerned that patient safety is at risk. The new method of booking, which all doctors have to provide on weekdays from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, also allows patients to ask questions, describe symptoms, and request callbacks. But the BMA says the software cannot differentiate urgent from routine needs, leaving surgeries overwhelmed and increasing the risk that serious issues will not be triaged properly. Healthwatch England raised concerns about limited patient awareness, difficulties for those less digitally literate, and some practices restricting online slots. Many GPs say they are already at capacity and fear unrealistic expectations without additional resources. The Government maintains it has invested extra funds and recruited more doctors.

Pray: that the dispute will be resolved wisely and quickly, taking the BMA's concerns into account. Pray that it will indeed be easier to book an appointment. (James 1:5)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g47gvy7wjo

Birmingham: council to press ahead with radical changes on bin collection

In Birmingham, the city council and the Unite union remain locked in a bitter deadlock as the city's bin strike enters its twelfth month, including nine months of full walkouts. Despite the ongoing dispute, Councillor Majid Mahmood has announced the council will press ahead with major reforms to its waste service, including fortnightly collections, expanded recycling, and a new weekly food waste scheme (which all local councils have to introduce in 2026). He said that all individual employment issues had been resolved, with workers either accepting new roles, choosing voluntary redundancy, or (rarely) being made compulsorily redundant. He could not understand why Unite members remained on strike. Unite, however, has accused the council of failing to consult it properly, and insists affected workers deserve compensation for lost pay and status. While new equipment and systems are ready for rollout, neither side appears willing to compromise, leaving the city without a resolution.

Pray: that Birmingham's leaders and bin workers can move towards an honourable end to this dispute. (Psalm 37:3)

More: www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/defiant-birmingham-council-tells-bin-32986336

Met police's huge rollout of facial recognition technology

The Government is preparing a major expansion of facial recognition technology across the UK, giving police access to passport and driving licence photos to speed up the identification of offenders. The Met Police, which has already made 1,300 arrests and tracked more than 100 sex offenders using the technology over two years, says live facial recognition is a key tool for public safety. The Home Office has launched a ten-week consultation to shape new legislation after concerns about 'Big Brother Britain' and the erosion of civil liberties. Critics argue that safeguards remain inadequate, noting previous findings by the Equality and Human Rights Commission that the Met's policies were 'unlawful'. Civil liberties groups warn of potential misuse, disproportionate surveillance, and a chilling effect at protests. Supporters insist that the technology is becoming more accurate, with strict oversight needed rather than abandonment. Police chiefs say it will help find dangerous offenders and missing people more quickly. The consultation will determine what safeguards are necessary and whether expanded use is proportionate to the harms being targeted.

Pray: that expanded surveillance powers will be restrained by justice, accountability, and respect for God-given personal freedom. (Amos 5:24)

More: www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/met-police-access-passport-drivers-photos-live-facial-recognition-crime-london-b1261064.html

'Shine, Jesus shine' remixed for Christmas campaign

The classic worship song *Shine, Jesus, Shine* has been newly reimagined for the UK-wide 'Shine Your Light' Christmas campaign, which seeks to unite thousands of believers in a shared moment of worship and national prayer. First written by Graham Kendrick in 1987, the song is one of the most recognisable modern hymns in Britain. The initiative was sparked by Christian teacher and musician Nicole Hobday, who first dreamed as a teenager of churches singing the song simultaneously. The vision resurfaced after witnessing Kendrick lead believers to sing the song as a prayer over the nation. Feeling a sense of urgency following last August's unrest, Hobday approached Kendrick, who encouraged her to take the idea forward. The new arrangement features children's voices, multilingual lines in Punjabi and Mandarin, a rap element, prayers, and a choral arrangement by Ken Burton. Hobday described the recording session at COM Church as deeply moving. Running from 12 to 14 December, the campaign involves around 2,000 churches and aims to mobilise 200,000 Christians to share the Gospel with two million people.

Pray: that this united song releases Christ's light, healing, and bold Gospel witness across communities in the UK this Christmas. (Psalm 36:9)
More: www.shineyourlight.org.uk/classic-worship-song-shine-jesus-shine-reimagined-as-part-of-national-christmas-campaign-this-december/

Europe

Ukraine: Putin unwilling to accept peace proposal

The current round of diplomacy over the war in Ukraine suggests that Vladimir Putin remains firmly unwilling to accept any current peace proposal. After lengthy talks with Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov admitted that no compromise version has yet been found – not surprising given Putin's increasingly uncompromising tone. He has denounced Ukraine's leadership as a 'thieving junta', accused European leaders of obstructing peace efforts, and insisted Russia holds the battlefield initiative, even though many of his supposed gains are disputed by Ukraine and international observers. Russian state media has showcased Putin in military fatigues studying front-line maps, projecting confidence and momentum nearly four years into the invasion. Putin appears determined to convince both domestic and foreign audiences that he cannot be pressured into changing course. Yet sustaining war requires resources: oil and gas revenues are slipping, economic imbalances are widening, and the budget deficit is growing. The critical unknown is whether mounting economic strain will eventually alter the Kremlin's wartime calculations.

