

Prayer Alert

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God's voice thunders in marvellous ways; He does great things beyond our understanding. (Job 37:5)

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

Please pray for the parliamentary elections taking place in Laos on 22 February.



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!

Would you like to join our Prayer Alert team?

We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England, India, and USA. 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

[Southern Baptists bring timeless message to Winter Olympics](#)

Southern Baptists are seizing a remarkable evangelistic opportunity as the 2026 Winter Olympics unfold in Milan / Cortina. International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries serving across Italy have partnered with hundreds of American volunteers to proclaim the hope of Christ to the nations gathered for the Games. Outreach strategies include distributing Bibles and copies of John's gospel, hosting welcoming hospitality points, and engaging in Olympic pin trading – each pin carrying a QR code linking to a multilingual gospel presentation. Kim Cruse of Tennessee is leading a team and encouraging bold, faith-filled conversations, reminding volunteers that many people are more spiritually open than we assume. Teams have prepared using AI chat tools to practise engaging with varied worldviews. Missionaries Dylan and Isaura Jeronimo-Lancaster are welcoming faithful church partners, reflecting the power of long-term collaboration. Volunteers testify that such global events offer a rare, God-given opportunity to impact lives from every continent with the timeless message of Christ.

Praise: God for this united Gospel witness at the Winter Olympics, reaching nations gathered for the Games. (Matthew 28:19)

More: www.imb.org/2026/02/11/southern-baptists-bring-timeless-message-to-winter-olympics/

[Tim Allen's 13-month 'no skimming' Bible journey](#)

Actor Tim Allen has publicly celebrated completing a 13-month, word-by-word journey through the entire Bible – a 'no skimming' commitment from Genesis to Revelation. The 72-year-old, known for the films Toy Story and The Santa Clause, shared that he felt 'humbled, enlightened and amazed' by what he read, and plans to begin again after time for reflection and meditation. His announcement drew encouragement from fans and Christian leaders, including Family Research Council president Tony Perkins, who invited him to join a two-year Bible study. Allen has become increasingly open about his faith, and in a recent podcast he reflected on the relationship between God's law and human sin. Last year he revealed he had never previously read the Bible fully; he began with the Old Testament and found it 'amazing and not at all what I was expecting'. He has also called for clearer Christian themes in The Santa Clauses series, insisting Christmas be recognised as rooted in Christ.

Praise: God for Tim Allen's public hunger for Scripture and bold public witness. (Psalm 119:105)
More: www.christianpost.com/news/tim-allen-humbled-enlightened-and-amazed-after-bible-journey.html

British Isles

EU 'the biggest prize', Reeves says

Rachel Reeves has described closer trade relations with the EU as 'the biggest prize' for the UK economy, signalling Labour's desire for further alignment with Europe. She said that while deals with India, the USA, and other nations are welcome, none compare in scale to improving trade with the EU, which accounts for nearly as much UK trade as the rest of the world combined. She favours removing barriers for businesses and rebuilding trust with European partners, citing renewed participation in the Erasmus programme and plans for a Youth Mobility Scheme as signs of progress. Though Labour's manifesto rules out rejoining the single market or customs union, several senior figures have suggested deeper integration could boost growth. Critics accuse the Government of attempting to dilute Brexit, warning against surrendering tariff control or repeating complications seen in other customs arrangements.

Pray: for discernment and integrity as UK leaders shape trade relationships affecting prosperity and sovereignty. (Proverbs 11:14)
More: news.sky.com/story/eu-is-the-biggest-prize-reeves-says-as-labour-seek-closer-ties-13506568

Police probe into claims that a woman was sent to UK for sex with Andrew

Thames Valley Police have confirmed they are assessing fresh allegations that a woman was allegedly sent to Windsor in 2010 for 'sexual purposes' involving Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor. Officers are liaising with US law enforcement after reports linked to the late Jeffrey Epstein resurfaced. They say that no formal complaint has been made directly to them by the woman or her lawyer, but they are following established procedures and taking the matter seriously. Mountbatten-Windsor has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. Two other women have previously alleged they were sent to the UK in connection with Epstein, one being Virginia Giuffrè, who claimed this happened in 2001. Police are also assessing email messages which appear to show that confidential documents were shared with Epstein during Andrew's time as trade envoy. Former prime minister Gordon Brown has urged a thorough re-examination of earlier investigations.

