

Prayer Alert

ISSUE 01-2026 | Friday 09 January 2026
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From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. (Psalm 113:3)

Happy New Year!

We are pleased to bring you this first edition of Prayer Alert for 2026.

Revival Prayer Hour

If you share our heart to see revival across the nations, do join the World Prayer Centre's Revival Prayer Hour on Wednesday's via Zoom from 9.30am to 10.30am. We shall be praying for revival in the UK, transformed hearts, and God's movement in the nations. We hope you can join us to worship and pray! [See](#)

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done – Jan 5 – Feb 5 2026



We are on day 5 of 30 Days of united, non-stop Prayer - seeking God for a lasting spiritual awakening across the United Kingdom & Ireland! [More info here](#)

National elections

Please pray for parliamentary and general elections taking place in Benin and Myanmar on 11 January, Uganda (15th), and Portugal (18th).



JOIN US ON INTERSEED!

CONNECT – BLESS – GROW

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!

Would you like to join our Prayer Alert team?

We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England, India, and USA. 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

What UK Christians can expect to see in 2026

Following what many have described as a 'quiet revival' in 2025, Christian leaders believe 2026 could mark an unprecedented season of spiritual openness in Britain. Writing for the Evangelical Alliance, Phil Knox identifies five missional trends shaping the year ahead. Research shows remarkable growth in church attendance among 18- to 24-year-olds, especially men, signalling a turning tide after decades of decline. Yet Knox cautions that increased openness will not automatically lead to Christian conversion, as seekers may also explore alternative spiritualities, including paganism and the occult. He anticipates a rise in unexplained spiritual encounters, which already play a significant role in many adult faith journeys. Churches are urged to connect social action such as foodbank ministry with clear invitations to faith. Knox also expects Bible sales to continue rising as younger generations seek truth in a confused cultural landscape. He says that discipleship will be essential, as new believers need spiritual formation, community, and nurturing relationships to remain rooted and fruitful.

Praise: God for spiritual openness rising across Britain; may churches disciple new believers deeply and faithfully. Let's pray for more 'quiet revival' in 2026! (Acts 2:42)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/what-christians-can-expect-to-see-in-2026.html

Ole Miss quarterback gives glory to Jesus

Mississippi quarterback Trinidad Chambliss has captured national attention not only for his remarkable rise in college football, but for his bold and consistent Christian witness. After leading Ole Miss to a dramatic comeback victory over Georgia in the Sugar Bowl quarterfinal, Chambliss immediately gave glory to Jesus during a live ESPN interview, declaring his gratitude to Christ for sustaining him through every high and low. The win followed a standout performance in which Chambliss threw passes for 362 yards and two touchdowns. His faith has remained central throughout the season, especially after stepping in as starting quarterback following injury to a teammate. He regularly credits Jesus for giving him peace amid pressure, openly sharing his testimony with media and fans alike. Raised in a faith-centred family, his name, meaning 'Trinity', reflects his parents' commitment to Christ. Chambliss continues to trust God fully, offering a powerful example of humility, courage, and public faith.

Praise: God for Trinidad's bold Christian witness in sport; may more athletes proclaim Christ clearly and trust Him publicly. (Philippians 4:13)

More: www.godreports.com/2026/01/ole-miss-qb-trinidad-chambliss-gives-glory-to-jesus/

British Isles

Man jailed for supplying small boats to people smugglers

A Turkish national has been jailed for eleven years after being convicted of supplying thousands of small boats and engines used by people smugglers to carry migrants across the English Channel. Adem Savas, 45, was identified as a key supplier following a major investigation by the National Crime Agency into a Europe-wide smuggling network. Posing as a legitimate maritime trader, he shipped inflatable boats from Turkey, sourced cheap outboard engines from China, and stored equipment in Germany. Investigators believe he supplied equipment used in thousands of Channel crossings between 2019 and 2024, including boats linked to fatal incidents. Savas worked closely with convicted smuggling kingpin Hewa Rahimpur, whose network moved more than ten thousand migrants into the UK. He knowingly profited from supplying vessels unfit for dangerous sea crossings, earning millions while exposing vulnerable people to serious harm and death.

