

Prayer Alert

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I will praise You as long as I live, and in Your name I will lift up my hands. (Psalm 63:4)

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

Please pray for parliamentary elections taking place in Czech Republic (3-4 Oct) and Syria (5 Oct). See the Prayer Alert [2025 Elections Prayer Guide](#).

Hope for the Countryside's 'Autumn Seeds of Prayer' provides some inspirational prayers and reflections. View and download it [HERE](#).

You are all invited to join the World Prayer Centre, Birmingham's weekly Revival Prayer Hour each Wednesday morning at 9.30am. If you share our calling to pray into issues affecting our nation and a heartfelt desire to see revival in the British Isles - do join us! [More Info and sign-up here](#).



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

'Soul on Fire': hope and purpose from tragedy, loss

At the age of nine, John O'Leary suffered burns over his entire body in a gasoline explosion, losing all his fingers and facing little chance of survival. His remarkable journey of recovery, faith, and purpose is now portrayed in Sony's upcoming film 'Soul on Fire'. Directed by Sean McNamara, the film depicts how O'Leary transformed tragedy into triumph, discovering hope in Christ and encouragement through others. Legendary baseball announcer Jack Buck became a key supporter, visiting John in hospital and later welcoming him to the Cardinals. John's family, especially his mother and sister, modelled sacrificial love, urging him to cling to God and fight for life. Today, O'Leary speaks globally, teaching gratitude as essential, even in prison cells or painful trials. He insists God redeems all suffering for good, turning victims into victors. Based on his bestselling book 'On Fire', the film shows how faith, love, and gratitude can ignite resilience, inspiring countless lives worldwide.

Praise: God for transforming tragedy into hope, using John O'Leary's story to ignite faith and courage globally. (Romans 8:28)

More: www.godreports.com/2025/09/soul-on-fire-movie-hope-and-purpose-from-tragedy-loss/

Journey to Jesus via a drug bust, mysticism, Meher Baba

Joe and Nancy's journey to Christ began amid the hippie counterculture of Southern California. They first met in 1969 at a friend's home during a police drug raid, and their instant connection led them into a shared search for meaning. Drawn into the psychedelic scene, they explored Eastern mysticism, following gurus like Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and Meher Baba. Yet, when Meher Baba died without fulfilling his promise of a world-changing word, their spiritual hunger deepened. Living in Hawaii, they discovered Christian literature and later, through Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, Nancy encountered the Gospel powerfully. Desperate for truth, she accepted Christ and was soon baptised. Joe initially resisted but was later moved to repentance and baptised the same day. Married in 1970, they have remained in church fellowship ever since. Now celebrating 55 years together, their enduring testimony shows how God redeems searching hearts with lasting love and truth.

Praise: God for rescuing seekers like Joe and Nancy, transforming broken searching into lifelong faith and testimony. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

More: www.godreports.com/2025/09/journey-to-jesus-via-a-drug-bust-mystic-arts-meher-baba/

British Isles

Christian leaders launch Westminster Declaration to 're-Christianise' Britain

Christian leaders, theologians, and public figures have signed the 2025 Westminster Declaration, calling for the 're-Christianisation' of Britain. The document argues that by ignoring the nation's Christian heritage, society has endangered human life, weakened families, and lost a unifying vision. It highlights pressing issues such as abortion, assisted dying, sex education, marriage, biological sex, and the rapid advance of artificial intelligence, insisting that religious freedom must not be subordinated to political agendas. Fiona Bruce described a 'spiritual battle' in politics, urging more Christians to enter public life to shape debate. Michael Nazir Ali said a new declaration was necessary, given today's challenges, while journalist Robin Aitken, hosting the launch, said that Christianity provides the best blueprint for human flourishing. Organisers hope to gather over 100,000 signatures to press for renewed recognition of Christian principles in national life. The declaration's aim is not only to defend freedoms but to actively reassert faith as central to Britain's moral and cultural renewal. See <https://www.2025westminsterdeclaration.org/home>

Praise: for courage, unity, and bold witness as Christians seek to re-establish biblical truth in national life. (Psalm 33:12)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-leaders-launch-2025-westminster-declaration-to-re-christianise-britain>

