

Prayer Alert

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Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1a)

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

Let's be praying for the Presidential and Legislative elections taking place in Cote d'Ivoire on 25th October and Argentina on 26th 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

[ASU football player shares faith journey, meaning behind 'Jesus Won' T-shirt](#)

Arizona State University football player Jordyn Tyson has boldly shared how his renewed faith in Jesus has transformed his life on and off the field. After wearing a "Jesus Won" T-shirt during a post-match press conference, Tyson told reporters he was "diving into my faith completely," describing the Bible as "the instructions to life." He said studying Scripture has strengthened his discipline, decision-making, and focus during training and matches. Tyson's spiritual journey deepened through his college experience with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, leading to his baptism in March. He now identifies not primarily as a football player but as "a follower of Christ." Reflecting on past struggles and injuries, he believes God used trials to mature his faith. "Jesus had His hand on me my whole life," he said, adding, "He paid the price on the cross. He won for us." Tyson's testimony continues to inspire teammates to pursue God together both on and off the field.

Praise: God for Jordyn's bold witness—may his teammates and peers encounter Christ's transforming love through him. (1 Corinthians 15:57)
More: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/asu-football-player-says-hes-diving-into-my-faith-completely.html>

[Singer Evan Craft: You don't have to be perfect for God to use you](#)

Contemporary Christian singer Evan Craft, known for hits in both English and Spanish, has expanded his ministry with his debut book *The Extra Mile*. In it, he shares a vulnerable and deeply personal account of faith, anxiety, and God's call to serve with sacrificial love. Inspired by missionary Reinhard Bonnke's biography, Craft recounts how his own struggles—including anxiety and his band quitting—became opportunities to discover God's strength in weakness. "God is big enough to receive our doubts," he says, urging believers to act in obedience even when they don't feel strong. The book redefines "going the extra mile" as showing radical love through humble service, not pursuing fame or success. Craft's faith became practical on a bicycle tour through South America, where he included two disabled Venezuelan riders to raise funds for their prosthetics. His message is clear: God uses imperfect people who are willing to love others and serve faithfully in simple, everyday ways.

Praise: God for Evan's testimony—may believers rediscover purpose through loving service and obedience in everyday life. (Matthew 5:41)
More: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/evan-craft-you-dont-have-to-be-perfect-for-god-to-use-you.html>

British Isles

Stable inflation gives chancellor space to break doom loop

UK inflation held steady at 3.8% in September, slightly below expectations and suggesting the current spike may have peaked. Economists predict a gradual decline through spring as last year's regulated price rises drop out of the index, with inflation potentially nearing the 2% target by late next year. Although still nearly double the Bank of England's goal, stability in food and energy prices has reduced the risk of inflationary "doom loops" where rising wages and prices fuel each other. The improved outlook has prompted renewed speculation about interest rate cuts — possibly four over the next year, bringing rates down to 3%. Market confidence has lifted, with government borrowing costs falling to their lowest levels in months. Chancellor Rachel Reeves, who recently pitched Britain as "the best place to invest," now has slightly more room to manoeuvre ahead of a challenging Budget. However, analysts warn that new tax measures or global shocks could quickly reverse these gains.

Pray: for economic stability and wise fiscal leadership that protects families and businesses from renewed financial strain. (Proverbs 11:14)
More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjekv555xxdo>

Met Police roll out 'eye in the sky' drone fleet to fight crime across London

The Metropolitan Police have begun testing an advanced "Drone as First Responder" system, deploying remotely operated aircraft across London to assist officers in real-time emergencies. The drones can reach incident scenes within two minutes, streaming live footage back to control rooms to support decision-making, locate suspects, or find missing people. The pilot scheme, launched in Islington, will extend to the West End and Hyde Park by December. Assistant Commissioner Laurence Taylor said the technology offers a faster, quieter, and more environmentally friendly alternative to helicopters, providing "a vital new tool to tackle crime in the capital." The drones are stored in weatherproof rooftop pods, ready to launch automatically when activated by control room staff. Their live imagery helps determine how many officers or resources are needed at the scene and can guide rapid arrests. Similar trials are underway in several UK police forces, with national chiefs calling it a major step forward in precision policing and public safety.