Pray: for the dismantling of smuggling networks, justice for the victims, and protection for migrants exploited by criminal gangs. (Psalm 82:4)

More: <https://news.sky.com/story/man-jailed-for-supplying-hundreds-of-small-boats-and-engines-to-channel-people-smugglers-13491372>

UK armed forces helped US seizure of tanker

The UK armed forces have confirmed they supported a US-led operation to seize a Russian-flagged oil tanker in the North Atlantic, amid growing concerns over so-called 'shadow fleets' evading international sanctions. The tanker, Marinera, was intercepted while sailing between Iceland and Scotland after US authorities obtained a legal warrant to seize it. At Washington's request, the UK provided surveillance support through RAF aircraft and a Royal Navy support vessel. Defence secretary John Healey said the action fully complied with international law and formed part of stepped-up efforts to counter malign activity at sea. The tanker is accused of transporting oil on behalf of Iran, Russia and Venezuela, with proceeds allegedly financing terrorism and contributing to Russia's war in Ukraine. Moscow has condemned the seizure, while the US praised UK cooperation.

Pray: for wisdom and restraint in maritime security operations, protecting nations while upholding justice and international law. (Psalm 29:11)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckglprzk720

Man who sold chemicals online to assist suicides is jailed

A former British soldier has been jailed for fourteen years after selling lethal chemicals online to assist suicides, resulting in the deaths of two people. Miles Cross, 33, from Wrexham, used an online discussion forum to advertise the substance for £100, sharing a QR code to enable discreet ordering. He supplied the chemical to four individuals during the summer of 2024, even continuing sales after learning that one recipient had died by suicide using the substance he provided. Prosecutors said Cross deliberately set up new digital and financial accounts to facilitate the operation and acted for personal financial gain, targeting complete strangers at moments of extreme vulnerability. The court heard evidence of his deteriorating mental health, but the judge emphasised the gravity of exploiting distressed individuals and enabling loss of life. This was a disturbing example of online predation and a warning of the dangers faced by vulnerable people in unregulated digital spaces.

Pray: for protection of vulnerable lives, justice for victims, and effective safeguards against online exploitation nationwide. (John 10:10)

More: www.itv.com/news/wales/2026-01-07/man-who-sold-chemicals-online-to-assist-suicides-for-100-is-jailed-for-14-years

Police vetting scandal: Met hired black child rapist to boost diversity

A damning review has revealed serious failures in the Metropolitan Police's recruitment and vetting processes, with thousands of officers and staff inadequately checked during a major recruitment drive. The report found that as many as 22,000 recruits between 2019 and 2023 were subject to reduced or incomplete vetting, contributing to at least 131 cases of criminality or misconduct. Among those improperly vetted were two serial rapists, who committed grave crimes while serving as police officers. Investigators concluded that pressure to meet recruitment targets, including efforts to address workforce diversity, led senior leaders to bypass national vetting standards. Thousands of references went unchecked, security clearances were skipped, and some recruits began duties before approvals were complete. Home secretary Shabana Mahmood described the failures as a 'dereliction of duty' which damaged public trust and put citizens at risk.

Pray: for integrity, accountability, and moral courage in policing, restoring public trust and protecting the vulnerable. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.standard.co.uk/news/london/met-police-vetting-checks-recruits-rapists-officers-b1265432.html

Three schoolchildren seriously injured after falling out of a bus

Three high school pupils from Wigan were seriously injured after falling from the top window of a double-decker bus in Ashton-in-Makerfield. The incident prompted an emergency response that included police, paramedics, and an air ambulance. All three children were taken to hospital with serious injuries, though police later confirmed that none are believed to be life-threatening. Roads in the area were temporarily closed to allow emergency services to respond and conduct initial enquiries, but have since reopened. Greater Manchester Police described the incident as deeply concerning but said it appears to have been a tragic accident. The incident has understandably caused shock within the local community and raised questions around safety on public transport for young people.