Pray: for truth, justice, and protection for victims in all investigations of alleged exploitation. (Luke 8:17)
More: www.msn.com/en-nz/news/other/police-probe-into-claims-woman-sent-to-uk-for-sex-with-andrew-grows/ar-AA1W9v02

Latest vetting row raises fresh concerns over Starmer's judgement

A fresh political row has raised new questions about Keir Starmer's judgment following controversy over the appointment of Lord Matthew Doyle to the House of Lords. Former Downing Street communications director Tim Allan has stated he informed the prime minister about Doyle's past association with Sean Morton, a convicted sex offender, before Doyle was offered a peerage. Allan said Doyle admitted believing Morton's claims of innocence prior to conviction but did not disclose campaigning on his behalf. Lord Doyle has apologised for an 'error of judgement' but has declined further comment. There has been considerable unrest within Labour, with MPs voicing concern that repeated vetting controversies are damaging public trust. Comparisons have been drawn with the criticism surrounding Lord Mandelson's appointment, prompting calls within the party for stronger scrutiny of honours and peerages. With parliament entering recess, pressure remains on the prime minister to reassure colleagues and the public that due diligence and safeguarding standards are being handled responsibly at the highest levels of government. See https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/lucy-powell-keir-starmer-appointing-paedophiles-5HjdSDc_2/

Pray: for integrity, accountability, and sound judgement among those entrusted with national leadership. (Proverbs 10:9)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0mgzr3e18jo

Economy grows by worse-than-expected 0.1%

The UK economy grew by just 0.1% in the final quarter of 2025, below the 0.2% forecast by many economists, according to the Office for National Statistics. The figure mirrors growth in the previous quarter, reinforcing concerns that the economy remains sluggish. The services sector showed no growth, manufacturing provided the main boost, and construction recorded its weakest performance in over four years. If measured per head of population – a clearer indicator of living standards – output declined across the second half of the year. Although overall growth for 2025 slightly exceeded that of 2024, unemployment has risen to 5.1%, and small businesses report pressures comparable to the Covid period. Investment is reportedly restrained by higher employment costs and global uncertainties, including international trade tensions. Rachel Reeves defended the Government's economic plan, highlighting falling inflation and interest rate cuts. However, economists warn that policy clarity and stable foundations are essential if growth is to strengthen meaningfully in 2026.

Pray: for economic stability, responsible stewardship, and renewed growth that protects families and livelihoods. (Ecclesiastes 7:12)
More: news.sky.com/story/economy-grows-by-worse-than-expected-0-1-in-final-quarter-of-2025-13506108

Inquests show spread of deadly synthetic drugs

Highly potent synthetic opioids known as nitazenes are being linked to a growing number of deaths across the UK, with 286 inquests connected to the drugs by March 2025. Experts warn they can be many times stronger than heroin and are often mixed into other substances without users' knowledge. In many cases, people believe they are taking prescription painkillers or heroin, only to ingest a far more dangerous substitute. Gus, aged 21, died after unknowingly taking a tablet sold as oxycodone which contained a nitazene. His mother Nicola said she had never heard of the drug before reading his post-mortem report. Most recorded deaths were accidental, predominantly involving men, and often linked to polydrug use. Vulnerable groups, including those with unstable housing or mental health conditions, are disproportionately affected. Authorities believe nitazenes are being smuggled in small quantities by post and mixed for profit. Campaigners are urging wider access to naloxone, the overdose-reversing antidote, and improved detection systems to prevent further tragedy.

Pray: for protection of vulnerable lives, effective intervention, and compassion toward families affected by addiction. (Psalm 147:3)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce3enqnp8o

Synod: Archbishop's first address

In her first address to General Synod as Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally spoke of humility, responsibility, and hope amid significant challenges facing the Church. She reflected that when 'the wind and waves are rocking the boat', her focus must remain on Christ, who calms the storm. Rooted in her calling to follow Jesus and make Him known, she described her leadership not as launching new programmes, but as shepherding collaboratively, enabling others to flourish. Giving thanks for the prayers and support received across the CofE and the Anglican Communion, she said that the Church's 'best days are still to come.' Emphasising accountability, she committed to transparency, especially in safeguarding, acknowledging past failures and the need for trauma-informed, independent processes which place survivors first. Highlighting signs of renewed church attendance and 'green shoots of hope', she urged unity amid difference, likening conflict to the grit that forms a pearl. Her vision is of a hospitable Church offering healing and hope to a fractured world, rooted firmly in the Gospel.

