

Prayer Alert

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For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. (1 Corinthians 4:20)

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



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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

'We thank God': Scottish Parliament rejects assisted suicide in historic vote

Scotland's Parliament has rejected proposals to legalise assisted suicide in a significant and closely watched vote, with MSPs voting 69 to 57 against the bill after extensive debate. The bill had sought to permit medically assisted death for certain patients, but concerns over safeguards, coercion, and risks to vulnerable people proved decisive. Many Christian leaders and organisations welcomed the outcome, giving thanks that the intrinsic value of every human life has been upheld. Medical bodies, disability advocates, and faith groups had raised serious objections, warning of unintended consequences seen in other nations where such laws have expanded over time. The debate was deeply personal, with many MSPs reflecting on experiences of illness and loss, yet ultimately choosing to prioritise protection, dignity, and care. Attention is now turning toward improving palliative care and support for those facing serious illness, ensuring compassionate alternatives that honour life until its natural end.

Praise: God for protecting life, guiding leaders, and upholding dignity, compassion, and care for the vulnerable. (Deuteronomy 30:19)
More: www.christianpost.com/news/scottish-parliament-rejects-assisted-suicide-in-historic-vote.html

A thousand attend revival at Texas university, eighty make decisions for Christ

Around a thousand students gathered for a three-night, student-led tent revival at a university in Texas, continuing a long-standing tradition of campus spiritual renewal. Organised through months of prayerful planning by student leaders and the university's Student Life team, the event created space for worship, preaching, and deeper engagement with God. The revival reflects a historic pattern at the university, recalling earlier outpourings such as a significant move of God in 1909 when many students responded to Christ. This year, about eighty students made decisions to follow Jesus, recommitted their lives, or sensed a call to ministry and missions. Guest speaker Shane Pruitt focused on the biblical image of the potter and clay, encouraging students to surrender to God's shaping hand and walk in His purposes. As attendance grew each evening, with overflow crowds by the final night, many experienced repentance, freedom, and renewed passion for Christ.

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Praise: God for revival among students, drawing hearts to Christ and raising bold leaders for His mission. (Psalm 85:6)
More: www.christianpost.com/news/hundreds-attend-tent-revival-at-texas-university.html

Stunning testimony of answered prayer from Ukraine

Worship leader Brooke Ligertwood has shared a remarkable testimony of God's faithfulness, describing a providential meeting with a Ukrainian woman whose prayers helped shape her journey. While visiting a theological campus in Texas to audit a doctoral course, Ligertwood encountered Ksusha, a Ukrainian theology student studying remotely while living amid the challenges of war. Years earlier, Ksusha had seen a video in which Ligertwood expressed a desire to study theology. Moved by this, she began praying earnestly for God to open that door. In a striking moment of divine orchestration, the two women met in person at the very class Ligertwood had been invited to attend. Ksusha shared how she had faithfully prayed, and together they witnessed the beginning of that prayer being answered. Ligertwood reflected on the experience with awe, recognising God's personal care and timing.

Praise: God for answering faithful prayers, revealing His care, timing, and purpose in every detail. (1 John 5:14)
More: www.faithwire.com/2026/03/16/worship-leader-brooke-ligertwood-shares-stunning-testimony-of-answered-prayer-from-ukraine/

British Isles

Meningitis outbreak latest: more cases

A meningitis outbreak in Kent is continuing to develop, with 27 confirmed and suspected cases to date. Health officials are warning that numbers may increase further. The outbreak, linked initially to a nightclub in Canterbury, has mainly affected university students. At least two deaths have been reported, while others remain in hospital. In response, authorities have significantly expanded vaccination efforts, offering MenB vaccines to thousands of students. Over 6,500 precautionary antibiotic doses have already been distributed. Health officials are investigating whether the outbreak's unusual scale is due to environmental factors or a potentially more transmissible strain. While the situation has not yet been declared contained, the wider risk to the general public remains low. Students have responded positively to vaccination efforts, and health agencies continue to urge vigilance and rapid treatment.

