

# Prayer Alert

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**I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (Psalm 146:2)**

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

**Thy Kingdom Come: 14-24 May 2026**

**Thy Kingdom Come** has been running for 10 years now - encouraging us to be praying from Ascension to Pentecost - for more people to know Jesus. We encourage you to register your interest so that you and your church family receive the updates and resources!

**National elections:** Let's be praying for the National and Congressional elections taking place in Nepal (5th March) and Colombia (8th March).



**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**

### [Nurse back at work after suspension for misgendering a transgender paedophile](#)

Christian nurse Jennifer Melle has returned to work after more than ten months of suspension following an incident involving a transgender prisoner. She was disciplined after referring to the patient as 'mister' while speaking with colleagues, despite reporting that she had faced racial abuse and physical threats during the encounter. Although her NHS trust has confirmed it will take no further action, she remains under investigation by the Nursing and Midwifery Council over the language used and for speaking publicly about her treatment. Melle, a south London nurse with twelve years of service, is pursuing an employment tribunal, alleging harassment, discrimination and breaches of freedom of belief. She has expressed gratitude for support received throughout the ordeal, especially by the Christian Legal Centre.

Praise: God that Jennifer has been able to return to work. Pray that truth, fairness and compassion will guide every such investigation. (Micah 6:8)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-nurse-returns-to-work-after-being-sanctioned-for-misgendering-trans-paedophile](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-nurse-returns-to-work-after-being-sanctioned-for-misgendering-trans-paedophile)

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## Vietnam: a shining example of steadfast faith despite persecution

Ngoc\*, a 63-year-old believer in Vietnam, has endured severe persecution for her Christian faith. Raised in ancestral worship, she came to faith in Jesus after hearing about His love and forgiveness at a local church. When she told her husband, his violence intensified, including attempts to strangle and stone her. Though some of her children opposed her decision, one daughter stood by her. Local authorities and neighbours later pressured Ngoc to renounce her faith. When she refused, a mob forced her from her home, and she was expelled from her village with only the clothes she wore. With her daughter and granddaughter, she found refuge in another community where local Christians helped them rebuild their lives. Despite suffering rejection, violence and loss, Ngoc continues to express deep trust in God, testifying to His faithfulness through hardship. (\*name changed for security reasons)

Praise: God for Ngoc's steadfast faith. Pray for similar perseverance for other persecuted believers. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

More: [www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/ngoc-story-vietnam/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/ngoc-story-vietnam/)

## British Isles

### Mandelson's lawyers say his arrest was due to 'baseless' flight claims

On 23 February, Lord Mandelson was arrested at his London home on charges of misconduct in public office and later released on bail pending further investigation. His lawyers said the arrest was made due to claims that he might leave the country, but described them as 'baseless'. The Metropolitan Police declined to comment. The investigation relates to allegations that, while serving as a minister, he shared market-sensitive government information with the late convicted offender Jeffrey Epstein. Officers executed search warrants at properties in Wiltshire and Camden before questioning him for nine hours. Lord Mandelson, who has always maintained that he has acted lawfully and done nothing wrong, says he is cooperating fully. Meanwhile, the police have finished searching the properties belonging to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, who was arrested on similar charges on 19 February. He has also been released on bail.

Pray: that truth and integrity will prevail through careful investigation. (Proverbs 10:9)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c05vey47yddo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c05vey47yddo)

### Student loans: over twenty MPs call for drastic reform of system

More than twenty Labour MPs have called for reform of England's student loan system. Leading a parliamentary debate, Jas Athwal argued the system is unfair, with many graduates seeing balances rise despite regular repayments. Under current arrangements, Plan 2 borrowers pay interest linked to RPI inflation plus up to 3%, depending on earnings. From April 2027, the salary threshold triggering repayments will be frozen for three years, a move critics say effectively increases the burden during a cost-of-living crisis. Some MPs described the terms as retrospective and punitive, while others backed scrapping tuition fees entirely. Kemi Badenoch also urged lower interest rates, and the Conservatives have also said they would close 100,000 university places to alleviate debt and fund apprenticeships instead, arguing that some degrees were leaving graduates worse off. Keir Starmer acknowledged concerns and said the government would consider ways to make the system fairer.