Pray: for healing for the three injured children and calmness and peace for their families. (Psalm 34:18)

More: www.wigantoday.net/news/emergency-incident/three-wigan-high-schoolchildren-seriously-injured-after-falling-out-of-the-top-window-of-a-double-decker-bus-5467010

Churches urged to support alcohol-free January

Churches across the UK are being urged to support Dry January 2026, as an estimated 17.5 million adults commit to a month without alcohol. The initiative, led by Alcohol Change UK, invites people to pause drinking for 31 days to reflect on habits and wellbeing. Research linked to the campaign notes benefits including improved sleep, better concentration, increased energy, and financial savings. Christian anti-addiction charity Hope UK wants churches to recognise Dry January as a pastoral opportunity, particularly for those quietly struggling with alcohol. One trustee has warned that alcohol-centred socialising remains common in church life, potentially excluding or harming vulnerable individuals, and says that alcohol-related struggles often remain hidden due to shame or fear of judgement. Hope UK encourages practical steps such as offering alcohol-free communion options, choosing non-drinking venues for gatherings, and speaking openly about alcohol with compassion. The charity believes Dry January aligns closely with the Church's calling to provide safe, supportive spaces where people can pursue healthier choices and honest conversations about addiction and wellbeing.

Pray: for churches to become safe, compassionate spaces supporting healthier choices and offering support and hope to those struggling with alcohol. (1 Corinthians 10:23)

More: www.christiantoday.com/news/churches-urged-to-support-alcohol-free-january-as-millions-sign-up-nationwide

Europe

Ukraine: UK and France agree to send troops if a peace deal is reached

The United Kingdom and France have agreed in principle to deploy troops in Ukraine if a peace deal with Russia is reached, marking a significant step in European security planning. Keir Starmer said the declaration of intent would allow British, French and partner forces to operate across Ukraine to deter future aggression, while Emmanuel Macron suggested thousands of troops could be involved. Allies meeting in Paris broadly agreed on the need for robust security guarantees, with the USA expected to lead monitoring of any ceasefire. However, major questions remain unresolved, particularly over territory occupied by Russia and the precise terms of enforcement. Moscow has warned foreign troops would be legitimate targets and has so far remained silent on the proposals. Volodymyr Zelensky, who said on 1 January that a peace deal was '90% ready', welcomed the talks as progress but stressed that guarantees would only matter if they truly ended the war, as pressure grows on all sides to compromise.

Pray: that all the leaders concerned will pursue peace with courage and wisdom, protecting lives while resisting injustice and aggression. (Psalm 29:11)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c17zee20qpo

Greenland: Trump's ambitions expose serious weakness in NATO

Debate over Donald Trump's apparent interest in taking over Greenland from Denmark has exposed a serious weakness within NATO. While diplomacy may yet prevail, the situation highlights how dependent European allies have become on American military power. Decades of reliance on the USA have left the alliance vulnerable if Washington ever withdraws support or acts independently. The UK illustrates this clearly. Despite presenting itself as Europe's strongest military force, Britain relies heavily on the United States, particularly through its nuclear partnership and key battlefield 'enablers' such as satellite intelligence, electronic warfare protection and logistics. Successive governments have underinvested in these costly capabilities, assuming American backing would always be guaranteed. This dependence extends across NATO. Many members operate US-built equipment and plan defence around American leadership. Even as allies try to do more, the alliance still assumes a dominant US role. The Greenland debate sharpens a question NATO already faces: what if America is no longer fully on board?

Pray: that leaders will act with wisdom, restraint and humility, pursuing peace over power and ambition. (James 1:5)

More: news.sky.com/story/trump-is-likely-gambling-he-could-get-away-with-greenland-grab-as-nato-needs-us-more-than-he-needs-it-13491116

Switzerland: shock and heartache after 1 January bar fire

Four days after the New Year's Day bar fire that killed at least forty people, the Swiss resort of Crans-Montana remained in shock. In silence, thousands braved the cold to march through the town, stopping near the venue where the tragedy occurred, now hidden behind a white tarp. An improvised memorial of candles and flowers reflected the shared grief of residents and visitors alike. Among those gathered was a mother who had waited nearly three days for confirmation of her son's fate. She described the anguish of uncertainty before finally learning of his death, and the painful relief of being able to begin mourning. While grateful for a final moment to say goodbye, she expressed anger at the prolonged silence from authorities during those critical days. It has now come out that the bar had not been inspected for at least five years: see <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/06/no-safety-inspections-site-swiss-bar-fire-past-five-years-mayor-says>