Pray: for protection over students, swift containment, effective treatment, and peace for families affected by this outbreak. (Psalm 121:7)
More: news.sky.com/story/meningitis-outbreak-latest-university-student-and-school-pupil-die-as-11-also-fall-ill-13520387

Gas prices surge by 25% overnight after strikes in Qatar

UK gas prices have surged by around 25% following escalating conflict in the Middle East, raising fresh concerns over energy security and household costs. The spike came after Iranian missile strikes hit a major liquefied natural gas facility in Qatar, causing significant damage and disrupting production. With Britain heavily reliant on imported gas and Europe's reserves already depleted after a cold winter, markets reacted sharply. Prices for natural gas and oil both rose rapidly, with experts warning this could lead to increased bills for UK households already affected by previous energy crises. Government leaders have described the situation as a pivotal moment, highlighting the risks of dependence on volatile global energy supplies. Calls are growing to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, which could provide greater stability and reduce exposure to international conflicts. Analysts suggest that reducing reliance on gas and expanding domestic renewable sources may offer a more secure and sustainable long-term solution. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c24de9e97vno](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c24de9e97vno)

Pray: for stability in global energy markets, protection for households, and wise leadership in long-term energy decisions. (Psalm 107:29)
More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-natural-gas-prices-iran-war-oil-south-pars-b2941568.html

Two charged with Iran-linked espionage on Jewish community

Two men have been charged under the UK's National Security Act following an investigation into alleged espionage targeting London's Jewish community. Nematollah Shahsavani, a dual British-Iranian national, and Alireza Farasati, an Iranian national, are accused of conducting reconnaissance of locations and individuals linked to the community on behalf of Iran's intelligence services. The charges relate to activity in July and August 2025, with authorities describing the case as extremely serious. Counter-terrorist police have emphasised their commitment to protecting public safety, particularly for communities which may feel vulnerable or targeted. The Jewish community is being assured that decisive action is being taken and that any threats will be pursued relentlessly. Two other men arrested during the investigation were released without charge.

Pray: for protection over the Jewish community, exposure of wrongdoing, and justice upheld with truth and peace. (Psalm 27:1)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwygyvrwq89o

Bank of England says inflation will probably rise due to Iran war

The Bank of England has held interest rates at 3.75% amid growing concerns that conflict in the Middle East will drive up inflation in the UK. The decision follows rising energy prices linked to disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route for global oil and gas supplies. Iranian attacks have significantly reduced shipping through the region, contributing to increased costs for fuel, utilities, and goods. The Bank warned that inflation could rise to around 3.5% in the coming months, reversing earlier expectations of a continued decline. While the rate hold was widely anticipated, it means borrowing costs for households remain high, with mortgage rates already increasing. Officials emphasised that resolving the crisis depends on restoring safe passage through key energy routes. The situation highlights the UK's vulnerability to global shocks and the wider economic impact of international conflict; policymakers have to 'wait and see' as events continue to unfold.

Pray: for economic stability, relief for households, and wisdom for leaders navigating uncertainty and global financial pressures. (Isaiah 26:3)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/cm2r295p8p9t

Sadiq Khan: Labour should pledge to rejoin the EU at next election

London mayor Sadiq Khan has called for the UK to rejoin the EU, urging the Labour Party to make this a central pledge at the next general election. He argued that Brexit has caused significant economic, social, and cultural harm, particularly in London, and believes changing global circumstances justify revisiting the decision. Citing rising international instability and shifting political dynamics, Khan described rejoining the EU as 'inevitable' and proposed renewed membership of both the customs union and single market. However, the Government has firmly rejected this approach, maintaining that it will not return to the EU's core structures or freedom of movement. Instead, leaders are pursuing closer cooperation through trade agreements and regulatory alignment in specific areas. The debate highlights ongoing divisions over the UK's future relationship with Europe, with economic pressures and geopolitical uncertainty continuing to shape political discussion and long-term national strategy.

Pray: for unity and discernment in national decisions, guiding leaders toward choices that promote stability and common good. (James 1:5)

More: www.itv.com/news/london/2026-03-19/sadiq-khan-labour-should-pledge-to-rejoin-the-eu-at-next-election

Sarah Mullally says she'll vote on Lords key abortion reform clause

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, has confirmed she will take part in a key House of Lords vote on proposed abortion law changes, following concern that a planned pilgrimage might prevent her attendance. The vote relates to an amendment that would decriminalise abortion at any stage of pregnancy in England and Wales, a proposal that has generated significant debate. Pro-life groups and Christian voices had urged bishops to be present, stressing the importance of the issue and its implications for the protection of unborn life. Lambeth Palace confirmed the Archbishop will attend the vote while continuing her pilgrimage, which forms part of her spiritual preparation for her installation. The outcome of the vote carries profound moral and legal significance, with many highlighting the need to uphold both the dignity of life and compassionate support for those in crisis. See (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp323zpxp110>) and also (<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/archbishop-of-canterbury-embarks-on-pilgrimage-ahead-of-installation>)