Pray: that fairness and wisdom will shape decisions on student debt. (Proverbs 2:6)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g2kxjg1e1o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g2kxjg1e1o)

### SEND pupils face major shakeup in new government proposals

Parents in England may soon face limits on choosing special schools for their children under sweeping reforms to special educational needs and disabilities provision. The white paper proposes that councils provide families with a shortlist of suitable placements, considering parental preference alongside value for money and the needs of all children in the area. Ministers say the changes aim to place more pupils closer to home, reducing long travel times and rising transport costs (now up to £3.4 billion a year). £4 billion has been pledged to expand specialist places within mainstream schools and reduce reliance on expensive independent providers. Private placements can cost more than twice as much as state-sector options, adding pressure to local authority budgets. While parents will retain the right to appeal decisions, tribunals will no longer be able to name a specific school. Broader reforms also include reviewing the future use of care plans.

Pray: that vulnerable children will receive wise and compassionate support. (Isaiah 30:21)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c309zp49zdno](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c309zp49zdno)

### By-election: Reform member suspended for racist and misogynistic social media posts

Reform UK has suspended a campaign figure in the Gorton and Denton by-election, which they hope to win, after reported social media posts containing racist and misogynistic remarks. Adam Mitula, said to be involved in candidate Matt Goodwin's campaign, allegedly questioned the scale of the Holocaust and made offensive comments about Jewish women and transgender people. He claimed that the posts were taken out of context, and angrily defended his reputation. Reform UK declined to comment on internal disciplinary matters. Labour's deputy leader Lucy Powell urged Goodwin to distance himself from the remarks, warning that failure to do so would suggest tolerance of such views. The controversy comes during a closely watched contest in which Goodwin has positioned the vote as a challenge to Keir Starmer, focusing his campaign on borders, crime and cultural issues. Update: the Green Party won the by-election with a large majority. See <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/feb/27/labour-worst-fears-realised-greens-victory-gorton-denton-byelection>

Pray: that politicians, no matter from what party, will speak truthfully and respectfully. (Ephesians 4:29)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/reform-uk-gorton-denton-adam-mitula-b2926632.html?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-gb](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/reform-uk-gorton-denton-adam-mitula-b2926632.html?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-gb)

### Cornwall: UK's first deep geothermal power plant

On 26 February, the UK's first deep geothermal power plant began generating electricity in Cornwall after nearly twenty years of development. The United Downs project, led by Geothermal Engineering Ltd, drilled three miles into granite rock to access water heated to almost 200°C. The super-heated water will drive turbines, producing constant renewable electricity for up to 10,000 homes. Unlike wind or solar, geothermal provides continuous 'always-on' power. The site will also extract lithium from underground fluids, creating the UK's first domestic commercial supply of this critical mineral used in electric vehicle batteries. While hailed as a major step for energy innovation, experts note that high upfront drilling costs may limit rapid expansion without sustained investment and supportive policy. Three more such projects are planned, reflecting growing interest in harnessing subterranean heat. Other countries are already doing this more widely; the Netherlands plan to have a quarter of their homes heated by geothermal by 2050.

Pray: that this innovative approach will succeed in giving communities sustainable and responsible energy. (Psalm 24:1)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cewzg77k721o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cewzg77k721o)

### **Bafta awards: newcomer wins awards for portrayal of Tourette's campaigner**

Robert Aramayo, a relative newcomer, was a surprise winner at the Bafta awards, ahead of several better-known stars. Born in Hull, he won two awards (Best Actor and Rising Star) for his portrayal of John Davidson in *I Swear*. The film tells the story of Davidson's experience growing up with Tourette's syndrome in 1980s Scotland. Aramayo, who trained at Wyke College and developed his craft at Hull Truck Theatre, became emotional while accepting the awards, later saying the achievement 'blows my mind'. Local educators and theatre leaders described his success as inspirational for young people across the city. Hull Truck's artistic director praised both his talent and integrity, noting the vital role regional theatres play in nurturing performers. Aramayo has previously spoken of his pride in Hull and gratitude for early mentors who supported his journey from local stages to international recognition.

Pray: that this award, and the film, will help many people to understand Tourette's syndrome better. (1 Timothy 4:12)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgv05r8dgpoEurope](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgv05r8dgpoEurope)

## **Europe**

### **EU: tensions flare as Hungary vetoes aid to Ukraine**

Tensions flared in Brussels as Hungary vetoed both an emergency EU loan for Ukraine and a new sanctions package against Russia. Foreign minister Péter Szijjártó accused Ukraine of disrupting oil transit through the Druzhba pipeline for political reasons and alleged misleading statements. Ukraine maintains the pipeline was damaged by a Russian drone strike and says repairs are complicated by ongoing attacks. The dispute left financial aid and punitive measures in limbo, frustrating member states supportive of Kyiv. Slovakia aligned with Hungary, intensifying divisions. Critics, who argue that repeated vetoes risk paralysing EU decision-making, have revived debate over reforming unanimity rules. With Hungary facing a heated domestic election campaign, some diplomats believe the standoff is as much political as technical. Meanwhile, Ursula von der Leyen insists that support for Ukraine will continue despite internal discord.

