

Prayer Alert

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www.prayer-alert.net | editor@prayer-alert.net

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8:1a)

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

National elections: Let's pray for national and presidential elections taking place on 15 March in North Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Vietnam.

IPC Global Day of Prayer - Monday 16 March

We are invited to join millions of believers worldwide for **One Miracle Night** - a global day of prayer for Muslim peoples — asking God to reveal His love, power, and salvation. Learn more and join [HERE](#)



JOIN US ON INTERSEED!

CONNECT - BLESS - GROW

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

[Maltese Christian cleared in landmark 'conversion practices' case](#)

A Maltese Christian has been cleared in a landmark court case widely viewed as a significant moment for freedom of expression and religious testimony. Matthew Grech was acquitted by the magistrates' court in Valletta after being prosecuted for allegedly 'advertising conversion practices' during a 2022 podcast interview in which he shared his personal journey of becoming a Christian and leaving a homosexual lifestyle. Malta became the first EU country to ban conversion therapy in 2016, and prosecutors argued that because he was introduced in the podcast as working for the International Foundation for Therapeutic and Counselling Choice, it meant he had promoted such practices in his workplace. However, his legal supporters argued the interview was simply personal testimony about faith and life transformation. Two journalists charged in connection with the case were also cleared. After more than three years of legal pressure, Grech thanked God for the verdict and said justice had prevailed.

Praise: God for protecting freedom to share Christian testimony, and for Matthew's courage to proclaim Christ's transforming power. (Psalm 40:3)
More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/court-clears-maltese-christian-in-landmark-conversion-practices-case

[After reading this book, seven congregations started at a prison](#)

A review of the influential Christian book *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby highlights the enduring impact of its central message: believers should 'watch to see where God is working and join Him'. First published in 2007, it has guided countless Christians, churches, and ministries in discerning God's will and participating in His work. One remarkable example described in the book comes from Angola Prison in Louisiana. After inmates began studying it, many committed their lives to Christ, leading to the formation of seven inmate-led church congregations within the prison. Reports indicate that violence and drug use significantly declined as lives were transformed. Some prisoners even sensed a call into

Christian ministry, and the prison later became a satellite campus for a theological seminary! The book continues to challenge believers to examine their priorities and recognise where God is already at work, encouraging them to join Him in faith and obedience.

Praise: God for transforming lives through faithful teaching, raising disciples and churches even in prisons. (Isaiah 43:19)
More: www.godreports.com/2026/03/after-reading-experiencing-god-seven-churches-started-at-prison/

A thousand children reached through church cinema project

More than a thousand schoolchildren in Staffordshire have heard the Gospel through a creative church-led cinema project organised by local congregations in Uttoxeter. Churches worked together to 'sponsor a seat', enabling children from local schools to attend free screenings of the animated film *The King of Kings*. The 2025 production, featuring the voice of Kenneth Branagh, presents the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as a story told by Charles Dickens to his son, inspired by Dickens' book *The Life of Our Lord*. For many of the children it was their first experience of visiting a cinema. Jordan Lambert, a Christian schools worker serving through Churches Together, organised the event after pupils had repeatedly asked him why Jesus had to die. He said Christians often focus outreach around Christmas but can overlook Easter, even though the resurrection is central to the Christian faith. Teachers and volunteers reported that children were deeply moved by the story. Churches also distributed Easter booklets and chocolate eggs, hoping the message of Christ would stay with every child who attended.

Praise: God for powerful Christian films and media. Give thanks for children hearing the Easter message, and for churches creatively sharing Jesus with young hearts. (Matthew 19:14)
More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/1000-see-gospel-through-church-cinema-project