No 'golden ticket' for refugees, says Starmer

Keir Starmer will announce major asylum policy reforms at a European summit in Copenhagen. Refugees granted asylum in the UK will no longer automatically receive settlement or family reunion rights, ending a longstanding route suspended in September. Previously, asylum-seekers could sponsor immediate family without meeting visa, income, or language requirements. Under the new policy, gaining indefinite leave to remain will take longer than the current five years, with a new benchmark of around ten years, though timescales may vary depending on individual contribution to UK society. Starmer insists settlement must be 'earned' and not seen as a 'golden ticket'. Along with these changes, the UK will partner with Denmark, investing £3m to address migration causes in the Western Balkans and encourage local job creation. Starmer argues the reforms will deter small boat crossings while still allowing sanctuary for genuine refugees. Critics fear the changes risk undermining family unity for those fleeing persecution. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-digital-id-scheme-to-be-rolled-out-across-uk>

Pray: for compassionate, just policies that uphold family unity while addressing migration challenges with fairness and truth. (Exodus 23:9)

More: news.sky.com/story/no-golden-ticket-for-refugees-as-starmer-to-cut-family-reunion-and-settlement-rights-13442476

Reeves set to lift two-child benefit cap in budget?

Rachel Reeves is expected to announce changes to the two-child benefit cap in November's Budget, amid growing pressure to scrap the policy introduced by George Osborne under Conservative austerity measures. The cap currently limits child benefit payments to the first two children in a family, affecting 1.6 million children. Campaigners argue its removal would be the single most effective step in reducing child poverty. She has convened a government taskforce on child poverty and signalled she will act on its recommendations, though she stresses financial constraints must be considered. Options include abolishing the cap outright or introducing a tapered system, potentially limiting payments for larger families or linking them to working parents on universal credit. Keir Starmer has already pledged extended free school meals as part of efforts to end child poverty, saying 'a Britain where no child is hungry' is central to Labour's vision. Critics warn of significant cost implications, while supporters say families cannot wait for relief.

Pray: for compassionate decisions that prioritise children's needs, lifting families out of poverty without creating deeper financial burdens. (Psalm 82:3)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rachel-reeves-two-child-benefit-cap-budget-b2836763.html

Hackers delete children's pictures and data after nursery attack backlash

Hackers who targeted Kido Schools, a nursery chain, by stealing and publishing sensitive images and personal data of around 8,000 children, have backtracked after widespread public outrage. The group, calling themselves Radiant, initially demanded a ransom of £600,000 in bitcoin, threatening to continue releasing profiles. Parents even received direct threatening calls. Following condemnation, the hackers blurred photos, later removed all data, and apologised, claiming it was deleted. Experts remain sceptical, noting cyber-criminals often falsely promise deletion while retaining or selling stolen material. Radiant appears inexperienced and may have underestimated the moral backlash of exploiting children. Much of the stolen content came from Kido's use of Family, a popular education platform, though Family insists its infrastructure was not breached. Kido confirmed the incident is under investigation with external specialists and authorities.

Pray: for protection over children's safety, and wisdom for authorities to combat cyber-criminals targeting the vulnerable. (Psalm 121:7)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8rv83mrlyyo

Ed Miliband pledges to ban fracking

Energy secretary Ed Miliband has pledged to permanently ban fracking, calling it dangerous and deeply harmful, as he urged Labour activists in Liverpool to embrace clean energy as the future. He argued that fracking does nothing to lower bills, create sustainable jobs, or meet climate commitments, but damages the environment. Miliband contrasted Labour's stance with Reform UK, who advocate expanded fossil fuel extraction, accusing them of betraying future generations. He described Reform as 'science-denying, poverty-driving extremists' and urged voters to reject their policies. Fracking, briefly permitted under Liz Truss before being banned again by Rishi Sunak, involves injecting fluid underground to release gas, a method widely criticised by environmental groups. Miliband tied Labour's green vision to economic renewal, insisting clean energy is Britain's best opportunity for job creation in decades, as well as the only sustainable solution to high energy bills.

Pray: for godly stewardship of creation and leadership that pursues energy solutions protecting people and the environment. (Psalm 24:1)

More: www.itv.com/news/2025-10-01/ed-miliband-lets-ban-fracking-and-send-this-bunch-of-frackers-packing-too

Energy price rises prompt call for more help with bills

Gas and electricity bills for millions across England, Scotland, and Wales rose 2% this week under Ofgem's new price cap, bringing the typical annual bill to £1,755. With household debt to suppliers at a record £4.4bn, campaigners warn vulnerable families face another harsh winter. Energy UK says current support, such as emergency vouchers and debt write-offs, varies widely and is insufficient. They urge the Government to establish a long-term targeted scheme, potentially funded by taxation, to close the 'fuel poverty gap'. The Government points to measures including the Warm Home Discount, offering £150 off for one in five households, and promises a major home upgrade programme to improve energy efficiency in five million homes. Pensioners on lower incomes will also receive restored winter fuel payments after a U-turn. Ofgem is considering a debt relief support scheme to address unpayable arrears.

