

Prayer Alert

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You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them, and You listen to their cry. (Psalm 10:17)

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

Let's be praying for the Cameroon presidential election taking place on Sunday 12 October. See the Prayer Alert [2025 Elections Prayer Guide](#).



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

[France: boom in baptisms and Bible sales](#)

An unexpected spiritual revival is unfolding in France, where more than 10,000 adults are set to be baptised in 2025 - a 45% increase in one year. This surge, accompanied by record youth participation in pilgrimages and a marked rise in Bible sales, is reshaping the French Catholic landscape. Journalist Antoine Pasquier has investigated why young people are turning to faith in a secular society still recovering from scandal and decline. His research reveals that Scripture, not social media, plays the central role in conversions, as many seekers first encounter Christ through personal reading of the Bible. Influenced by the visible faith of Muslim peers, many young converts desire to express their beliefs openly and live with greater spiritual depth. Pasquier calls for the French Church to become a 'catechumenal Church' - one renewed through evangelisation, personal conversion, and openness to the Holy Spirit.

Praise: God for renewed faith among young seekers in France. Pray that the Church may welcome them with wisdom, compassion, and joyful witness. (Joel 2:28)

More: www.spectator.co.uk/article/islam-and-the-bible-are-fuelling-frances-baptism-boom/

[Why a Christian singer will no longer attend awards shows](#)

Christian singer and songwriter Forrest Frank has announced he will no longer attend awards shows, including the Dove Awards and Grammys, saying he already holds 'the greatest award of all time' — salvation in Christ. In a video on TikTok, Frank explained his conviction that he should not receive trophies for something created 'from Jesus and for Jesus.' He said he wrestled with this decision last year and has now chosen 'a stance of nonparticipation', preferring to model humility rather than seek recognition. Frank clarified that he is not refusing to shine as a light in dark places but to avoid stages that glorify human achievement. Though nominated in several top categories, he declared that his real prize is having his 'name written in the Book of Life'. His statement challenges Christian artists to reconsider the tension between cultural acclaim and eternal reward, reminding believers that earthly fame will fade, but the name of Jesus endures for ever.

Praise: God for believers such as Forrest who are choosing eternal reward over earthly fame; may their witness inspire genuine humility. (Philippians 3:8)
More: www.christianpost.com/news/forrest-frank-says-hes-not-going-to-attend-awards-shows.html

British Isles

Sarah Mullally to become 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The King has approved the appointment of the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London, as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury - the first woman ever to hold the post in over 1,400 years. Formerly England's Chief Nursing Officer and a cancer nurse, Bishop Sarah has long described her vocation as 'an opportunity to reflect the love of God.' Ordained in 2001, she has served as Bishop of Crediton and later as Bishop of London, leading with compassion and inclusivity. In her statement, Bishop Sarah said she accepts this call 'in a spirit of service to God and others', seeking to help the Church 'grow in confidence in the Gospel' and bring hope and healing through Christ's love. Church leaders across the Anglican Communion have welcomed her appointment, commending her courage, integrity, and commitment to unity: however, GAFCON leaders have reacted with sorrow ([see https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c179yvn08njo](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c179yvn08njo)). Her installation at Canterbury Cathedral is scheduled for March 2026, following a 'confirmation of election' service at St Paul's Cathedral in January.

Pray: for archbishop-designate Sarah Mullally to lead with courage, humility, and Spirit-filled grace and wisdom. (James 3:17)
More: www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/rt-revd-and-rt-hon-dame-sarah-mullally-dbe-become-106th-archbishop

Synagogue terrorist told police he killed 'in name of IS'

Police have confirmed that Jihad al-Shamie, 35, phoned 999 claiming allegiance to IS moments after launching his deadly car and knife attack at Heaton Park synagogue in Manchester. Shamie drove into worshippers before stabbing several people, killing two men - Adrian Daulby and Melvin Cravitz - who tried to stop him entering the synagogue. Wearing a fake suicide vest and armed with two knives, he was shot dead by police. Investigators say no evidence links him to organised terror networks, describing him as a possible 'lone wolf'. The swift actions of security staff, worshippers, and armed officers prevented greater loss of life. The Independent Office for Police Conduct is now examining whether police gunfire contributed to Daulby's death or other injuries. Shamie, a Syrian-born British resident on bail for alleged rape, had a history of abusive relationships and disturbing radical views. The community remains in shock, mourning the victims while praising the courage of those who confronted the attacker and protected the congregation.