British Isles

HMS Dragon departs for eastern Mediterranean

HMS Dragon has departed Portsmouth to join UK defensive operations in the eastern Mediterranean amid rising tensions in the Middle East. The Type 45 destroyer will become the UK's only warship in the region when it arrives, with a key role in protecting RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, where an Iranian-made drone recently struck a hangar. Armed with Sea Viper missiles and supported by Wildcat helicopters equipped with anti-drone weapons, the ship is designed to counter aerial threats and safeguard allied forces. The deployment followed an intense preparation effort by the Royal Navy, completing six weeks of work in just six days. Meanwhile, the support ship RFA Lyme Bay has been placed on heightened readiness in Gibraltar and could assist with evacuations or humanitarian tasks if required. The aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales has also been told to prepare for possible deployment. UK forces are already involved in defensive operations across the region, including intercepting Iranian drones over Jordan and supporting coalition security in the Gulf. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1w5141vx53o>

Pray: for protection over UK forces deployed overseas, and for restraint, stability, and lasting peace across the Middle East. (Psalm 46:9a)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k1yyg475ko

Government silent on asylum families taking £40k offer

The Home Office has declined to reveal how many failed asylum seeker families have accepted a new government offer of up to £40,000 to leave the UK voluntarily. The pilot scheme allows families with no legal right to remain in Britain to receive £10,000 per person, for up to four family members, if they agree to return to their home countries. Around 150 families were initially invited to apply and were given a short deadline to accept the offer. Officials say the initiative could expand to thousands more families if deemed successful. The Government argues the scheme could save taxpayers money, as supporting a family of failed asylum seekers currently costs an estimated £158,000 per year. Critics have questioned why people from countries considered safe need financial incentives to leave. The policy comes amid continued debate about migration, following the cancellation of the previous Rwanda relocation plan and ongoing small-boat crossings across the Channel, which remain a significant political and social issue.

Pray: for compassionate and fair immigration policies that uphold justice, human dignity, and responsible stewardship of the nation's resources. (Leviticus 19:34)
More: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15637009/Home-Office-REFUSES-reveal-failed-asylum-seeker-families-accepted-40-000-taxpayers-money-leave-Britain.html

Files reveal warnings over Mandelson appointment and risks

Newly released government documents show that Keir Starmer was warned about potential 'reputational risks' before appointing Peter Mandelson as the UK's ambassador to the USA. The detailed files record the vetting process and concerns raised about Mandelson's past association with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Officials noted that Mandelson had maintained contact with Epstein after his 2008 conviction and had reportedly stayed at Epstein's residence in 2009 while serving as business secretary. The documents also revealed that advisers questioned the speed of the appointment. Mandelson later lost the role after further details about his links to Epstein emerged. He is also under police investigation over allegations that government trade information may have been shared with Epstein during the 2008 financial crisis. When removed from the post, Mandelson received a £75,000 severance payment. Government ministers say lessons have now been learned to strengthen future appointment processes. See <https://news.sky.com/story/no-smoking-gun-but-eyewatering-sums-of-money-the-first-drop-of-the-mandelson-files-13518412>

Pray: for integrity and accountability in public life, and for leaders to act honourably in positions of trust. (Proverbs 11:3)
More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/3/11/new-files-show-british-pm-warned-of-reputational-risks-with-mandelson

Government announces new definition of anti-Muslim hostility

The Government has announced a new working definition of anti-Muslim hostility as part of a broader strategy to address rising hate crimes and strengthen social cohesion. The definition includes acts such as violence, harassment, intimidation, vandalism, and prejudicial stereotyping directed at Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim. The definition is non-statutory, meaning it carries no legal force and will serve primarily as guidance for government departments and public institutions. Communities secretary Steve Reed told Parliament that it is intended to help authorities better understand, measure, and respond to anti-Muslim hostility; he said that hate crimes against Muslims had risen by nearly 20% in the year to March 2025. The Government also confirmed that a special representative will be appointed to support the implementation and understanding of the definition. Some critics expressed concern that the policy could limit legitimate criticism of religion, though ministers insisted that freedom of speech, including the right to criticise religious beliefs, remains fully protected under existing law.

