

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 49-2020 | Friday 04 December 2020
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You will answer me, God; I know You always will, like You always do as You listen with love to my every prayer. (Psalm 17:6, The Passion version)

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

You may like to explore our new online [Prayer Alert Prayer Wall](#) where we can add our own prayers and praise, interactively. We trust that you will find this helpful and encouraging, as we pray from our homes during lockdown.

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Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

Blessings,

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert Team

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Praise Reports

Hope for the countryside

The Agriculture Bill has now been finalised and received royal assent. The good news is the setting up of a trade and agriculture commission is to be included. Its purpose is to protect the UK's higher standards of environmental protection, animal welfare and food quality in farming and food production against imports produced to lower standards. The new legislation will bring substantial change in how farming and food production are supported; pray for our farmers as they adapt (Isaiah 28:24-29). [See also](#) <https://www.worldprayer.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx>

Praise: God for His intervention and pray for our government and all who work in our food industry. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

More: www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-agriculture-bill-becomes-law

Tanzania: thousands saved at Operation Decapolis

Gary Smith, one of the evangelists at a two-week outreach, writes, 'Tonight was the last night of the crusade in Singida. The last two weeks have been absolutely incredible with thousands of salvations, miracles, and people filled with the Holy Spirit. I am rejoicing in all that the Lord has done. I've heard testimonies from bishops and pastors who are overjoyed as many new believers joined their church this morning. This is worth every dollar spent and every day away from family, to see people saved and planted into the local church. It's not just making converts but to make mighty disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ! Hallelujah!'

Praise: God for the miracles of healing and deliverance that brought salvation to so many seekers. (Acts 4:30)

More: www.cfan.org.uk/campaigns/tanzania-week-2?t=Day-8

International Christian Concern

After their son experienced a miraculous healing at the hands of Jesus, Bassam and his wife turned from their fundamentalist Muslim background and placed their trust in Christ. However, as a result Bassam and his family began receiving death threats, prompting them to flee from their home. In response, International Christian Concern stepped in to provide Bassam with a taxi business so that he could continue providing for his family with dignity. He expressed, 'We prayed to God, but the answer exceeded our expectations. I wasn't prepared for such a big blessing.'

Praise: God for mission agencies who protect and provide for persecuted Muslim converts. (John 17:15)

More: www.persecution.org/christmas/

British Isles

Fighting coronavirus

On 2 December England launched a three-tier system to combat virus spread, and the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine was approved for use. It is hoped the tier system will help safeguard the gains made recently in containing the virus, and that the vaccines will ultimately make it possible for the nation to reclaim livelihoods and regain quality of life. However currently over 55 million people are in the strictest two tiers and cannot mix indoors with those in other households. Many feel their position in the tier system is unjust. Pray for a government review of the 'human geography' to be made sooner rather than later, so that adjustments can be made where appropriate to avoid unlawful tier crossing in the run-up to Christmas. Also pubs in tier two can only function as a restaurant and serve alcohol at the table with a substantial meal. Pray for the Government to give appropriate support to the struggling hospitality industry.

Pray: for God to bless all communication between the Government, NHS, and the army of volunteers rolling out the immunisation programme across the population. (Romans 8:31)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55153899

Covid vaccine - rumours amid trickle of facts

With the rollout of vaccines for Covid-19 now imminent, there are increasing concerns around misinformation (online or on social media) turning people against being immunised. The WHO says an overload of information, some false, makes it difficult for people to make decisions about their health. One participant in a coronavirus vaccine trial said, 'It's often very difficult with the amount of information that we are being bombarded with to make sense of what you should be doing. I think a vaccine is one of the only ways out of the situation if we want to get away from endless lockdowns and curfews.' Researchers have moved at record speed to develop vaccines, and the WHO is monitoring data from over 200 trials on several types of vaccine based on different technologies. They are going through the same safety tests as vaccines already used all around the world.

