

Prayer Alert

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Without faith it is impossible to please God, (Hebrews 11:6a)

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

Please pray for the Norwegian parliamentary elections taking place on 8 September - see the Prayer Alert [2025 Elections Prayer Guide](#).

The next 'Hope Countryside' online gathering, 'a movement of hope in rural Britain', sharing stories of mission; encouraging and praying for each other, is on Wednesday 17 September 7.30-9.00pm. If you are free to join us it will be good to see you and catch up together. Zoom ID 821 1671 9194 / Code: 905289. More info: <https://hopecountryside.substack.com/>



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

[Miracle healings as 40,000 Christians gather](#)

At London's ExCeL Arena, 40,000 believers joined Pastor Jerry Eze's New Season Prophetic Prayers and Declarations conference, the UK's largest Christian gathering this year. The six-hour event was marked by fervent worship, bold declarations, and testimonies of God's power. Ministers stirred the crowd with faith-filled proclamations, urging worshippers to believe that walls of opposition had fallen and breakthroughs were imminent. Attendees testified of God's intervention: a woman finally received her UK visa after years of denials; a nurse cleared of false accusations unexpectedly found a husband after decades of waiting. Worship leader Dunsin Oyekan led participants to lift prayer requests - contracts, photos, and lists of 'new beginnings' - as symbols of faith. The highlight came as miraculous healings unfolded: wheelchair users walked, crutches were discarded, and stroke survivors stood unaided, tumours dissolved, and sight and mobility were restored. Amid rejoicing, Pastor Eze declared: 'What God cannot do does not exist'. The event concluded with thousands of voices shouting 'Amen' to his promise that next year's greatest testimonies had already begun.

Praise: God for mighty healings and salvations; may revival fire spread throughout the UK and beyond. (Hebrews 13:8)

More: www.premierchristianity.com/news-analysis/pastor-jerry-eze-hosted-2025s-largest-gathering-of-christians-in-the-uk-heres-what-happened/20017.article

A charity is giving people money to stop homelessness

A pioneering UK charity, Greater Change, is transforming lives by giving direct financial support to people facing homelessness. When single mother Laura Burns was threatened with eviction due to debts and moving costs, she received £600 almost instantly, enabling her to secure a new home. Today, she has a job, a fiancé, and renewed hope. Greater Change's approach is simple yet radical: provide people with dignity and choice, allowing them to use funds for deposits, bills, or debts. Since January, the charity has distributed £699,000 to 403 people, with 86% moving into stable housing and almost half gaining employment. Critics fear misuse of funds, but international studies show that recipients rarely spend on harmful addictions. Instead, they invest in rebuilding their lives. Partnering with councils, philanthropists, and grant bodies, Greater Change saves taxpayers thousands per client by preventing homelessness before it becomes entrenched. For many, even modest grants are life-changing interventions at the right moment, offering stability, opportunity, and hope.

Praise: God for creative initiatives restoring dignity and homes; may many find lasting stability through His provision. (Psalm 9:18)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce83716edj1o

British Isles

National Week of Prayer

From 6 to 14 September, Christians unite in the National Week of Prayer (NWoP) under the call 'Gather, remember, return'. Inspired by Zechariah 1:3, the vision is to humble ourselves, repent, and seek God's presence for national transformation. Over 115 prayer gatherings are already confirmed - from Bristol to Blackpool, Jersey to the Isle of Man - with more registrations daily. Activities range from inter-church meetings and workplace prayer groups to early morning breakfasts and online sessions. Ministries and networks are laying aside busy agendas to come together in worship, thanksgiving, and intercession, celebrating the good things God has done and continues to do in the nation. Organisers see NWoP as part of a growing spiritual awakening and an answer to Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17:21. Believers are encouraged to join existing events or start their own, making prayer a visible wave of oneness rising across the UK and beyond. See (<https://worldprayer.org.uk/events/nwop-revival-prayer-hour/>) Also see (<https://www.24-7prayer.com/weekofprayer/>)

Pray: for unity, repentance, and revival across the British Isles as believers gather during NWoP. (2 Chronicles 7:14a)
More: www.nationalweekofprayer.uk/

Reeves rejects claims of £50bn 'black hole' in finances

Rachel Reeves has dismissed claims that she faces a £50 billion 'black hole' in the public finances. She insisted that reports about massive funding gaps were exaggerated, saying many commentators were 'talking rubbish'. Concerns rose this week as long-term government borrowing costs hit a 27-year high, sparking fears of tax hikes or spending cuts ahead of the 26 November Budget. Reeves emphasised her commitment to two borrowing rules: that day-to-day spending must be funded from tax income by 2029-30, and that debt must fall as a share of national income within this parliament. While she ruled out tax rises on VAT, National Insurance, and income tax for working people, speculation continues over possibly targeting property, banks, and other sectors. She rejected talk of an IMF bailout, and promised to strike a balance between funding public services - particularly the NHS - and encouraging growth, saying there are already 'positive signs' in the economy. See <https://news.sky.com/story/interest-rates-considerably-more-doubt-over-future-cuts-bank-of-england-governor-warns-13424292>