Pray: for peace and mutual respect between communities, and for truth and freedom of speech to guide public debate. (Romans 12:18)
More: news.sky.com/story/government-announces-new-definition-of-anti-muslim-hostility-13517508

GPs say they have never refused a sick note over mental health concerns

Hundreds of GPs have told the BBC they have never refused a patient's request for a sick note related to mental health concerns, highlighting growing pressures within the current system. In a questionnaire to which 752 responded, 540 said they had never declined such a request, while 162 reported refusing at least one. Many doctors expressed frustration that issuing fit notes has become a difficult part of their role, placing them in the position of both patient advocate and gatekeeper for access to sick pay and benefits. NHS data shows the number of fit notes issued has risen significantly in recent years, with more than 956,000 citing mental health or behavioural disorders as the main reason last year. Some GPs said it was challenging to assess mental health conditions objectively and sometimes easier to issue a note than face conflict with patients. Government officials are now exploring possible reforms to the system, including greater involvement from employers and occupational health services.

Pray: for compassionate support for those struggling mentally, and for healthcare systems to provide balanced care. (Psalm 147:3)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20lew24kngo

Many Britons say moving further away from Christianity risks harming future generations

A new UK-wide poll suggests that many Britons believe moving further away from the nation's Christian foundations could harm future generations. The Whitestone survey of two thousand adults found that 52% think distancing Britain from its Christian roots would negatively affect society's future, including nearly one-third of respondents with no religious affiliation. A majority of those questioned (58%) said Christianity still offers something positive for how the country is governed, morally or practically. At the same time, 60% believe Britain has lost a meaningful shared sense of right and wrong, with only 11% saying the nation currently possesses strong shared moral values. Interestingly, younger adults appear more open to Christianity's influence than often assumed, with studies showing that many people aged 18–24 are receptive to Christian moral guidance in shaping society. The findings were released at an Oxford conference examining the role of Christian thought in Britain's future.

Pray: for spiritual renewal across Britain, and for future generations to rediscover Christ and His truth. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/most-britons-say-moving-further-away-from-christianity-risks-harming-future-generations

Europe

Ukraine / Russia: five hundred prisoners exchanged

On 5 March, Ukraine and Russia exchanged two hundred prisoners of war, with a further exchange of three hundred the next day. The swap, agreed during talks in Geneva in February, marks one of the latest humanitarian steps during the long-running conflict between the two countries. Volodymyr Zelensky said the return of the Ukrainian prisoners brought relief to many families who had waited months or years for news of their loved ones. Images released by officials showed returning soldiers embracing relatives and celebrating their release. Russian authorities also shared footage of their soldiers returning home. Prisoner exchanges have occurred periodically since the war began, offering moments of hope even while efforts to secure a broader peace settlement remain stalled amid disagreements over territory and security guarantees. More recently, Zelensky has claimed that Ukraine has made significant gains in the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region, and that Russia is losing 35,000 soldiers a month: see <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/3/11/ukraine-records-first-territorial-gains-since-2023-amid-russian-army-woes>

Pray: that a way will be found of reopening the stalled negotiations, leading to a new ceasefire and ultimately to a lasting peace. (James 3:18)
More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/3/5/ukraine-russia-free-200-pows-each-in-latest-swap-amid-stalled-peace-talks

EU: von der Leyen affirms commitment to international law

Ursula von der Leyen has reaffirmed the EU's strong commitment to international law after her remarks on 9 March about a changing global order sparked controversy. She had said that Europe could 'no longer be a custodian for the old world order', suggesting that shifting geopolitical realities require new approaches. Some supporters viewed the comment as a realistic assessment of global tensions, while critics feared it might weaken Europe's defence of international rules. Spain's prime minister Pedro Sánchez responded that the key challenge is maintaining an international order rather than allowing disorder. Von der Leyen clarified that recognising global changes does not lessen the EU's principles. She emphasised that the EU remains committed to peace, multilateral cooperation, and the principles of the United Nations Charter. Her remarks come as European leaders are sharply split over the legality of the US-Israeli war against Iran.