Pray: that grieving families will receive comfort, truth and compassion. Pray that the community will find strength to heal together. (Psalm 147:3)

More: www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2026/01/05/in-switzerland-grief-and-anger-simmer-four-days-after-deadly-bar-fire_6749099_4.html

Worldwide

China: police forces and heavy machinery surround church building

Special police forces and heavy machinery have surrounded Yayang Church in Zhejiang province, raising fears the building could be damaged or its cross removed. Images shared online by Bob Fu of China Aid show scaffolding around the roof and cross, while security cordons have prevented filming and forced nearby residents to leave. The action follows a December crackdown in which around two hundred people linked to the church were arrested or dispersed without explanation, and two church leaders were detained as alleged suspects in a 'criminal organisation', without specific charges detailed. Observers say the incident reflects wider pressure on unregistered churches, which face surveillance and arrests across China. Communist Party officials view independent religious belief as a challenge to state control, and rights groups warn such actions are becoming increasingly common. Breaking news: Bob Fu has posted that 'part of the church building is being forcefully destroyed'.

Pray: that persecuted believers will be protected, strengthened in faith, and granted courage amid intimidation and control. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/fears-chinese-church-could-be-destroyed-building-encircled-special-forces>

Colombia: Trump will meet Petro 'in the near future' despite recent threats

Donald Trump has said he will meet Colombian president Gustavo Petro at the White House in the near future, amid days of rising regional tensions. The announcement followed the US operation in Venezuela on 4 January which seized president Nicolás Maduro, with Venezuelan officials claiming a far higher death toll (over a hundred killed) than initially reported. Trump said he had discussed drugs and other disputes with Petro and welcomed a calmer tone, after previously issuing public threats. Petro warned Colombia would resist any US military action, even as Washington tightened control over Venezuelan oil sales and maintained sanctions on Bogotá, claiming that cocaine trafficking in Colombia had 'exploded to the highest rate in decades'. Secretary of state Marco Rubio will help to arrange the talks. Meanwhile, Venezuela's interim leader Delcy Rodríguez said that Maduro's kidnapping was an unprecedented 'stain on our relations', but added: 'Venezuela is open to energy relations where all parties benefit'. Meanwhile, the USA has seized two sanctioned oil tankers, one of them flying a Russian flag: see <https://news.sky.com/story/what-we-know-about-us-seizure-of-russian-flagged-oil-tanker-linked-to-venezuela-13491539>

Pray: that leaders step back from escalation, choosing restraint, dialogue and justice over threats and violence. (Proverbs 16:7)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c98py70npj9o

Colombia: another church leader killed in targeted attack

A Colombian church leader has been killed in a targeted New Year's Eve attack, highlighting renewed dangers facing pastors in the country. Pastor José Otoniel Ortega was shot repeatedly by armed attackers while celebrating with his family and later died from his injuries. Members of his congregation described him as a devoted servant who preached peace and lived out his faith with love. He is the eleventh church leader killed in Colombia since November 2024, according to CSW, which warns of rising hostility towards churches. Armed cartels often view pastors as threats because they oppose violence and illegal activity. CSW has urged the Colombian government to address the issue by offering additional protection to church leaders.

Pray: that God will comfort Pastor Ortega's grieving family, and bring justice, peace, and stronger protection for other church leaders. (Psalm 23:4)
More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/colombian-pastor-murdered-during-nye-celebrations

USA: ICE agent kills woman observer

Community tensions in Minneapolis have sharply intensified following a fatal shooting by a US immigration agent amid a major surge in enforcement activity. A 37-year-old US citizen, Renee Nicole Good, was shot and killed during an ICE operation, despite video suggesting she was driving away. Federal authorities claimed she was interfering with law enforcement, a statement strongly disputed by witnesses. The incident comes as hundreds of additional immigration officers have been deployed under the Trump administration, particularly targeting immigrant-heavy neighbourhoods. Advocacy groups report widespread fear, reduced work attendance, and growing economic strain as families avoid leaving their homes. Community networks have mobilised rapidly, training observers, tracking ICE vehicles, and providing legal and practical support to those affected. Local officials have condemned the operation, warning that aggressive enforcement is tearing communities apart and escalating violence. Residents now fear the surge represents a new and dangerous normal for the city.