Pray: for integrity, fairness, and God's guidance in the UK's economic decisions impacting families and vital services. (Proverbs 13:11)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx27nm2mn5po

Scottish government halts cash for arms to Israel, flies Palestinian flag

Scottish first minister John Swinney has announced a series of measures in response to the crisis in Gaza, declaring that Israel's actions 'constitute genocide'. The Scottish government has paused new awards of public money to arms companies supplying the Israeli military; Swinney also confirmed that Palestinian flags are now flying at government buildings. He urged the UK government to recognise the state of Palestine and withdraw from its free trade agreement with Israel immediately. Scottish Conservatives called the Gaza conflict a 'blight on humanity'; Scottish Labour's Anas Sarwar condemned Benjamin Netanyahu as a 'war criminal'; Greens welcomed the action but sought a broader boycott; and Liberal Democrats pressed both governments to help more injured children from Gaza receive treatment in Scotland. Swinney insisted Scotland will continue offering practical humanitarian support within its devolved powers. See <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/crown-prosecution-service-london-southwark-palestinian-cardiff-b2819723.html>

Pray: for just and compassionate decisions by UK leaders amid the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. (Psalm 82:3)
More: news.stv.tv/scotland/scottish-government-flies-palestinian-flag-as-it-halts-funding-of-arms-companies-involved-in-israel

MoD figures show armed forces still shrinking despite recruitment drive

New Ministry of Defence (MoD) figures reveal that despite a rise in applications and new recruits, the UK's armed forces continue to shrink. In the 12 months to June 30, 13,520 people joined the regular forces, up 13% on the previous year, but 14,020 left, leaving the overall strength reduced by 500. While applications surged, the overall full-time strength of the army, navy, and RAF fell by 2,190 (2%), with the reserves down 1.2%. Personnel often cite poor housing conditions as a key reason for leaving, though the government has pledged investment to improve service homes. Defence leaders warn the decline threatens national security at a time of heightened global instability and looming threats from Russia. While ministers stress decisive action is being taken, critics argue that Britain's defence capability remains dangerously undermanned.

Pray: for strengthened recruitment and retention, ensuring the UK's armed forces are equipped to defend the nation. (Psalm 60:12)
More: www.thetimes.com/article/cda18a3e-82a7-4b68-b91e-22fb2e4d891f

Oil refinery workers rally outside Parliament

Hundreds of workers from the Lindsey Oil Refinery in North Killingholme rallied outside Parliament this week, urging government action to save their jobs. The refinery, owned by Prax Group, went into liquidation in June after £75m of losses over three years, reducing the UK's domestic fuel supply by at least 10%. Unite union leader Sharon Graham condemned the lack of a transition plan for oil and gas workers into green jobs, calling the situation 'a disgrace'. The Department for Energy Security acknowledged workers had been 'let down' but highlighted a proposed training guarantee to help staff move into the clean energy sector. Workers expressed deep concerns for their families, futures, and communities, warning that closure could devastate livelihoods. With 450 direct employees, 500 contractors, and thousands more in the supply chain affected, Unite argues the refinery is 'critical national infrastructure' whose future must be guaranteed. Officials confirmed that the Official Receiver has received bids for the site, but workers remain anxious for urgent decisive action.

Pray: for protection of jobs and families, and for wise solutions balancing energy needs and transition. (Matthew 6:11)
More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/c86068809pno

Rayner admits underpaying tax on Hove flat, but PM backs her

Deputy prime minister Angela Rayner has admitted underpaying stamp duty on her £800,000 flat in Hove, blaming reliance on flawed legal advice. The property purchase in May was part-funded by selling her stake in a Greater Manchester family home, which had been placed in trust to support her disabled son. Fresh advice later revealed that complexities in the trust meant she should have paid the higher rate reserved for second homes. Rayner has now alerted HMRC, pledged to pay the outstanding tax, and referred herself to the prime minister's standards adviser for investigation. Sir Keir Starmer defended his deputy, praising her transparency and family priorities, while critics - led by Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch - argued her position was untenable. The case presents political difficulties for Labour, as Rayner previously criticised Conservative ministers over integrity issues. While some voiced sympathy for her circumstances, many continue to press for her removal. Downing Street has confirmed that an independent inquiry will now examine the matter.