Pray: for comfort for grieving families and renewed protection over all worship places across our nation. (Psalm 46:1)
More: www.thetimes.com/article/6748a560-e2ad-4c8f-8562-0f87462e84e3d

Young children taking knives to school, BBC finds

A BBC investigation has revealed that even very young children are taking knives into UK schools. Police recorded cases involving a four-year-old in Kent and a six-year-old in the West Midlands carrying a flick knife and threatening another pupil. In 2024, there were 1,304 knife-related incidents in schools and sixth-form colleges across England and Wales - 10% involving primary-age children. Though total offences have slightly declined, serious attacks have increased. Some schools, especially in high-risk areas such as the West Midlands, are now installing permanent 'knife arches' and handheld detectors. The mother of 15-year-old Sheffield pupil Harvey Willgoose, who was fatally stabbed at school earlier this year, is urging the government to fund metal detectors nationwide, saying, 'Kids are going to school frightened'. Police data shows most offenders are teenage boys, often carrying blades for self-protection. Educators and youth mentors warn that fear, broken families, and lack of community support are fuelling this crisis and are calling for deeper emotional education and stronger pastoral care.

Pray: for God's protection over schools and healing for young people drawn into violence and fear. (Psalm 34:14)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c77d06vde4po

Met will root out corrupt police after 'ghastly' BBC exposé, says chief

Metropolitan Police commissioner Sir Mark Rowley has vowed to use counter-terrorism-style investigation techniques to root out racism and corruption following a 'ghastly' BBC Panorama exposé of officers at Charing Cross police station. The undercover documentary revealed serving officers making racist, misogynistic and anti-Muslim remarks, boasting of excessive force, and dismissing rape allegations. Nine serving officers, a former officer, and a detention officer are under investigation for gross misconduct. Sir Mark described the revelations as 'reprehensible' and compared corrupt officers to tumours which must be cut out. He said AI tools would help detect misconduct by analysing phones and behaviour patterns, adding that nearly 1,500 staff have already been removed in the Met's 'biggest anti-corruption clear-out in history'. Leadership and staffing changes have already been made, with further disciplinary action expected. While Sir Mark rejected claims of institutional racism, critics insist deep systemic reform is still needed to restore trust in policing across London.

Pray: for truth, cleansing, and integrity in policing, that justice and trust be fully restored in London. (Micah 6:8)
More: www.standard.co.uk/news/london/panorama-met-police-charing-cross-station-mark-rowley-b1250807.html

'Abject failure' as UK homeless deaths rise

New figures reveal that at least 1,611 homeless people, including 11 children, died in the UK in 2024, a 9% increase from the previous year. The Museum of Homelessness, which compiles annual data from coroners, councils, and memorials, warns that the true number is probably higher. 44% of deaths were linked to drug or alcohol misuse. Most occurred in England (1,142), followed by Northern Ireland (211), Scotland (168), and Wales (90). Many victims were living in temporary accommodation such as hostels or bed-and-breakfasts rather than on the streets. Homelessness minister Alison McGovern called the figures an 'abject failure that cannot be tolerated', pledging to expand safe housing and support services. The charity's director, Matthew Turtle, said the data shows how homeless people continue to be 'deeply failed' and urged urgent government action. With over 131,000 households now in temporary housing, campaigners say sustained investment, care, and community support are vital to prevent further needless deaths.

Pray: for compassion, justice, and effective action to end homelessness and restore dignity to every life. (Isaiah 58:7)
More: news.sky.com/story/abject-failure-as-uks-homeless-deaths-rise-including-children-13446761

Bishop of Birmingham 'dismayed' by Robert Jenrick's remarks about Handsworth

The Bishop of Birmingham, Dr Michael Volland, has expressed 'dismay and disappointment' over comments made by Conservative MP Robert Jenrick, who said that during a visit to Handsworth he 'didn't see another white face' and described the area as 'close to a slum'. Speaking at a Conservative event in March, Jenrick said the district lacked integration, remarks later published by the Guardian. Dr Volland responded in an open letter, inviting Jenrick to revisit Handsworth and meet local residents dedicated to the community's flourishing. He warned that such rhetoric risks 'stirring up division' and urged leaders to use language that unites rather than divides. The bishop highlighted positive examples of integration, including St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy, which recently received an Outstanding Ofsted rating. Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch defended Jenrick's comments as 'factual observations', while others - including the Prime Minister - criticised his judgment. Dr Volland reiterated the Church's call to build understanding, mutual respect, and community cohesion across all ethnic and faith backgrounds. See <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/bishop-birmingham-blasts-jenrick-stoking-32632565>

Pray: for unity and grace across communities, and for leaders to speak words which heal division. (Romans 12:18)

More: www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/10-october/news/uk/bishop-of-birmingham-dismayed-by-mp-s-remarks-about-handsworth

Europe

France: new PM to be named within 48 hours?