Pray: for truth and courage in leadership, upholding the sanctity of life with compassion, clarity, and conviction. (Proverbs 31:8)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/sarah-mullally-confirms-shell-vote-on-abortion-reform-clause.html

Europe

Ukraine: Zelensky concerned about attention and missiles being diverted to Middle East

Volodymyr Zelensky has warned that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East could weaken his country's ability to defend itself against Russia. He expressed concern that global attention and military resources, particularly from the USA, are being redirected, potentially leading to shortages of key defence supplies such as air defence missiles. Rising energy prices linked to the wider conflict are also adding pressure to Ukraine's situation. He suggested that prolonged instability elsewhere could benefit Russia by stretching international support and delaying peace efforts. At the same time, he called for greater unity among Western leaders, urging stronger cooperation to maintain focus on Ukraine's ongoing struggle. Diplomatic tensions between allies risk complicating that effort, even though leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Ukraine. The challenge of sustaining attention, resources, and coordination has become increasingly complex, raising concerns about how long current levels of support for Ukraine can be maintained.

Pray: for unity, provision, and perseverance for Ukraine as the war drags on. (Psalm 46:1)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8r813x66jo

Iran war: Trump threatens NATO allies if they do not help him

Donald Trump has warned NATO that it faces a 'very bad future' unless its member states help to keep the Strait of Hormuz open to global oil shipments. The waterway is a critical route for around 20% of the world's oil, and disruption there has already heightened fears of economic instability. European nations now face a difficult choice between maintaining alliances and avoiding deeper involvement in the widening conflict, which Trump started without consulting his allies. Closing the strait was always seen as one of Iran's main weapons, and Trump's expectations that destroying the Iranian navy would prevent that from happening have proved unjustified: just by threatening drone strikes on tankers, Iran has effectively closed the strait and driven up oil prices. Trump wants NATO to send warships to escort convoys through the strait, which they are reluctant to do; he has now appealed to China, South Korea, Japan, and Australia to help. Other military options could further escalate the conflict, particularly if key infrastructure becomes a target.

Pray: that all the leaders involved will pursue wisdom, restraint, and peace amid rising global tensions. (James 3:17)

More: www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/why-is-trump-arm-twisting-nato-nations-into-clearing-his-iran-mess?ref=more-on-this-topic

Worldwide

Iran: loss of Ali Larijani will be a body blow to the country

Israel's assassination of Ali Larijani, a central figure in Iran's political and security establishment, will be a devastating body blow to the country, probably even more than the loss of the supreme leader Ali Khamenei at the outset of the war. Known for his ability to bridge factions within Iran's complex system, he played a key role linking military and civilian authorities while maintaining influence with international partners. His loss removes a figure seen as capable of navigating both internal divisions and external pressures. He had supported diplomatic engagement alongside firm internal control, positioning himself as a pragmatic voice amid headline elements. His absence could strengthen more hardline forces, complicating any path towards stability or ceasefire. News update: on 18 March Iran's intelligence minister, Esmail Khatib, was killed in an air strike. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2d1dz14k510>

Pray: that peace, wisdom, and stability will emerge in Iran despite deep political uncertainty. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

More: www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/17/ali-larijani-influence-iran-profile

Cuba: nationwide blackout for 29 hours, pressures of US embargo

After a nationwide blackout which left the entire population without electricity for 29 hours, Cuba has managed to restore power. The outage, one of several in recent months, reflects a deepening energy crisis caused by fuel shortages and an ageing power grid. Although the national system is now back online, officials warn that electricity supply remains unstable and unable to meet demand. The crisis has been intensified by Donald Trump's decision to cut off the island's oil supply from Venezuela and threats to slap tariffs on countries which

ship fuel to the nation. He has also upped his rhetoric against Cuba, saying that he could do 'anything he wanted' to the country. Many households were already experiencing long daily outages before the collapse, disrupting food, water and essential services. Tensions between Cuba and the USA continue to escalate, although they are engaged in talks aimed at easing the situation. For ordinary citizens, the hardship continues despite partial recovery, as they face ongoing uncertainty and limited resources in daily life.