Pray: for integrity, accountability, and compassion in political leadership, that truth and justice prevail over partisan attacks. (Proverbs 11:3)
More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy50446rq73o

Europe

Bulgaria: von der Leyen's plane subjected to electronic jamming

On 1 September, in what authorities suspect was Russian interference, Ursula von der Leyen's plane was subjected to GPS jamming while landing in Bulgaria. The flight, which landed safely using paper maps, highlighted the persistent threat of disrupting aviation traffic electronically. Russia has long been accused of such tactics, particularly in the Baltic and Scandinavian regions, though the Kremlin has denied involvement. The incident occurred during von der Leyen's tour of eastern EU states, aimed at reinforcing solidarity with Ukraine amid ongoing Russian aggression. She said that the EU must keep up their sense of urgency, adding: 'Putin has not changed, and he will not change. He can only be kept in check through strong deterrence.' The event also served as a reminder of the risks faced by European leaders when showing visible support for Ukraine's sovereignty and freedom.

Pray: for wisdom and unity among European leaders as they confront threats while supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and peace. (Psalm 27:1a)
More: edition.cnn.com/2025/09/01/world/plane-ursula-von-der-leyen-intl

Ukraine: Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia all willing to contribute troops for security guarantees

Estonia's president, Alar Karis, has said it is prepared to contribute troops to an international reassurance force that the 'Coalition of the Willing' plans to send to Ukraine as a post-ceasefire security guarantee. He said Estonia is not overly concerned that this would weaken NATO's eastern flank, though discussions with alliance leaders continue. Lithuania and Latvia are also willing to participate, but Poland has declined, citing the need to protect its own borders. The reassurance force would be deployed only in non-contact areas within Ukraine. NATO secretary-general Mark Rutte noted that while NATO itself will not formally participate, the alliance is quietly discussing how to ensure resources are not overstretched. About 80,000 US troops are currently in Europe, but there could be a reduction in numbers as Washington's foreign policy pivots towards the Indo-Pacific. The 'Coalition of the Willing' will meet again on 4 September; the security guarantees it will aim to provide for Ukraine following a truce are almost ready, but confirmation of US support is now needed.

Pray: for steadfast unity among European allies and for clarity in US commitments. (Psalm 82:3)
More: www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/09/03/estonia-not-worried-joining-ukraines-reassurance-force-will-weaken-eastern-flank-says-pres

Lisbon: funicular railway crash 'due partly to overtourism'

A tragic derailment of Lisbon's historic Glória funicular railway has left 16 dead and 21 injured, after a carriage broke free and crashed into a hotel. The popular railway, dating back to 1885 and carrying around three million passengers annually, has been at the center of debate about overtourism. Residents say it has shifted from serving locals to functioning primarily as a tourist attraction, placing heavy strain on the system. Investigators believe a snapped haulage cable caused the accident, though union leaders had previously raised concerns about braking difficulties. Maintenance protocols were reportedly in place, but questions are mounting as the outsourced maintenance contract had expired just days before the crash. The incident prompted national mourning, suspension of other funiculars in the city, and renewed scrutiny over balancing heritage preservation, safety, and the pressures of mass tourism in Portugal's capital.

Pray: for comfort for grieving families, healing for the injured, and wisdom for authorities addressing safety amid tourism pressures. (Psalm 34:18)
More: www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2025/09/04/overtourism-blamed-cable-car-crash-killed-17-lisbon/

Worldwide

Afghanistan: hundreds dead after powerful earthquake

A powerful 6.0 magnitude earthquake has devastated Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, killing 1,400 and injuring at least 3,000. Striking late at night near Jalalabad, the quake was felt as far away as Kabul and neighbouring Pakistan. Entire villages collapsed under the force, with fragile mud and timber homes burying families beneath rubble. Rescue efforts have been severely hampered by landslides, blocked roads, and the region's mountainous terrain, leaving many unreachable for hours. Helicopters are being used to transport survivors, while international aid organisations and neighbouring countries have offered assistance. The timing of the disaster compounds Afghanistan's hardships, already strained by recent flash floods, ongoing humanitarian needs, and a collapsed healthcare system under Taliban rule. Hospitals near the epicentre, especially in Jalalabad, are overwhelmed. With infrastructure destroyed and communications cut, the death toll is expected to rise further. Rebuilding will take years.

Pray: for comfort and strength for grieving families, and swift aid to reach communities trapped in devastation. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
More: news.sky.com/story/afghanistan-earthquake-several-villages-completely-destroyed-by-magnitude-6-0-tremor-13422844

Haiti: kidnapped missionary is freed

Irish lay missionary Gena Heraty, who has served in Haiti for three decades, has been freed after nearly a month of captivity. She and several others, including a three-year-old child with a disability, were kidnapped during an armed gang attack on an orphanage outside Port-au-Prince. The NGO with which Heraty works, expressed profound gratitude for the release, saying the hostages are safe, receiving medical and psychological care, and reunited with their families. Heraty's family issued a heartfelt statement thanking everyone, locally and internationally, who helped secure her freedom, and they requested privacy as she recovers. The case underscores Haiti's worsening security crisis, with gangs now controlling an estimated 85% of the capital. Kidnappings remain rampant, with the UN reporting nearly 350 abductions in just the first half of 2025.