Pray: for discernment and responsibility in using new technology to protect communities and uphold justice with transparency. (Psalm 121:8)
More: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/met-police-drones-crime-london-islington-west-end-b1254336.html>

Migrant removed to France returns to UK on small boat

A migrant who was deported to France under the UK's new "one in, one out" return scheme has crossed the Channel again and re-entered Britain. The Iranian man, removed on 19 September, reportedly fled back four days ago, saying he feared for his life in France after being abused and threatened by smuggling gangs. He told *The Guardian* that he was treated "like a worthless object," forced to work, and threatened with a gun. Human rights advocates say his case exposes serious flaws in the rushed removals process, claiming some deported individuals received inadequate legal advice and faced mistreatment. The Home Office insists it will not tolerate "abuse of our borders" and that anyone re-entering illegally will again be removed. The UK-France treaty aims to deter Channel crossings by returning migrants whose asylum claims are rejected while accepting others with legitimate protection needs. Despite this, crossings continue to rise, now exceeding 36,800 so far this year.

Pray: for compassion and justice in immigration policies, protecting the vulnerable while upholding lawful and ethical governance. (Leviticus 19:34)
More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clykzx43v0po?app-referrer=deep-link>

Grooming gang victims say Jess Phillips should quit with inquiry in crisis

The government's grooming gang inquiry has plunged into crisis after Jim Gamble, its expected chair, withdrew, calling it a "toxic political football." His resignation followed that of four survivor-panel members, who said they would only return if safeguarding minister Jess Phillips resigned. Victims accused Phillips of lying to MPs and publicly discrediting survivors to "save her own skin." Fiona Goddard, a grooming gang survivor, produced evidence contradicting Phillips's claims about the inquiry's scope. Senior Conservatives and some Labour MPs have joined calls for her resignation, while children's minister Josh MacAlister defended her record as a "lifelong advocate for victims." In an attempt to stabilise the process, Sir Keir Starmer appointed Baroness Casey to advise on rebuilding trust and appointing a new chair, insisting the inquiry "will never be watered down." Jim Gamble and Annie Hudson both withdrew from the process to be appointed as Chair of the inquiry. Gamble said he withdrew because the process had become politically poisoned, overshadowing the voices of victims the inquiry was meant to serve. Survivors now await leadership they can trust. See <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/survivors-must-be-central-to-inquiry-says-bishop>

Pray: for truth, humility, and unity among leaders to restore justice and trust for survivors of abuse. (Psalm 82:3)
More: <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/louise-casey-jim-gamble-grooming-gangs-inquiry-05vgw5f7v>

Christian bank ranked among top 500 fastest growing UK companies

Kingdom Bank, a Christian financial institution dedicated to serving churches and believers, has been listed among the UK's 500 fastest-growing companies. Ranked 380th overall, the bank attributes its success to God's provision and the faithfulness of Christians who save with them. Their deposits enable the bank to provide mortgages for evangelical churches seeking permanent buildings for worship and community outreach. Chief Executive Paul Houghton said the recognition reflects "the increasing and urgent demand from churches across the UK" and the vital role of faith-based finance in supporting Gospel ministry. Kingdom Bank was also placed 302nd for profit and 193rd for profit margin, with all surpluses reinvested to expand lending capacity to churches, charities, and ministry workers. Looking ahead, the bank's continued growth depends on more Christians choosing to save with them. "Every pound saved helps more churches secure a permanent home for mission," said Houghton, reaffirming Kingdom Bank's vision to strengthen the Church's long-term witness across the UK.