Pray: for provision, stability, and hope for Cubans facing ongoing hardship. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: www.aljazeera.com/economy/2026/3/18/cuba-restores-power-after-29-hour-blackout-amid-us-oil-blockade

South Africa: water shortages, criminal activity, protests

In parts of Johannesburg and surrounding areas, residents are protesting ongoing water shortages that have left some communities without reliable supply for weeks. Even in well-developed suburbs, taps have run dry, disrupting daily life and raising health concerns. In poorer areas, inconsistent access to clean water has persisted for years, forcing reliance on water tankers. Frustration has grown as people report having to pay for water that should be free, with allegations of corruption and exploitation worsening the crisis. Experts point to ageing infrastructure and a lack of investment as the root causes, while criminal activity may be compounding the problem. Government leaders, acknowledging the seriousness of the situation, have announced plans for coordinated action. However, for many residents, daily hardship continues as they struggle to access one of life's most basic necessities, highlighting deep inequalities and urgent need for lasting solutions.

Pray: for reliable water, justice, and provision for struggling communities. (Isaiah 44:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg3gjx22j0o

Nigeria: coordinated attacks in Maiduguri kill and injure many

On 16 March, coordinated bomb attacks by suspected suicide bombers struck the Nigerian city of Maiduguri, killing at least 23 people and injuring over a hundred. The explosions hit a crowded market, a hospital entrance and a nearby area just after people broke their Ramadan fast, and caused panic as survivors fled. The military have blamed the jihadist Boko Haram group, which originated in the town in 2009, and warned of increased threats during the final days of the holy month. The attacks shattered a period of relative calm in the city, long associated with insurgency but recently more stable than surrounding rural areas. Violence across northeastern Nigeria has persisted, with extremist groups continuing assaults which have killed tens of thousands and displaced millions. Officials have increased security presence and pledged stronger action, though concerns remain about ongoing vulnerability. The resurgence of attacks highlights the fragile security situation and the continued challenges facing efforts to restore peace and stability in the region.

Pray: for comfort, healing, and protection for those affected by violence. (Psalm 72:14)

More: www.africanews.com/2026/03/18/security-analyst-on-maiduguri-attacks-the-city-has-always-been-vulnerable/

Haiti: record number of political parties register for election

There has been a surge of political activity ahead of Haiti's first general election in a decade, with a record 280 parties registering by the deadline. New groups expressed hope that fresh leadership could help address the country's deep crises, driven by gang violence and corruption. One party arrived for registration with a marching band and vuvuzelas; another, led by former prime minister Claude Joseph, was more sober, but equally committed to the need to break cycles of political instability. Despite this momentum, uncertainty remains over whether elections will proceed as planned. Ongoing insecurity continues to disrupt daily life, with widespread violence, thousands of deaths, and mass displacement. Armed groups control much of the capital, raising concerns about whether safe campaigning and voting are possible. Even so, some leaders insist that moving forward with elections is essential for the nation's future and a step toward restoring order and public trust. The electoral council says it will post a list of parties authorised to participate in the election by 26 March.

Pray: that Haiti's elections will proceed safely and bring wise, just leadership. (Proverbs 21:1)

More: www.npr.org/2026/03/13/g-s1-113547/a-record-number-of-political-parties-register-for-haitis-first-election-in-a-decade

USA: judge orders Trump to restore Voice of America

A federal judge has ruled that the shutdown of Voice of America (VOA) was unlawful, ordering that the broadcaster be restored within a week and that hundreds of journalists be reinstated. The decision follows mass layoffs in January, after Donald Trump appointed Kari Lake to carry out an executive order to close VOA and associated outlets, which his officials accused of left-wing bias. The court found the actions lacked proper legal authority and failed to consider the broadcaster's mandated role. Before it was wound down, VOA, originally established to counter Nazi propaganda, was broadcasting TV, radio and digital content in almost fifty languages. Its closure raised concerns about the future of independent international broadcasting and access to reliable information. The ruling offers hope for the restoration of its services, though uncertainty remains over potential appeals and future leadership decisions. The case highlights ongoing debates about media independence, government authority, and the role of public broadcasting in a complex global information landscape.

Pray: for VOA's full restoration, truthful reporting, and protection of media integrity worldwide. (Proverbs 12:22)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce3g3j1y2ldo

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