Pray: for a radical change in Putin's attitude, so that Ukraine's suffering will end swiftly and fairly. (Psalm 33:10)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpq4e21nr5vo

France: Paris leads the way in tackling 'carspreading'

Across the UK and Europe, cars are steadily growing longer, wider, and heavier - a trend critics have nicknamed 'carspreading'. SUVs in particular have surged in popularity, with their market share rising from 13% in 2011 to nearly 60% by 2025. Buyers praise them for visibility, practicality, comfort, and a sense of safety, and carmakers favour them for higher profit margins. But cities like Paris and Cardiff are pushing back, arguing that larger vehicles worsen pollution, increase road wear, and heighten risks in collisions. In Paris, after parking fees for heavy vehicles were tripled, the authorities have reported a two-thirds reduction in their numbers. Cardiff plans similar measures, gradually lowering weight thresholds for higher permit costs. Supporters say cities are too constrained to accommodate ever-bigger cars, while critics argue families rely on them for space, mobility, and accessibility. With many European roads narrower than modern vehicles, the debate highlights a growing tension between personal convenience, environmental responsibility, and urban safety.

Pray: that urban planners, policymakers, and drivers pursue solutions balancing mobility, safety, and care for shared spaces. (Proverbs 4:26)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy7vdvl2531o

Worldwide

Indonesia: millions affected by catastrophic floods, over 600 deaths

Indonesia is facing a mounting humanitarian emergency after catastrophic floods killed at least 631 people and left nearly 500 missing, with rescue teams still struggling to reach isolated communities. Triggered by a rare cyclone over the Malacca Strait, the disaster has affected some 1.5 million people across Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra, cutting off entire districts and leaving about one million people displaced. Survivors describe torrents of water like a 'tsunami', while images show bridges swept away, roads buried in mud, and debris piled high. Many families have gone days without food as red tape, damaged infrastructure, and ongoing storms hinder aid deliveries. Grieving relatives wait anxiously near excavation sites, hoping missing loved ones will be found. Anger is growing over what critics say was poor preparedness and environmental mismanagement which worsened the devastation. The flooding comes as part of a broader regional crisis, with over 1,200 deaths across south and southeast Asia caused by intense monsoon rains amplified by rare cyclones and a warming climate.

Pray: for strength for the rescue workers and comfort for the grieving families. (Psalm 9:9)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g4enlp6kzo

Sri Lanka: cyclone tragedy exposes government failures

The authorities are under intense scrutiny for their handling of Cyclone Ditwah, which has affected more than 1.46 million people across all 25 districts and caused the nation's worst flooding in two decades. Over 410 people are confirmed dead, hundreds are missing, and tens of thousands are sheltering in overcrowded government centers. Critics argue that officials ignored early warning signs and failed to coordinate a timely, unified emergency response, leaving rescue teams overwhelmed and communication systems fragmented. Severe damage to roads, power networks, and telecommunications has isolated northern districts, complicating relief efforts as water levels continue to rise. Opposition leaders are pursuing legal action, accusing the government of negligence that cost many lives. Further concerns have emerged over inadequate disaster communication in Tamil, which left many without critical information. Despite international aid pledges and a state of emergency, the crisis has exposed major weaknesses in Sri Lanka's preparedness and response structures, prompting urgent calls for reform. However, there has been an impressive show of 'volunteerism' from local communities: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c058n10727po](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c058n10727po)

Pray: for wisdom, unity, and strength to rebuild lives and restore safety after devastating loss. (Psalm 10:14)
More: www.dw.com/en/sri-lanka-cyclone-tragedy-exposes-government-failures/a-74985337

Australia: under-16s prepare for social media ban

The impending ban on social media access for under-16s in Australia has sparked confusion, concern, and debate among students, parents, experts, and global observers. From 10 December, platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, and others must demonstrate effective age verification or face major fines. Schools are scrambling to prepare teens for losing access to their accounts, photos, and online communities. Tech companies are rolling out facial age-estimation tools and other verification methods, though questions remain about accuracy and accessibility for older teens. Many young content creators fear losing hard-won followings, while others, like students at phone-free leadership programmes, describe unexpected freedom and richer real-life connections. Advocates warn that some teens rely on social media for support networks and could be pushed toward more dangerous spaces. The policy, inspired partly by concerns over youth mental health, has drawn both strong political backing and legal challenges claiming that it restricts young people's rights. Other nations are watching closely as similar proposals emerge worldwide.