Pray: for the WHO, governments and local regulatory authorities to succeed in answering people's concerns and help them evaluate social media information, so that the offer of immunisation is accepted and the pandemic stemmed. (Proverbs 15:22)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-55128817

Disability History Month

Disability History Month runs from 18 November to 18 December every year. It is supported by many disability groups, unions, and voluntary organisations, who aim to promote disabled people's rights and their struggle for equality now and in the past. Every year the month focuses on a different theme - celebrating achievements and fighting for equality. For instance, 14-year-old Jonathan is non-verbal and a wheelchair user who was in a special school until his mother taught him to read and write by eye pointing on a perspex E Tran and eye gaze software. Jonathan went to a mainstream primary in Year 5. When he was twelve, he wrote the book 'Eye Can Write' and set up a charity. Pray for continued backing and funding for all those sharing resources to help people with disabilities, and helping able-bodied people to understand the struggles that disabled people have.

Pray: for God to empower all involved in promoting and helping people with disabilities to live independently with a full and active life on an equal basis with others. (Leviticus 19:14)

More: www.facebook.com/UK-Disability-History-Month-OFFICIAL-262351827138558/

Seeds of prayer

Sadly, some rural chaplains report that recent months have seen an increase in levels of stress and tragically in suicides, especially amongst younger farmers. This has been a difficult farming year, with the impact of the pandemic, TB, and now an increasing risk of avian flu (see next article). With the uncertainties of isolated working and living conditions, people are stressed, vulnerable, feeling overwhelmed and hopeless. Pray for the work of chaplains and all those ministering to farming communities and families.

Pray: for protection and healing for those suffering stress and sadness. (Luke 4:18)

More: www.worldprayer.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx

Avian influenza (bird flu)

An avian influenza prevention zone has been declared across England, Scotland and Wales to reduce the risk of the disease spreading following a number of confirmed cases in recent weeks. This means that all bird keepers must follow strict biosecurity measures. Those with more than 500 birds now need to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites; workers must change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures, and site vehicles need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Backyard owners with smaller numbers of poultry including chickens, ducks and geese are also urged to strengthen their biosecurity measures in order to prevent further outbreaks of avian influenza in the UK. Public Health England said the risk to public health is very low, and the Food Standards Agency advises that 'avian influenza poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers'.

Pray: for God to enable poultry keepers to be alert and able to keep their premises free of disease. (Philippians 4:7)

More: www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-national-prevention-zone-declared

Government consultation - DIY abortions

Christian Concern write, 'The Government has announced a consultation to decide whether to extend its temporary decision to allow DIY abortions. Brandished as "women's healthcare", abortions that take place entirely at home are dangerous, providing no opportunity to safeguard women against coercive partners or go through proper safety checks - ultrasound scans and blood tests. Tragically, we know that many illegal and dangerous abortions have taken place since the government introduced the policy in March 2020. We need to do everything we can to protect women and babies by stopping this policy from becoming permanent. A number of pro-life groups are participating in "Care for Women", a parliamentary briefing for MPs to advise them on all of the research showing that this policy is dangerous and offers no care for women. Please ask your MP to attend the briefing on Thursday 10 December at 2pm, via Zoom.' Find your MP: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons>

Pray: for the end of this temporary policy as MPs recognise the danger it poses to women and children (Proverbs 15:22)
More: us2.campaign-archive.com/?u=bed173cc9adfcad1e0e442a35&id=72cfe713c1&e=354f1ab5aa

Church leaders and 57,000 others urge PM to cut emissions

Because of Brexit, the UK must submit its own national climate plan to the UN climate body. Nineteen church leaders have written to Boris Johnson asking him to set ambitious goals when he submits the country's first climate plan under the Paris Agreement. This agreement commits countries to keeping temperature rises 'well below' 2C above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit them to 1.5C, which is seen as the threshold beyond which the worst impacts of climate change will be felt. The letter to the Prime Minister was signed by the CofE's bishop for the environment, Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam, the Bishop of Salisbury; the Archbishop of Wales; and leaders from the Church of Scotland, the Baptist Union, Methodist Church, URC, and Quakers, as well as 57,000 others who believe the UK could be a true global leader.