Pray: for just and compassionate solutions ensuring struggling households receive fair support through rising energy costs. (Psalm 113:7)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2zr4nym9zo

Europe

France: implications of Sarkozy's unexpected conviction for corruption

Former president Nicolas Sarkozy has been convicted of criminal conspiracy and sentenced to five years in prison, marking a historic and dramatic moment in French politics. The Paris court ruled that he engaged in an attempted 'corruption pact' with Muammar Gaddafi's regime to secure millions in illegal funding for his 2007 presidential campaign, though it could not establish whether the money was actually transferred. The case underscores how corruption can erode citizens' trust in leadership. Sarkozy, who maintains his innocence, also faces a €100,000 fine and will begin serving his sentence despite pending appeals, a rare judicial decision in France. The ruling has poured more fuel on France's fractious politics; Marine le Pen, who was convicted of embezzlement in March, suggested the ruling was politically motivated, while others see it as proof that even powerful figures can be held accountable. Sarkozy, already convicted twice before, remains an influential figure, still consulted by current leaders navigating France's volatile political landscape.

Pray: for French politicians to seek integrity, justice, and leadership grounded in truth rather than self-serving ambition. (Proverbs 11:3)

More: observer.co.uk/news/the-sensemaker/article/nicolas-sarkozys-corruption-pact-conviction-pours-more-fuel-on-frances-fractious-politics

Czech Republic: former PM poised for comeback, faces difficult balancing act

Billionaire and former prime minister Andrej Babis is poised for a political comeback as his ANO party leads polls ahead of the October 3-4 elections. Having shifted from a liberal to a national-conservative position, Babis is promising voters financial relief and protection from external pressures such as immigration and climate policies. Yet his return to power would be fraught with complications. ANO is expected to fall short of a majority, forcing him to seek support from far-right or far-left allies who advocate leaving the EU and NATO – a stance at odds with his own pledge to remain. He also faces personal challenges, including a renewed fraud trial and a significant conflict of interest over his vast business empire, Agrofert, which receives significant EU subsidies. His alliances with figures like Hungary's Viktor Orbán underscore his anti-Brussels stance, but navigating extremist demands while maintaining pro-Western ties may prove his toughest balancing act yet.

Pray: for Babis, if elected, to act with integrity, resist corruption, and prioritise unity over personal ambition. (Proverbs 24:5)

More: www.reuters.com/world/czech-billionaire-babis-faces-balancing-act-if-retained-power-2025-09-30/

Worldwide

Gaza: Hamas likely to reject Trump's peace plan

A senior Hamas leader has said the group is likely to reject Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza, arguing it favours Israel while ignoring Palestinian concerns. The plan requires Hamas to disarm, surrender its weapons, and release all hostages at once - conditions the group deems unacceptable. It also proposes an International Stabilisation Force, which Hamas views as a foreign occupation. While Benjamin Netanyahu publicly accepted the plan, he has already contradicted key provisions, insisting Israel must retain a military presence in Gaza and pledging to resist a Palestinian state. Palestinians in Gaza expressed desperate support for the proposal - not out of agreement with its terms, but in hopes of ending war, devastation, and famine. Critics warn that rejection could allow Israel to intensify its campaign with international backing. More than 66,000 deaths have been reported in Gaza since October 2023.

Pray: for a just peace in Gaza, that leaders on all sides will choose life over conflict and prioritise the suffering people. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2j97jldkmo

Iran: offering hope to young people

Generation of Hope, a SAT-7 PARS youth programme, has returned for its second season with a mission to uplift and support young people in Iran and beyond. The show, hosted by 16-year-old Ilya in London and by Hanieh and Nina in Türkiye, provides a platform for teenagers and young adults to explore vital issues such as identity, mental health, self-harm, and friendship. During the June war between Iran and Israel, the programme shifted to a more prayerful tone, reflecting the anxieties of viewers and offering a safe space for expression. Now it continues to blend thoughtful conversations with light-hearted games, aiming to bring both joy and encouragement. For Ilya, who left Iran due to persecution but found faith in the UK, hosting is a powerful way to share Christ's hope. His own journey was inspired by his mother's transformation through faith. He says, 'People are hopeless; they don't know what to do. We try to encourage them to hold onto faith, and to the hope that God will help Iran.'