Pray: that leaders will know how to craft policies which protect young people while preserving healthy connection, support, and community life. (Psalm 32:8)
More: edition.cnn.com/2025/11/29/australia/australia-social-media-ban-intl-hnk-dst

Israel: looming crisis over conscription of ultra-Orthodox Jews

The long-standing exemption of ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) men from military service has potentially become a huge crisis for Benjamin Netanyahu. With the Gaza war placing immense strain on reservists, public opinion has shifted decisively toward ending the exemption, which was first granted in 1948. Although the high court ruled it illegal twenty years ago, political gridlock has kept it in place, so that only 1,200 of 24,000 drafted Haredi men reported for duty last year. Haredis have more than doubled their share of Israel's population over the past seven decades, and now account for 14%. What began as an exemption for several hundred religious students has now become a cohort of some 60,000 men left out of the draft. Street protests, clashes with police, and rapid-response networks reflect growing Haredi communal resistance. Supporters of conscription - religious and secular alike - argue that fairness and national survival demand shared burden. Yet ultra-Orthodox leaders insist that studying the Torah protects Israel spiritually and must remain untouched. Netanyahu's fragile coalition depends on Haredi parties, making meaningful reform politically perilous. The Haredis are now locked in a debate over what it means to be Jewish and Israeli, and whether that means fighting for Israel or fighting for their way of life against the modern demands of war.

Pray: that wisdom, justice, and mutual respect will guide Israelis as they face painful questions of duty and identity. (Isaiah 58:11a)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly580gkd9ro

Venezuela / USA: Trump's increasing pressure on Maduro

On 21 November, weeks of escalating threats, military posturing, and diplomatic tension culminated not in conflict but in a stark phone call in which Donald Trump reportedly issued Nicolás Maduro an ultimatum: leave Venezuela immediately or face the consequences. This shows that Trump is not easing pressure and may be edging closer to military action, despite earlier signs of potential compromise through envoy Richard Grenell's negotiations which freed US detainees and reopened migrant returns. Analysts note that while advisers like Marco Rubio influence policy, Trump himself has long viewed Venezuela as unfinished business touching on his key concerns - migration, drugs, and China. Trump's resort to a threatening phone call may in itself be a response to the Venezuelan armed forces' refusal to buckle before the overwhelming US military presence. Experts warn that a 'decapitation strike' targeting Maduro is conceivable, with the justification that he is an illegitimate leader after stealing two elections. Observers say Trump is using intimidation to force concessions while leaving the door open to rapid escalation.

Pray: that Trump will pursue peace, wisdom, and restraint in a tense region longing for stability and justice. (Psalm 46:9a)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/2025/dec/02/trump-nicolas-maduro-venezuela

Honduras: manual recount necessary for presidential election result

The Honduran presidential election has become increasingly tense after the National Electoral Council (CNE) announced a full manual recount of the 30 November vote. Currently there is a wafer-thin margin between the two leading candidates, which has prompted the CNE to announce a 'technical tie'; it is calling for patience while all the votes are counted manually. Donald Trump sharply criticised the process on social media, accusing the authorities of attempting to alter the outcome and warning that there would be 'hell to pay' if his preferred candidate, Nasry Asfura, is not declared the winner. Asfura, a right-wing former mayor, held a lead of just over 500 votes with more than half of ballots counted. His centrist rival, Salvador Nasralla, cited internal projections suggesting he was ahead but refrained from claiming victory. Whatever the final outcome, the election is a clear defeat for the country's ruling left-wing, whose candidate, Rixi Moncada, only has 19% of the vote.

Pray: for truth and integrity to prevail, and that the final election result will be the correct one. (Psalm 89:14)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/12/2/trump-cries-foul-over-technical-tie-in-honduras-presidential-race

Mozambique: 100,000 forced to flee after attacks by armed groups

Nearly 100,000 people in northern Mozambique have fled in recent weeks as armed groups have stormed their villages, often at night. They have burnt homes, killed civilians, and forced families to escape without belongings or documents. Nampula province now faces a fourth major influx of displaced people in recent months, pushing already fragile host communities beyond capacity. Schools, churches, and open spaces are overflowing, while humanitarian workers are struggling to respond to simultaneous attacks in many districts. Violence linked to the so-called IS has already displaced more than 1.3 million people since 2017, and now threatens communities which have previously been safe refuges. UNHCR warns that current funding covers only half of what is required, and needs will rise sharply into 2026. Lacking adequate shelter, food, and water, some families are returning to unsafe areas simply because overcrowded conditions leave them no other choice.

Pray: that urgent aid, protection, and lasting peace reach Mozambique's displaced families amid worsening violence. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: news.un.org/en/story/2025/12/1166485

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