Pray: for Sarah Mullally's faithful, courageous leadership which keeps Christ central and nurtures unity and safeguarding integrity. (Hebrews 12:28)

More: www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speeches/synod-archbishop-canterburys-presidential-address

Europe

Spain / Portugal / Morocco: severe storms contrast with extreme cold in north and east Europe

Severe storms across southern Europe and north-west Africa have forced mass evacuations and widespread emergency responses. Storm Leonardo brought intense flooding to Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with rivers reaching record levels and transport disrupted. In parts of southern Spain thousands fled homes, while northern Morocco evacuated over 140,000 residents as dams filled and rainfall continued. Mountain areas recorded extraordinary totals in little more than a day. A second system, Storm Marta, though less intense, added further rain, strong winds and coastal waves. This contrasts sharply with northern and eastern Europe, where persistent high pressure caused extreme cold and record low temperatures. Meteorologists say the unusual pattern has lasted weeks, steering storms south while trapping cold air elsewhere. Although the rainfall has eased drought conditions in Morocco, communities now face recovery, displacement and rebuilding after damage and loss. Update: Portugal's interior minister has resigned after criticism of her handling of the storms. See <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/308620/portugal-interior-minister-resigns-after-flood-criticism>

Pray: for protection, comfort and provision for families displaced by flooding disasters. (Nahum 1:7)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/cwy8450qkww

Italy: sabotage attempts during Winter Olympics

Suspected sabotage on northern Italy's railway network caused major disruption as crowds gathered for the opening of the Winter Olympic Games. Authorities reported several coordinated incidents, including fires on rail infrastructure, severed electrical cables and a rudimentary explosive device near Bologna, a key national transport hub. Delays stretched for hours across routes linking major cities such as Venice and the Adriatic coast. Officials described the attacks as serious and possibly intended to coincide with the international event, drawing comparisons with similar disruption during the Paris Olympics in 2024. No group has claimed responsibility, and investigations continue while services return to normal. Despite the tension, ceremonies proceeded across multiple venues in Milan and the mountain regions. Italy had earlier foiled cyber-attacks, claimed to be of Russian origin: see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/articles/cqj25wyjx1no>

Pray: that the authorities will be able to thwart any further sabotage attempts. (Psalm 121:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czr4rx04xjpo

Worldwide

Nigeria: over 200 dead after massacres in Muslim-majority villages

A brutal massacre in Nigeria's Kwara state left more than two hundred dead after gunmen attacked two Muslim-majority villages for rejecting extremist teaching. Witnesses said the attackers arrived on motorcycles, entered a mosque and shot worshippers, then moved house to house killing, kidnapping and burning residents. Many victims were tied before execution, and entire families were wiped out. Survivors fled, leaving only a few men to bury bodies among destroyed homes. Authorities blamed Boko Haram-linked militants, and the army deployed troops while local groups struggled to respond. The violence reflects Nigeria's wider insurgency, where armed factions target both Muslims and Christians, spreading fear across communities. International partners are now providing intelligence support, yet the tragedy shows the urgent need for protection, reconciliation and healing for traumatised survivors who have lost loved ones and livelihoods. In related news, the USA is to send two hundred soldiers to Nigeria to train local forces: see <https://www.africanews.com/2026/02/11/us-deploys-200-troops-to-nigeria-to-combat-islamist-militants/>) Nigeria's military recently claimed to have killed a senior Boko Haram commander and ten other militants in Borno.

Pray: for comfort, protection and healing for grieving and displaced survivors. (Psalm 34:18)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/at-least-162-massacred-for-refusing-radical-islam.html

Canada: eight dead after attack on small town school

A small Canadian community is grieving after a tragic school shooting in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, left eight people dead and many injured. The 18-year-old suspect, Jesse van Rootselaar, started to identify as a female six years ago and dropped out from the school at the age of 14. They first killed two family members at home before going to the school and shooting a teacher and four young students. Police responded within minutes and found the attacker dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Authorities confirmed previous contact with the suspect related to mental health concerns. In a close-knit town of about 2,400 residents, the loss has deeply shaken a community where everyone knows one another. Hundreds gathered in vigils across the town and in Vancouver, sharing silence, tears and support for affected families.

Pray: for comfort, healing and protection for students, families and teachers affected. (Psalm 147:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8w95knp55o

Middle East: Trump and Netanyahu meet as Iran talks continue

Rising tensions in the Middle East frame a significant meeting between Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington. Israel is seeking a comprehensive agreement restricting Iran's nuclear programme, missile development, and support for regional proxy groups, while Iran has signalled willingness to limit nuclear activity in exchange for sanctions relief but rejects broader demands. The USA has increased military presence in the region, warning of possible strikes if negotiations fail, yet leaders on all sides are continuing the dialogue. Iran's position has been weakened by the huge recent protests, while Israel fears a deal that leaves long-term threats unresolved. At the same time, the Trump administration is pressing Israel and Hamas to implement the next phase of their ceasefire agreement in Gaza, with accusations of violations and little progress towards reconstruction.