Pray: that European leaders will uphold justice, wisdom, and peace in global decisions. (Micah 6:8)
More: www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/03/11/after-backlash-von-der-leyen-stresses-unwavering-support-for-rules-based-order

Hungary / Ukraine: heated accusations ahead of election

Tensions have risen between Hungary and Ukraine ahead of Hungary's upcoming parliamentary election on 12 April. Viktor Orbán has accused Ukraine of attempting to influence the vote and even preparing hostile actions against his country. Ukrainian officials reject the claims, saying the accusations are part of a political campaign intended to rally support for Orbán's Fidesz party, which currently is behind in the polls. Meanwhile, reports suggest a Kremlin-linked group may also be planning disinformation efforts aimed at influencing Hungarian public opinion. A key issue in the dispute is the disruption of oil deliveries through the Druzhba pipeline after Russian drone strikes damaged infrastructure in western Ukraine in January. Orbán claims that the pipeline is intact and that Ukraine is deliberately withholding supplies, a claim rejected by Ukrainian officials. Campaign messaging inside Hungary has increasingly focused on the war and fears of wider conflict.

Pray: that truth will prevail over misinformation and tensions ease between the two nations. (Psalm 34:14)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crm8rxwyyz8o

Worldwide

USA: White House videos mixing war footage with video games

A series of videos shared by the White House has sparked debate after mixing footage of the war with Iran with scenes from films, video games, and professional sports. The posts combine real explosions with clips from entertainment franchises and popular culture, including action movies and gaming titles. Critics say the approach risks turning a deadly conflict into spectacle. Actor Ben Stiller and voice actor Steve Downes both objected to the use of their work without permission, calling for the clips to be removed. Church leaders also voiced concern, including Blase J Cupich, the Catholic archbishop of Chicago, who warned that portraying war like a video game diminishes the suffering experienced by those affected. Supporters of the videos argue they highlight the actions of American forces and communicate messages in a digital age shaped by media and entertainment. Meanwhile, Trump has said his 'excursion' will soon be over, but 'not yet': see <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/were-not-finished-yet-trump-says-on-iran/3860283>

Pray: that Trump and his entourage will value human life and pursue wisdom in conflict. (James 3:17)
More: www.1news.co.nz/2026/03/10/white-house-war-videos-marry-action-movies-sports-and-video-games/

Iran: a new Supreme Leader

Iran's clerical leaders have moved quickly to appoint a new Supreme Leader after Ali Khamenei was killed in Israeli and American strikes on the opening day of the conflict. His successor is his 56-year-old son, Mojtaba Khamenei. For years he has been influential behind the scenes, often described as a gatekeeper to his father and closely connected to key centres of power. His wife Zahra was reportedly killed in the same Israeli air strike that killed his father. Although he lacks broad public recognition and has never held elected office, reports indicate he has the backing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the powerful security force which underpins the state. His appointment is likely to reinforce the existing direction of Iran's leadership during a period of intense regional conflict and internal pressure. Observers note that many Iranians who have called for reform will see little sign of change in this appointment, which might give Donald Trump a strategic advantage in his war of words with Tehran. Breaking news: on 12 March, a message was read out on state television, said to come from the new Supreme Leader, vowing that Iran would fight on. See <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/12/iran-vows-to-fight-on-in-first-message-issued-in-name-of-mojtaba-khamenei>

Pray: that Iran's new leader and his colleagues will be given wisdom, restraint, and paths toward peace. (Proverbs 1:5)
More: [inews.co.uk/opinion/irans-new-leader-message-trump-plan-backfired-4282546?ico=best_of_opinion](https://www.inews.co.uk/opinion/irans-new-leader-message-trump-plan-backfired-4282546?ico=best_of_opinion)

Nigeria: hundreds abducted by militants in Borno state

More than 300 people, including many women and children, have been abducted after militant fighters attacked the town of Ngoshe in Nigeria's northeastern Borno state. Local officials say the assault likely came in retaliation for the recent killing of three Boko Haram commanders by Nigerian forces. The attack forms part of a wider wave of violence across the region, with additional assaults reported in several nearby communities. Although the military says troops repelled some attacks, soldiers were also killed during the fighting. Mass kidnappings have become increasingly common in Nigeria, particularly in remote areas where security is limited. Armed groups often arrive on motorbikes, raid villages quickly, and disappear into remote bushland before troops can respond. Among the militant groups operating in the region are Boko Haram, IS, and other armed gangs which engage in kidnapping and illegal mining. Analysts warn that cross-border militant cooperation and new technologies such as drones are strengthening these groups, while many communities remain vulnerable to ongoing violence.