Pray: Thanking God for Kingdom Bank's growth — may its ministry empower more churches to advance the gospel nationwide. (2 Corinthians 9:11)
More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-bank-ranked-among-top-500-fastest-growing-companies>

Wegovy and Ozempic shown to slash risk of heart attack and stroke

Groundbreaking research has revealed that the diabetes and weight-loss drug semaglutide—sold as Ozempic and Wegovy—can significantly reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes, even for patients who do not lose much weight. The global trial, involving over 17,000 participants across 41 countries, found that semaglutide cut major cardiovascular events by around 14–20%. Researchers discovered that shrinking waist size accounted for about one-third of the benefit, but two-thirds remained unexplained, suggesting the drug directly protects heart health rather than simply improving it through weight loss. Professor John Deanfield of University College London said the results “reframe what we think this medication is doing,” calling it a “disease-modifying therapy for ageing.” Experts describe the findings as “profound,” urging that the drug’s use not be limited to severely obese patients. However, they also cautioned that side effects must be carefully monitored as its use expands. The breakthrough could mark the most significant advance in cardiovascular medicine since statins.

Pray: for medical wisdom and ethical use of new treatments that bring healing and extend healthy lives. (Psalm 103:2–3)

More: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/wegovy-ozempic-shown-slash-risk-36116568>

Europe

Zelenskyy joins European summit as EU and US ramp up Russia sanctions

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined European Union leaders in Brussels as both the EU and the US announced fresh sanctions on Russia for refusing a ceasefire. Arriving at the summit, Zelenskyy reaffirmed that Ukraine will make “no territorial concessions,” rejecting any pressure to surrender land occupied by Russian forces. EU leaders pledged continued unity with Kyiv while discussing a new proposal to use frozen Russian assets in Belgium to fund Ukraine’s defence and postwar reconstruction—though legal and political hurdles remain. The summit also addressed Europe’s wider security strategy, economic competitiveness, and climate commitments, alongside debates on migration and the Middle East. US President Donald Trump supported the tougher sanctions and acknowledged that Vladimir Putin still seeks control over all of Ukraine. Zelenskyy thanked allies for their backing, emphasising that Ukraine’s struggle is not just for national sovereignty but for the defence of freedom across Europe. EU officials said the meeting’s goal was to maintain solidarity and prevent fatigue in supporting Kyiv’s resistance.

Pray: for steadfast unity among nations defending Ukraine’s freedom and for peace grounded in justice and truth. (Psalm 46:9)

More: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/10/22/zelenskyy-to-join-eu-summit-to-rally-support-after-difficult-trump-meeting-follow-live>

Dublin: Three gardai injured and 23 people arrested in second night of Citywest public disorder

Serious unrest broke out for a second consecutive night near the Citywest Hotel in Dublin, leaving three gardai hospitalised and 23 people arrested. Around 500 people, mostly young men and teenagers, were involved in violent disturbances outside the hotel, which currently houses asylum seekers. Projectiles including bottles, bricks, and flares were thrown at officers, with one garda struck on the head. Over 300 police were deployed, supported by mounted, dog, and air units, though water cannon use was not required. The violence followed an alleged sexual assault on a 10-year-old girl earlier in the week. Justice Minister Jim O’Callaghan condemned the “thuggish violence” and promised those responsible would be “dealt with relentlessly.” Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly warned of a “robust response” to any further disorder, stressing that the gatherings were not peaceful protests. Taoiseach Micheál Martin praised officers for their bravery, describing the attacks as “vile abuse” against those protecting the community. A senior investigating officer has been appointed to lead inquiries. [See <https://news.sky.com/story/flatplan-13455441>](https://news.sky.com/story/flatplan-13455441)

Pray: for peace, healing, and reconciliation in Citywest, and protection for gardai upholding justice under pressure. (Romans 12:21)

More: <https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/2025/10/22/stones-and-fireworks-thrown-at-gardai-as-protestors-gather-at-citywest-for-second-night/>