Pray: for young Iranians to find strength in Christ, resilience in hardship, and joy in God's enduring love. (Isaiah 40:31)

More: sat7.org/bringing-hope-to-young-people-in-iran/

Afghanistan: Taliban shut down all communication networks

Afghanistan has entered near-total isolation after the Taliban government ordered a nationwide communications shutdown, drastically reducing connectivity to less than one percent of normal levels. The move follows weeks of restrictions on fibre optic networks, which officials justified as measures to prevent 'vice'. Internet watchdogs described the blackout as 'comprehensive', warning of severe consequences for daily life, including banking, trade, and basic communication. Journalists reported losing contact with Kabul soon after the order was enacted. Provincial spokesmen confirmed that fibre optic service had already been banned in several northern and southern provinces earlier this month. While the Taliban had previously highlighted the 9,350-kilometre fibre network as a tool for economic development, the restrictions now threaten to deepen Afghanistan's isolation and hinder essential services. Since retaking power in 2021, the Taliban have increasingly enforced sweeping limitations in line with their strict interpretation of Islamic law, leaving citizens with few avenues for connection to the outside world.

Pray: for Afghans cut off from communication, that they may find hope, safety, and freedom from oppressive control. Pray that the Taliban will reconsider such a drastic move. (Psalm 9:9)

More: www.dawn.com/news/1945460/taliban-authorities-shut-down-communications-across-afghanistan

Indonesia: president defends free meals programme despite food poisoning cases

Indonesia's president, Prabowo Subianto, has defended his ambitious free meals programme after thousands of cases of food poisoning raised public concern. Launched in January, the initiative provides meals for children and pregnant women; it has already reached 30 million, with a target of 83 million by year's end. While 6,000 cases of poisoning have been recorded in 70 separate incidents - two-thirds since August - Prabowo pointed out that these represented only 0.00017 percent of all meals served. He acknowledged shortcomings, but stressed the programme's benefits in reducing childhood stunting, improving nutrition, and creating jobs for local farmers and fishermen. He has now ordered new safety measures, including rapid testing equipment, sterilisers, water filters, and CCTV monitoring for kitchens. The National Nutrition Agency has already shut down noncompliant facilities. Despite the programme's promise, critics question its fiscal sustainability, as next year's budget is projected to triple.

Pray: for wisdom and accountability in managing large-scale programmes which affect children's health and future wellbeing. (Proverbs 23:12)

More: www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2025/09/29/president-prabowo-defends-free-meals-programme-after-6000-suffer-food-poisoning.html

Madagascar: protests continue despite government dissolution

Madagascar is facing mounting unrest as protests continue despite president Andry Rajoelina's decision to dissolve the government. The move, announced on state television, was intended to ease tensions following demonstrations over widespread water and power shortages. Rajoelina expressed sympathy to families of those killed and acknowledged administrative failings, yet protesters remain unsatisfied, demanding his resignation. Many argue that changing ministers is not enough, since the president himself holds ultimate responsibility. The demonstrations, largely led by Gen Z, represent one of the most serious challenges to Rajoelina's leadership since his 2023 re-election. Authorities have responded with curfews in Antananarivo and other major cities, and police have repeatedly used teargas and fired rubber bullets at demonstrators. The UN has said that at least 22 have been killed and over 100 injured, though the government disputes these figures.

Pray: for peace, justice, and wise leadership to restore stability and protect lives amid Madagascar's political and social turmoil. (Psalm 106:3)

More: www.africanews.com/2025/09/30/madagascar-gen-z-led-protests-continue-despite-government-dissolution/

Haiti: UN votes to create a 'gang suppression force'

The UN Security Council has voted to expand its international mission in Haiti, transforming it into a 'gang suppression force' tasked with restoring order in the country. The resolution raises the force's personnel ceiling from 2,500 to 5,550 and calls for a new UN support office in Haiti to provide logistical assistance. The mission will work with the authorities to 'neutralise, isolate, and deter' gangs, secure key infrastructure, and help stabilise institutions. While Haitian leaders welcomed the move as a lifeline, the Russian envoy described it as 'an ill-conceived and rushed mandate to use force against anyone and everyone labelled with the vague term "gangs"'. The Kenyan-led police force, deployed for the last fifteen months, remains woefully understaffed and underfunded. Haiti faces dire conditions: nearly all of Port-au-Prince is under gang control, over 3,000 were killed in the first half of 2025, 1.3 million are displaced, and millions more face hunger.

Pray: for protection of Haiti's people, wisdom for leaders, and a mission that brings peace without repeating past abuses. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/9/30/un-security-council-approves-gang-suppression-force-for-haiti

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