Pray: for God to give wisdom to our leaders as they decide how to cut emissions. (Ezekiel 34:18)
More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/uk-church-leaders-and-57-000-others-urge-pm-to-set-bolder-targets-for-cutting-emissions

Europe

Barnier warns Boris over fishing and finance

Michel Barnier has warned Brexit trade talks could be plunged into 'crisis' if Boris Johnson puts forward more legislation that calls into question last year's divorce deal. The Brussels diplomat is worried that the Finance Bill will contain clauses that breach the terms of the Northern Ireland protocol. He was infuriated when No 10 tabled legislation that handed ministers the powers to rip up sections of the Withdrawal Agreement relating to Northern Ireland. Mr Barnier made the warning during a video call with EU27 ambassadors. At the time of writing the future UK-EU relationship is still deadlocked because of disagreements over post-Brexit fishing rights and common standards, and Downing Street has yet to decide on a timetable for publishing the Finance Bill. Talks went on late into the evening on 2 December at the business department in central London. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55171563](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55171563)

Pray: for God to put the finishing touch to the endgame of Brexit negotiations. (1 Peter 3:8)
More: www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1367405/brexit-news-eu-uk-trade-talks-michel-barnier-uk-finance-bill-fishing-boris-johnson

Germany: car drives into pedestrians, killing five

Five people have been killed and thirteen seriously injured after a car zig zagged towards pedestrians in the city of Trier. Among those killed was a nine-month-old baby. A 51-year-old man with no fixed address is in custody being questioned about the crash. He had been living in recent days in the Land Rover that was used in the attack. Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesperson said the scene was 'shocking'. Police said the driver appeared to have hit pedestrians indiscriminately as he drove through the city centre at speed. They urged members of the public to avoid spreading misinformation about the incident.

Pray: for God to comfort all involved in this incident. (Matthew 11:28-30)
More: www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-trier-deaths-car-police-b1764511.html

Worldwide

Global Family 24/7 365 online prayer room

On 1 January 2021, International Prayer Connections will launch a global online 24/7 prayer room. The 'Global Family' is a collaboration of international ministries from every continent and will be hosted in many languages using Zoom. You are invited to join. Each hour will have Spirit-led, Bible-based, worship-fed, and Christ-exalted times of prayer to multiple gospel movements across the earth. There will also be prayer for unreached people each hour. Please consider giving time, when available, each week in 2021 (personally, your church, city, organisation, network, etc) to join hands in prayer. Secondly, you are also invited (with at least one backup person who could act as room host) to commit to facilitating prayer the same hour each week for the 52 weeks of 2021. There will be training and resources available to you as we near the start of the 24/7 Global Family. For more information, [see https://www.10days.net/global-family-24/7-prayer](https://www.10days.net/global-family-24/7-prayer)

Pray: for an unprecedented response to this invitation, spreading a network of intercession partners around the globe. (Matthew 18:19)
More: www.ipcprayer.org/ipc-connections/item/13636-global-family-24-7-365-online-prayer-room.html

Israel: bill to disband Knesset

On 2 December, the 23rd Knesset came one key step closer to being dispersed, but it must still pass three more readings before a new national vote is called. Opposition leader Yair Lapid said, 'I call upon the Knesset to vote in favour of this bill, to disperse and let the people of Israel choose a government that genuinely cares about them.' Lapid said his bill was not intended to be 'just another round of 'anyone but Bibi,' aimed at defeating Netanyahu. He said the bill was being presented 'because it's time to end that focus and 'the anger and the hatred and the terrible mismanagement and the politics that are destroying our country and won't end as long as he's there'. Meretz leader Nitzan Horowitz said that Netanyahu needed to leave office due to his criminal cases, and he would have already left had Blue and White listened to his office and not joined the government.

Pray: for the leaders that the Lord God chooses to lead Israel in this season. (Deuteronomy 28:1-2)
More: www.jpost.com/israel-news/netanyahu-to-address-nation-after-knesset-dispersal-vote-650906

Nigeria: unrelenting insecurity as more farmers massacred

An attack on 28 November by Boko Haram terrorists on farmers working in rice fields in northeastern Nigeria killed at least 110 people. 'The incident is the most violent direct attack against innocent civilians this year. Many women are also believed to have been kidnapped. Security forces and volunteer vigilante groups are searching to find people still missing. Locals say they recovered 43 bodies in villages

near Maiduguri, the capital of the restive Borno state, which has been plagued by an armed campaign for over ten years. A local resident said, 'Nobody knows the exact number of people killed. We can't account for farmers who were there; we don't know if they are hiding in the bush or if they were kidnapped.' Pray for God to comfort the mourners. [See also https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/30/unrelenting-insecurity-nigeria-reels-after-attack](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/30/unrelenting-insecurity-nigeria-reels-after-attack)

Pray: for the kidnapped women to be returned to safety and for a review of Nigeria's security system so that senseless attacks are prevented and perpetrators captured. (Isaiah 61:8)