Emmanuel Macron is expected to appoint a new prime minister within 48 hours, following the abrupt resignation of Sébastien Lecornu's government just 14 hours after being named. Lecornu, asked to outline a path forward, concluded that most lawmakers oppose snap elections and that a narrow parliamentary plurality could support a 2026 budget aimed at reducing France's deficit, projected at 5.4 percent of GDP. Macron now faces the challenge of naming a leader capable of governing without a parliamentary majority - the same obstacle that brought down Lecornu's predecessors. Choosing a centre-left prime minister from the Socialist Party could help build a coalition but would probably reignite controversy over Macron's contested pension reform, which raised the retirement age. With political divisions deepening, Macron has yet to comment publicly, while far-right leader Marine Le Pen and her party have said they would vote to topple any new prime minister named before new elections, intensifying France's ongoing political instability. For an assessment of Macron's options, see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0kn04453z8o>

Pray: for stability, wisdom, and discernment in France's leadership, with the best possible outcome for the country. (Proverbs 3:13)

More: www.politico.eu/article/sebastien-lecornu-france-prime-minister-french-political-crisis/

Europe: EC proposes drastic cut in steel imports, doubles tariffs

The European Commission has proposed halving the volume of steel imports entering the EU duty-free - from 30.5 million to 18.3 million tonnes annually - and doubling tariffs on imports exceeding that quota to 50%. The move, announced by EC president Ursula van den Leyen, aims to protect the struggling European steel industry, which operates at just 67 percent capacity and faces heavy competition from cheap, subsidised steel, especially from China. Global steel overcapacity, now at 600 million tonnes, is projected to exceed 720 million next year, pressurising European producers and leading to the loss of 18,000 jobs across the bloc. The new measures, including a 'melt and pour' rule to trace steel origins, are designed to curb tariff circumvention and lift EU production to 80% capacity use. While the plan also affects US imports, Brussels hopes for cooperation with Washington to address global surpluses. The proposal now awaits approval from EU member states and the European Parliament.

Pray: for fairness and foresight in trade decisions that balance economic protection with global cooperation and care for workers' livelihoods. (1 Corinthians 16:14)

More: www.euronews.com/business/2025/10/07/european-commission-wields-protective-powers-to-shield-eu-steel

Worldwide

Gaza: what we know so far about ceasefire agreement

After three days of indirect talks in Egypt, Donald Trump announced that Israel and Hamas have 'signed off' on the first phase of his twenty-point peace plan to end the Gaza war. The agreement, expected to be approved by Israel's cabinet, includes an immediate ceasefire and the release of all remaining living hostages - around 20 people - within 72 hours. Israel will begin withdrawing troops to a line controlling roughly 53% of Gaza, while Hamas will return the bodies of 28 dead hostages. In exchange, Israel will release about 250 Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences and 1,700 Gaza detainees, but not including key figures like Marwan Barghouti. Hundreds of aid trucks will begin entering Gaza daily to address famine conditions. Later phases of the plan envision Gaza's demilitarisation, temporary rule by Palestinian technocrats under an international 'Board of Peace' chaired by Trump, and eventual transfer to a reformed Palestinian Authority - points that remain deeply contentious between Israel and Hamas. Earlier in the week, on 7 October, 30,000 gathered in Tel Aviv in an emotional event marking the second anniversary of Hamas's attacks: see <https://www.timesofisrael.com/grief-defiance-and-hope-30000-gather-in-tel-aviv-to-mark-two-years-since-oct-7/>

Pray: for true peace grounded in justice. Pray that potentially contentious points do not become obstacles to the process. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgqx7ygq41o

ASEAN: China's shift towards green technology may inspire others

The strengthened commitment by China to cutting emissions and expanding renewable energy production may well accelerate Southeast Asia's transition to a low-carbon economy. Analysts note that, as one of ASEAN's key investors and trading partners in clean technology, China's policies could encourage member states to attract more green investment while pursuing economic growth. Xi Jinping's new climate targets include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 10 percent from peak levels by 2035, expanding wind and solar capacity to 3,600 gigawatts, and increasing nonfossil fuels to over 30 percent of total energy use. Experts say these goals will boost affordable renewable technologies (eg solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries) across ASEAN, fostering energy security and resilience. China's \$2.7 billion clean-energy investment and \$4.3 billion trade with ASEAN could inspire other members to align with the global shift toward sustainable development and climate responsibility.