Pray: that all the leaders involved will pursue peace with restraint, wisdom and protection for civilians. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k1j2j4607o

Venezuela: president says no to new presidential election

The president of Venezuela's national assembly, Jorge Rodríguez, has said no presidential election will take place soon, stressing that the government's priority is national stability. Following the controversial 2024 vote and the abduction of president Nicolás Maduro by the USA, vice president Delcy Rodríguez is now acting president. Authorities say they must rebuild institutions and reach agreement with opposition groups before setting an electoral timetable. A proposed amnesty law aims to release political prisoners and encourage reconciliation, though critics fear repression may continue in other forms. The re-arrest and house arrest of opposition figure Juan Pablo Guanipa has intensified concerns about civil liberties, while opposition leaders question whether genuine political participation will be allowed. The situation reflects a nation seeking normalcy amid deep division, uncertainty, and competing claims of legitimacy, highlighting the fragile path toward democratic stability and lasting reconciliation.

Pray: for justice, reconciliation, and trustworthy governance across Venezuelan society. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/2/10/venezuelas-national-assembly-chief-rules-out-new-presidential-election

Japan: prime minister's social media led to her party's landslide victory

Growing social media interest in prime minister Sanae Takaichi appears to have significantly influenced Japan's lower house election on 8 February, contributing to a decisive victory for her Liberal Democratic Party. Many voters reported seeing daily clips of her speeches and travel despite chronic illness, creating familiarity and sympathy. Her personal X account gained far more followers than other party leaders, with spikes occurring even during controversy over a missed debate due to medical treatment. Supporters' viral posts often countered criticism, amplifying positive perceptions. On YouTube, campaign-related videos featuring Takaichi attracted extraordinary engagement, including an advertisement viewed over 150 million times. Independent creators further boosted her visibility, producing most election-related content online. Exit polls showed nearly a quarter of voters relied primarily on social media when deciding how to vote, with strong shifts toward the ruling party among them. Online popularity appears to have translated directly into ballots cast.

Pray: that voters will always exercise wisdom amid persuasive media and political narratives. (James 1:5)

More: asianews.network/japan-pm-takaichis-online-popularity-also-drove-ruling-party-to-landslide-victory-in-lower-house-election/

USA: Trump puts up racist video, deletes it later

A social media video shared by Donald Trump and later deleted drew widespread condemnation across political lines. The clip promoted false election claims and, near its conclusion, depicted Barack and Michelle Obama with their faces superimposed onto dancing apes. Posted during Black History Month, the video revived racist imagery historically used to justify slavery and segregation. The White House initially defended the post as a meme but later said a staff member had shared it in error. Politicians (including some Republicans), diplomats, and commentators criticised the content as dehumanising and harmful. Analysts noted that such inflammatory behaviour might not significantly affect Trump's political support because public opinion around him is already polarised. One commentator said, 'That Trump chose to post this video is yet another indicator of how reactionary racism has become mainstream and normalised within his Republican party, as the GOP continues to lurch dangerously rightwards.'

Pray: that Trump will set an example to all leaders to speak with dignity, rejecting racism and dehumanising rhetoric. (James 3:9-10)

More: inews.co.uk/news/world/trump-posts-racist-video-depicting-obamas-monkeys-4219878

Zimbabwe: cabinet approves extending president's term till 2030

Zimbabwe's cabinet has approved constitutional changes that could extend president Emmerson Mnangagwa's rule until 2030, sparking strong opposition concern. The proposals would lengthen presidential terms from five to seven years and allow parliament, rather than voters, to choose the president. Supporters say the measures would ensure political stability and continuity for development programmes, but critics argue the reforms undermine democratic processes and require a national referendum. Since coming to power in 2017, Mnangagwa has faced growing scrutiny from civil society groups who fear weakening constitutional protections. He has presided over a collapsing economy which has suffered hyperinflation and unemployment, undermined by alleged corruption and cronyism. The opposition, fragmented and weakened after years of repression, has failed so far to mount significant resistance to the proposal.

Pray: that everything will be done legally, constitutionally, and in the best interests of the country. (Proverbs 10:9)

More: www.africanews.com/2026/02/10/zimbabwe-cabinet-agrees-plan-to-extend-presidents-term-to-2030/

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