Pray: giving thanks for Heraty's release. Pray for healing for her and the other freed hostages, and for lasting peace and protection for Haiti's people. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
More: www.indcatholicnews.com/news/53164

China: huge military parade watched by Putin, Kim, and other leaders

Beijing has hosted a grand military parade marking eighty years since the end of WW2, with Xi Jinping standing alongside Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un in a rare joint appearance. Xi framed the event as a moment for nations to choose between 'peace and war', as China unveiled an extensive array of modern weaponry, including huge nuclear-capable underwater drones, and futuristic defence systems. With more than 50,000 chosen spectators present, the spectacle highlighted China's military ambitions and global positioning. The gathering drew leaders from Iran, Pakistan, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, and others, though most Western leaders declined invitations. Xi emphasized unity and prosperity in his toast, urging nations to reject 'the law of the jungle'. After the parade, at bilateral talks, Putin praised Pyongyang for contributing troops to fight in Ukraine; it is estimated that there are now 15,000 North Korean troops there.

Pray: for wisdom among global leaders, especially considering the need to resist the temptation to escalate tensions between East and West. (Romans 12:18)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8z83np4xjo

USA: Trump says 'we're going in', sends National Guard to Chicago

Donald Trump has announced plans to deploy National Guard troops to Chicago, describing the city as a 'hellhole' plagued by violent crime. He hinted Baltimore could be next, insisting his actions are not politically motivated despite targeting Democratic-led cities. Illinois governor JB Pritzker and Chicago's mayor strongly opposed the move; Pritzker called it an 'invasion', stating that murders have fallen nearly 50 percent in four years. There have already been protests in Chicago expressing opposition, as residents fear further unrest. The announcement follows Trump's controversial use of troops in Washington and Los Angeles, where a federal judge has recently ruled he overstepped legal boundaries. The judge said that Trump appears intent on 'creating a national police force with the President as its chief'. He has barred National Guard troops or marines from performing police functions: however, this will come into effect only on 12 September, potentially leaving an opening for the conservative-dominated supreme court to rule on the case.

Pray: for peace in divided communities and a continuing fall in violence. Pray that Trump will heed the warnings that he is exceeding his legal powers, and for city authorities to have wisdom in knowing how to maintain order. (Psalm 106:3)

More: www.france24.com/en/americas/20250903-trump-troops-chicago-gun-national-guards

Pakistan: nearly half a million displaced by floods

Catastrophic flooding has displaced nearly half a million people in Pakistan's Punjab province after days of torrential monsoon rain swelled three major rivers. More than 2,300 villages have been inundated, affecting over 1.5 million residents, including parts of Lahore. In what authorities describe as the largest rescue effort in Punjab's history, 481,000 people and 405,000 livestock have been evacuated using more than 800 boats and 1,300 rescue personnel. Over five hundred relief camps have been established to provide shelter and care for displaced families. The floods have killed at least thirty people, adding to the hundreds of lives lost during this year's unusually heavy monsoon season. But with the rains continuing, authorities have warned that the crisis is far from over.

Pray: for strength for rescue workers, safety for displaced families, and lasting relief from Pakistan's devastating floods. (Psalm 10:14)

More: www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2025/8/31/pakistan-punjab-evacuates-half-a-million-people-stranded-by-floods

Peru: Indonesian diplomat assassinated

Peru is reeling after the shocking assassination of Indonesian diplomat Zetro Leonardo Purba, who was fatally shot three times in Lima. The government expressed deep condolences and condemned the killing as a 'heinous act', pledging full cooperation with Indonesian authorities and enhanced protection for embassy staff. While the national police chief suggested the incident might have been a targeted attack by foreign assailants, Indonesian officials expressed doubt, noting Purba had not received prior threats. Some attributed the tragedy to rising violent crime in the capital, where homicides and extortion have surged under president Dina Boluarte. Purba, who had been serving in Lima for only five months, leaves behind a wife and children. His death comes just weeks after Peru and Indonesia marked fifty years of diplomatic relations with a free-trade agreement.

Pray: for justice in this tragedy, comfort for Purba's family, and stronger protection for those serving in embassies and missions abroad. (Psalm 91:4)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/9/2/peru-pledges-to-investigate-the-heinous-killing-of-indonesian-diplomat

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