Pray: that fear will give way to justice, restraint and compassion. Pray for the local communities affected by this huge ICE operation. (Proverbs 31:8–9)
More: www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/08/minneapolis-ice-agent-shooting-killing

India: opposition party lambasts Modi after Trump raises tariffs

India's opposition Congress party has criticised Narendra Modi after renewed US warnings linking higher tariffs on Indian exports to continued purchases of Russian oil. Jairam Ramesh argued that a personality-driven foreign policy has failed to shield India from economic pressure. He said highly publicised displays of personal rapport with US leadership have not prevented repeated threats over trade and energy. Congress claims years of diplomacy have delivered few tangible benefits, leaving India vulnerable to sudden shifts in US policy. The criticism comes as Washington increases pressure on countries buying Russian energy amid ongoing geopolitical tensions. The government insists that purchasing discounted Russian oil is a sovereign decision needed for energy security and compliant with sanctions. While officials highlight strong defence, technology and trade ties with the US, critics warn that overreliance on personal chemistry weakens institutional diplomacy.

Pray: that India's leaders pursue wisdom, balance and humility in navigating complex global pressures and rivalries. (Proverbs 2:6)
More: asianews.network/indian-congress-slams-pm-modis-personal-diplomacy-as-us-signals-higher-tariffs-over-indias-russian-oil-purchases/

Equatorial Guinea: US payment to accept deportees sharply criticised

The US government has made a \$7.5 million payment to the government of Equatorial Guinea as it seeks agreements to deport migrants to third countries, prompting sharp criticism from a top Democratic senator. Jeanne Shaheen said the payment, drawn from a migration and refugee assistance fund, raises serious concerns about transparency and proper use of taxpayer money; it far exceeds all US aid given to the country in the past eight years. She questioned whether funds intended for humanitarian crises should be transferred directly to one of the world's most corrupt governments. The State Department defended the move as part of implementing the Trump administration's immigration priorities. The payment raises questions about how the government is enmeshing its deportation agenda with other foreign policy goals, as well as the international leaders it is willing to trust. Immigration advocacy groups have called the policy a reckless tactic which violates due process rights and can strand deportees in countries with long histories of human rights violations and corruption.

Pray: that the US government will act justly and transparently, protecting vulnerable people rather than exploiting power or fear. (Amos 5:24)
More: www.africanews.com/2025/11/11/democrats-query-millions-trump-paid-to-equatorial-guinea-to-accept-deportees/

Burkina Faso: new coup attempt thwarted

Authorities in Burkina Faso say they have thwarted a new coup attempt, underscoring ongoing political instability in the West African nation. Officials said the alleged plot was uncovered late on 3 January before it could be carried out, with security forces remaining on high alert. In a televised address, Security minister Mahamadou Sana said the plan involved coordinated efforts to destabilise the country through targeted assassinations of civilian and military leaders, including the head of state, Captain Ibrahim Traoré (see <https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pray/regions/worldwide/item/53817-burkina-faso-africa-s-youngest-leader>). Investigations are continuing and arrests have reportedly begun, with those implicated expected to face prosecution. The government praised intelligence services for preventing what it described as another attempt to destabilise the country. The alleged plot is the latest in a series of claims of attempts to remove Captain Traoré, who himself seized power in 2022.

Pray: that Burkina Faso finds stability, justice and peace. Pray that Captain Traoré and other leaders will act responsibly for the nation's good. (Proverbs 21:1)

More: www.africanews.com/2026/01/07/burkina-faso-authorities-say-new-coup-plot-foiled-arrests-underway/

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Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with

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