Pray: for protection over vulnerable communities in Nigeria and for freedom, rescue, and peace for captives. (Psalm 82:4)
More: [news.sky.com/story/more-than-300-people-abducted-by-islamic-militants-in-northeastern-nigeria-officials-say-13516231](https://www.news.sky.com/story/more-than-300-people-abducted-by-islamic-militants-in-northeastern-nigeria-officials-say-13516231)

Egypt: tourism has rebounded since Covid, but many struggling with living costs due to war

Egypt's tourism sector has rebounded strongly in recent years, reaffirming its importance to the national economy. In 2025 the country welcomed nearly 19 million visitors, a 21% increase from the previous year, while tourism revenues reached €14.17 billion - more than 20% above pre-pandemic levels. This recovery follows the sharp decline in 2020 when travel restrictions caused revenues to fall dramatically. Authorities expect continued growth in 2026, supported by increased air travel, including a significant rise in charter flights, and the development of destinations such as El Alamein, Siwa and the North Coast. The government is investing in infrastructure, with plans for more than 200,000 new hotel rooms and expanded airport capacity. However, due to the new Middle East conflict many Egyptians are at present struggling with rising living costs: higher transport costs are pushing up food prices, leaving both vendors and families facing growing financial strain. See <https://www.africanews.com/2026/03/10/egypt-residents-struggle-amid-price-hikes/>

Pray: that Egypt's people will experience provision, stability, and relief from rising living costs. (Philippians 4:19)
More: www.africanews.com/2026/03/05/egypt-tourism-holds-strong-despite-regional-tensions-business-africa/

Iran: six footballers seek asylum in Australia, fearing for their safety

Six members of Iran's women's national football team have chosen to remain in Australia after taking part in the Asian Cup, requesting humanitarian protection amid concerns for their safety if they returned home. The players had travelled to Queensland for the tournament shortly before the conflict involving Iran began. Attention focused on the team after they did not sing the national anthem before a match on 2 March, a moment which observers saw as either a gesture of protest or of mourning for the US-Israeli attacks on their country. Iranian media commentators have strongly criticised the silence, and reportedly threats have been voiced against them, regarding them as disloyal during wartime. After security assessments, the Australian authorities granted temporary humanitarian visas to six team members, allowing them to stay for twelve months while considering longer-term options. The other members of the squad chose to return to Iran with the rest of the delegation.

Pray: that these athletes will experience safety, wisdom, and comfort amid uncertainty and fear. (Psalm 46:1)
More: [news.sky.com/story/players-from-iran-womens-football-team-seek-refuge-in-australia-13517229](https://www.news.sky.com/story/players-from-iran-womens-football-team-seek-refuge-in-australia-13517229)

Haiti: government drone strikes kill many, including civilians

Haiti continues to face severe insecurity as armed gangs control large areas of the capital, Port-au-Prince. In efforts to confront the violence, Haitian security forces, supported by private contractors, have used quadcopter drones carrying explosives in anti-gang operations since March last year. According to a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW), these strikes have killed at least 1,243 people (including sixty civilians) and injured 738. Many of the attacks have occurred in densely populated neighbourhoods, raising serious concerns about civilian casualties. One strike reportedly killed nine people, including three children, and injured several others. Residents describe the devastating impact on families living in gang-controlled areas. HRW and UN officials have warned that some strikes appear disproportionate and may violate international law. The UN has also indicated that there are currently no clear signs that these incidents are being formally investigated.

Pray: that Haiti's communities will find safety, justice, and protection for vulnerable families. (Psalm 9:9)
More: www.africanews.com/2026/03/10/egypt-residents-struggle-amid-price-hikes/

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

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