More: www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/boko-haram-attack-killed-at-least-110-in-nigeria-un/2060088

Indonesia: terrorist attack

On 27 November, around 7:30 am, Nei was having breakfast with her husband, Yasa, and saw about ten unknown people visiting Naka, at a nearby house. Soon after that terrorists Ali Kalora and Jaka Ramadan entered the house and took Yasa and Nei outside. Yasa was tied up, stabbed in the back, then decapitated with a machete. One of the terrorists, near Yasa's house, gave a signal to villagers to flee, allowing several witnesses and children to escape. Naka and his son Pedi were set on fire, as was their house and eight other homes. Terrorists also torched the Salvation Army house of worship. Another Christian, Pinu, was stabbed to death. Approximately 750 people fled their homes after the attack. Police suspect militants with allegiance to IS carried out the violence, as the leader of the outlawed group was seen at the scene of the crime.

Pray: for God to comfort the family of the victims, to protect the church and for the peace in the region. (Amos 5:24)

More: www.persecution.org/2020/11/30/indonesian-terrorist-group-behind-salvation-army-attack-identified/

Turkey: Kurdish region injustice continues

The police forces in Turkey's Kurdish region resemble occupying armies. Government-appointed mayors, police brutality and armies of imams have altered society's fabric. Allegations against Special Forces of rape and sexual harassment are ignored. If such accusations are publicised, officials will dismiss it as affairs between soldiers and girls who want to marry them. A former mayor commented, 'It is better that they are involved in prostitution than protesting the government.' A young Kurd who photographed a policeman killing an innocent Kurd in 2017 now faces twenty years in prison, while the policeman goes unpunished. Also recently hundreds of army officers, pilots and civilians were jailed for life for taking part in the 2016 attempted coup to overthrow President Erdoğan. The acquittal of the police officer and the hundreds jailed comes when Erdogan is trying to attract foreign investors. Even the simplest reforms would demand drastically altering the way Turkey polices, prosecutes, judges, and imprisons its residents. [See https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/26/turkish-court-jails-hundreds-life-2016-coup-attempt](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/26/turkish-court-jails-hundreds-life-2016-coup-attempt)

Pray: for young Kurds to be allowed to connect with their identity and not be marginalised. Pray also for the end of the dangerous emergency law that has remained since the 2016 coup (Proverbs 31:8-9)

More: www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/11/turkey-murder-of-kurdish-musician-went-unpunished-kurkut.html

US election 2020: Trump challenge

Electors from each state meet on 14 December to nominate the next president formally, but Trump wants to overturn the result, and challenges the Pennsylvania result. His legal team claims voters in Democrat-leaning areas were given more opportunities to correct mistakes on their postal ballots than elsewhere, and over 680,000 postal ballots were counted without proper oversight from poll watchers. They lost the case but then took it to a federal appeals court where it was also rejected. The judge said, 'Calling an election unfair does not make it so. Charges require specific allegations and proof. We have neither here.' The team intends taking the case to the Supreme Court. The government's top lawyer, William Barr, said, 'We have not seen fraud on a scale that could have affected a different outcome in the election.' Challenges are dropped or settled in most other states as 14 December looms.

Pray: for the integrity of the US election to remain intact and all misinformation overruled before 14 December. (Proverbs 12:22)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-us-2020-54724960

India: fighting malaria

India has made 'impressive gains' in its fight against malaria. The number of cases and deaths caused by the mosquito-borne disease has seen a marked drop, according to the WHO. From nearly 20 million cases in 2000, there were just 5.6 million in 2019. In the past two years India has reduced cases by 18% and deaths by 20%. Malaria is now limited to some hilly parts of India, with most of the districts able to reduce it to almost nil. While nearly a billion Indians live in malaria-endemic areas, 80% of cases are reported by just 20% of the population living in the forest-fringe, tribal, and foothills hard-to-reach areas of the country. The people in these places have low awareness of disease prevention and access to health care. India's prime minister has pledged to eradicate malaria by 2030.

Pray: for medics and local leaders to overcome the logistical challenges in remote areas and finally track and eradicate this devastating disease. (Exodus 23:25)

More: mattersindia.com/2020/12/india-makes-impressive-gains-in-fight%e2%80%af-against-malaria-who/

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