France: Death threats for former President Sarkozy in prison

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy has received death threats just one day after beginning his five-year prison sentence for criminal conspiracy at La Santé prison in Paris. A video circulated online appeared to show an inmate verbally threatening Sarkozy as he arrived at the facility. Prosecutors have launched an investigation, questioning three prisoners and seizing two mobile phones believed to be linked to the video. In response to security concerns, authorities have assigned two police officers as permanent bodyguards housed in nearby cells, a move that has drawn criticism from prison unions who say they were not informed. Interior minister Laurent Nunez defended the arrangement, saying Sarkozy’s protection was justified “because of his status” and “a clear threat.” Sarkozy, who led France from 2007 to 2012, was convicted of taking illegal campaign funds from Libya, a charge he continues to deny as politically motivated. His lawyers have appealed the ruling and are seeking early release before Christmas.

Pray: for justice, truth, and protection for all in authority, that righteousness may prevail over corruption and hatred. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/death-threats-for-former-french-president-nicolas-sarkozy-less-than-a-day-into-five-year-prison-sentence-13455551>

Worldwide

Trump says Putin talks 'don't go anywhere' as he imposes new sanctions

US President Donald Trump has imposed sweeping new sanctions on Russia’s two largest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil, after shelving plans for peace talks with Vladimir Putin. The move marks a major policy shift, as Trump had previously resisted sanctions while urging Europe to end purchases of Russian oil. Frustrated by Moscow’s failure to negotiate, he said his conversations with Putin “don’t go anywhere,” calling the sanctions “tremendous” and expressing hope they could be lifted if Russia agrees to halt its war in Ukraine. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the measures target the Kremlin’s “war machine,” which is heavily funded by oil exports. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed the action as a “good signal,” urging continued global pressure. The sanctions follow similar steps by the UK and EU, which also banned Russian liquefied gas imports by 2028. Despite economic pressure, Russia insists it remains “immune” and continues airstrikes across Ukraine, where civilian casualties—including children—remain high.

Pray: for peace in Ukraine, wise diplomacy among leaders, and God’s restraint on aggression and bloodshed. (Matthew 5:9)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd6758pn6ylo>

Collision involving multiple vehicles on Uganda highway kills 46 people

At least 46 people have died following a devastating collision on Uganda's Kampala-Gulu Highway, one of the country's busiest roads. The crash occurred shortly after midnight near Kiryandongo when two buses travelling in opposite directions attempted to overtake other vehicles simultaneously, colliding head-on with a truck and a car. Initial reports suggested a higher death toll of 63 before police revised the figures as rescue operations progressed. The Uganda Police Force said many victims were found unconscious at the scene and urged motorists to avoid dangerous overtaking, which remains one of Uganda's leading causes of road fatalities. Red Cross spokesperson Irene Nakasiita described the wreckage as "too gruesome to share," with many victims suffering severe injuries and broken limbs. The tragedy highlights Uganda's worsening road safety record, with more than 5,000 people killed in crashes last year—a rise for the third consecutive year. Authorities have launched an investigation while emergency teams continue assisting survivors and families.

Pray: for comfort for grieving families, healing for the injured, and safer roads across Uganda. (Psalm 34:18)

More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/10/22/bus-collision-on-highway-near-ugandas-capital-kampala-kills-63-people>

Peru declares 30-day state of emergency in Lima to tackle rising crime

Peruvian President Jose Jeri has declared a 30-day state of emergency in the capital, Lima, and the neighboring province of Callao to confront rising crime and growing public unrest. The measure, approved by the Council of Ministers, allows the armed forces to work alongside police in maintaining order and security. In a televised address, Jeri said the government was "moving from defense to offense in the fight against crime" to restore peace and public trust. The decision follows violent protests last week that left one person dead and over 100 injured, marking the first major challenge to Jeri's new administration. Sworn in earlier this month after the ouster of Dina Boluarte, the president has made law and order his top priority. However, analysts warn that repeated emergency declarations — including similar measures under Boluarte — have failed to address the root causes of Peru's insecurity. Critics say lasting reform requires judicial and police accountability, not just military deployment.