Pray: for regional leaders to unite in advancing clean energy, wise investment, and steadfast commitment to protecting God's creation. (1 Corinthians 4:2)

More: asianews.network/chinas-pledge-sets-green-stage-for-asean-analysts/

USA: government shutdown now in its second week

The US government shutdown has entered its second week as the Senate again failed to pass competing bills to restore funding, deepening the political stalemate. Democrats and Republicans remain divided over whether to pair any funding bill with healthcare measures, particularly an extension of Affordable Care Act premium tax credits set to expire at the end of the year. The lapse in funding has forced federal offices, national parks, and agencies to close, with mounting pressure from unpaid workers and disruptions at airports and air traffic control centres (see <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/10/07/us/shutdown-impacts-travelers>) House speaker Mike Johnson insists the GOP's short-term funding bill is sufficient, while a top Democrat has accused Republicans of refusing to negotiate. Donald Trump continues to urge Democrats to accept the Republican plan, though some within the GOP have hinted at compromise. Without agreement, hundreds of thousands of military and civilian personnel will soon miss paychecks, further straining families and testing public patience with political gridlock.

Pray: for humility and cooperation among lawmakers to find a way of ending the shutdown. Pray for those who will not receive salaries until the deadlock is resolved. (Philippians 2:3)

More: www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/08/us-government-shutdown-deadlock

Burkina Faso: government arrests eight humanitarian workers

The military government of Burkina Faso has arrested eight employees of the Netherlands-based International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO), accusing them of 'spying and treason'. The security minister claims that the group, which includes citizens from France, the Czech Republic, Mali, Senegal, and Burkina Faso, continued operating after a three-month ban for allegedly collecting sensitive security data without authorisation; allegedly they passed information harmful to national security to foreign powers. INSO, which specialises in providing safety support for humanitarian operations, categorically rejected the accusations, insisting that all data it gathers is public and used solely to protect aid workers. The arrests come amid Burkina Faso's growing estrangement from Western nations and its realignment with Russia, along with Mali and Niger. The ruling junta continues to battle armed groups linked to al-Qaeda, while facing criticism from human rights organisations over alleged abuses by its forces and allied militias.

Pray: for the safety of the detained humanitarian workers, and for justice to be done. (Psalm 33:5)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/10/8/burkina-fasos-military-govt-arrests-european-ngo-workers-for-spying

Brazil: Lula talks with Trump about tariffs

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has urged Donald Trump to remove the 40% tariff recently imposed on Brazilian imports. The two leaders held a thirty-minute phone conversation, exchanging direct contact numbers and discussing trade and economic cooperation. Lula reiterated his invitation for Trump to attend the upcoming climate summit in Belém and said that Brazil remains one of the few G20 nations with which the United States enjoys a trade surplus. Trump described the discussion as positive, noting plans for future meetings in both countries. The tariffs, added to an earlier 10% duty, were justified by the Trump administration as a response to Brazil's internal political instability following former president Jair Bolsonaro's conviction for attempting a coup. Despite tensions, the leaders' dialogue signals an effort to preserve economic ties and foster mutual understanding between the Western Hemisphere's two largest democracies.

Pray: for wisdom and goodwill between leaders to guide fair trade, strengthen diplomacy, and promote lasting peace between nations. (Psalm 106:3)

More: www.aljazeera.com/economy/2025/10/6/lula-asks-trump-to-lift-40-percent-tariff-from-brazilian-goods

Malaysia: hacking device easily available on internet

In Malaysia, a pocket-sized multipurpose hacking device capable of reading and emulating credit cards, cloning simple RFID tags, and recording older car key fob codes is being sold openly on popular e-commerce platforms. Marketed variously as a novelty gadget, handheld gaming device, or robotic kit, prices range from £26 to £300; units are sourced locally and from overseas. Short videos show the tool opening hotel doors and mimicking access credentials, raising alarms about theft, fraud, and privacy breaches. Experts say it cannot copy modern rolling codes used in many new cars, but when paired with custom firmware or signal analysers it could probe vulnerable legacy systems. Researchers and academics stress legitimate uses for hobbyists and security testing while urging sensible regulation: clearer labelling, age verification, user guidance, and targeted laws that criminalise illegal use rather than impose blanket bans.

Pray: for wisdom for regulators, vigilance for consumers, and protection for victims of technological misuse and theft. (James 1:5)

More: asianews.network/in-malaysia-the-swiss-army-knife-of-hacking-is-available-on-popular-e-commerce-platforms/

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