Pray: for peace, justice, and strong, principled leadership in Peru as authorities confront violence and restore public trust. (Isaiah 32:17)

More: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/21/americas/peru-lima-state-of-emergency-intl-hnk>

Cambodia, Thailand convene joint committee meeting to advance vital border discussions

Cambodia and Thailand have convened a two-day Joint Border Committee (JBC) meeting in Chanthaburi province to advance long-stalled talks on their shared frontier. The session follows June's historic JBC meeting in Phnom Penh — the first in over a decade — which helped revive bilateral dialogue after tensions briefly escalated into armed confrontation between border troops. The agenda includes reviewing progress on boundary demarcation, addressing issues raised at September's General Border Committee meeting, and approving the use of new mapping technologies such as LiDAR and orthophotography to speed up surveying along the 800-kilometre border. Cambodia's delegation, led by Lam Chea of the State Secretariat of Border Affairs, and Thailand's, headed by Prasas Prasasvinitchai, aim to confirm additional boundary pillars and strengthen cooperation under the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding. Phnom Penh reaffirmed that disputed zones like Ta Moan Thom and the Emerald Triangle should be settled through international legal channels, not unilateral mapping. Both sides expressed hope that continued dialogue will prevent renewed conflict and foster stability.

Pray: for lasting peace and mutual respect between Cambodia and Thailand through fair dialogue and wise diplomacy. (Romans 12:18)

More: <https://asianews.network/cambodia-thailand-convene-joint-committee-meeting-to-advance-vital-border-discussions/>

Syria's post-conflict reconstruction to cost at least \$216B: World Bank

The World Bank has estimated Syria's post-war reconstruction will cost at least \$216 billion, with possible totals ranging from \$140 billion to \$345 billion. Its 'Syrian Conflict: Physical Damage and Reconstruction Assessment (2011–2024)' report found \$108 billion in direct physical destruction—around one-third of the country's total capital stock. Infrastructure suffered nearly half the damage (\$52 billion), followed by homes and public buildings, with Aleppo, Rif Dimashq, and Homs the hardest-hit regions. Syria's economy has shrunk dramatically, with GDP down 53% since 2010, from \$67.5 billion to just \$21.4 billion. The report warns that reconstruction costs now amount to ten times the country's current GDP, while sanctions, depleted reserves, and minimal capital investment leave the government unable to rebuild alone. Finance Minister Yisr Barnieh called for urgent global support to restore infrastructure and rebuild communities. Following Bashar al-Assad's flight to Russia last year, Syria's new government under President Ahmed Al-Sharaa has begun reforms aimed at stability, investment, and national recovery.

Pray: for Syria's healing, righteous governance, and international cooperation to rebuild lives and restore hope after war. (Isaiah 61:4)

More: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20251022-syrias-post-conflict-reconstruction-to-cost-at-least-216b-world-bank/>

China: update on Zion Church following arrest of Church leaders

Zion Church, one of China's largest and most influential house church networks, is facing a severe government crackdown under new online religious restrictions. Founded in 2007 by Pastor Jin Mingri (Ezra Jin), the 10,000-member movement operates across 40 cities. In October, coordinated raids led to over 30 arrests, with 22 believers—including many leaders—still detained in Guangxi Province. Pastor Jin and four others have been charged with "illegally using internet information" under China's new Online Code of Conduct for Religious Professionals, which bans unregistered online ministry. Observers say this marks a new phase of persecution targeting large, cross-regional, and digitally active churches, as authorities intensify efforts to "Sinicise" Christianity. Homes and bank accounts have been seized, families and lawyers harassed, and further arrests are expected. Despite fear and grief, Chinese believers are responding with unity and steadfast prayer, calling this the "10.9 Church Persecution." They ask the global church to intercede for protection, endurance, and revival as they stand firm under growing repression. See <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/blog/news/latest-news/china-churches-crackdown/>

Pray: for strength, unity, and divine protection for China's believers as persecution deepens across house churches. (2 Corinthians 4:9)

More: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/blog/news/latest-news/china-churches-raids/>

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