Pray: that unity and truth will prevail in the EU amid deep political divisions. (James 3:17)  
More: [www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/02/24/how-hungary-hijacked-brussels-and-kyiv-with-a-double-veto-leaving-ukraine-in-limbo](http://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/02/24/how-hungary-hijacked-brussels-and-kyiv-with-a-double-veto-leaving-ukraine-in-limbo)

### **Russia: soldiers describe severe brutality and allege executions**

Four Russian soldiers have described severe brutality within their own ranks during the war in Ukraine, including alleged executions of troops who refused orders. In a BBC documentary, two men said they witnessed commanders shoot soldiers at close range for declining to join assaults described as near-suicidal. One claimed he saw about 20 bodies of comrades executed by fellow troops, a practice reportedly referred to in slang as being 'zeroed'. Another said he was tortured, electrocuted and humiliated after refusing deployment, and that others were forced into repeated, deadly attacks. The men, now in hiding, spoke from an undisclosed location. Moscow has not released official casualty figures (other sources estimate more than a million) and says allegations of misconduct are investigated, insisting its forces act 'with utmost restraint'. The accounts could not be independently verified, but they add to growing claims about harsh discipline and heavy losses within Russian units.

Pray: that courage and justice will rise amid fear and violence. (Psalm 10:17)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz7gw3l395ro](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz7gw3l395ro)

## **Worldwide**

### **USA: Trump's tariff changes cause widespread global confusion**

Only two days after Donald Trump, announcing Japanese-backed investments tied to a major trade pact, posted 'America is WINNING again', the Supreme Court ruled much of his tariff regime unlawful, angering Trump and creating huge uncertainty across global markets. Almost immediately, he announced new tariffs, which means that most countries - including those that had negotiated preferential agreements - now face a 15% tariff on exports to the USA. Some nations which made concessions, such as the UK and Japan, may gain little advantage, while others, including China and India, have seen tariff reductions without comparable compromises. The new tariffs will be valid for only 150 days, with confusion about what might happen thereafter. Data suggests much of the economic burden of tariffs has fallen on US businesses and consumers. Meanwhile, Trump has drawn widespread incredulity and criticism for using his position to advertise expensive watches bearing his name: see <https://inews.co.uk/news/world/trump-watch-ad-tough-beleaguered-us-president-4256499>

Pray: that Trump will act legally and consistently. Pray for wisdom for world leaders struggling to keep up with his latest moves. (James 1:5)  
More: [www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/feb/24/trump-crumbling-tariff-strategy-global-chaos-confusion](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/feb/24/trump-crumbling-tariff-strategy-global-chaos-confusion)

### **Nigeria: government paid huge ransom for kidnapped schoolchildren**

An investigation has alleged that the Nigerian government paid a substantial ransom to secure the release of up to 230 children and staff abducted from a Catholic boarding school in November. The pupils were taken from St Mary's in Niger state during a mass kidnapping by Boko Haram. Intelligence sources told AFP that millions of dollars were delivered by helicopter to militants in northeastern Borno state after negotiations reportedly led by national security adviser Nuhu Ribadu. Two Boko Haram commanders were also said to have been freed. Officials publicly denied paying any ransom, insisting that government agents do not negotiate with kidnappers. The Islamist insurgent group, active since 2009, has carried out widespread violence and abductions across northern Nigeria. Reports suggest the children were released in stages after confirmation that the payment had been received.

Pray: for the safety of all schoolchildren in Nigeria, and for the authorities to have greater success in combating Boko Haram. (Psalm 34:19)  
More: [www.africanews.com/2026/02/23/nigeria-paid-boko-haram-ransom-for-kidnapped-pupils-afp-investigation/](http://www.africanews.com/2026/02/23/nigeria-paid-boko-haram-ransom-for-kidnapped-pupils-afp-investigation/)

### **Mexico: troops called in to curb violence after cartel leader killed**

The government has deployed thousands of troops after deadly unrest followed the death of cartel leader Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, known as El Mencho. Around 9,500 soldiers have been sent to western states, including 2,500 reinforcements to Jalisco, where he was captured. The Jalisco New Generation Cartel, long regarded as one of Mexico's most powerful criminal organisations, responded with coordinated attacks. Roads were blocked with burning vehicles, spikes and debris, while banks and businesses were set alight. Clashes between cartel members and the National Guard left dozens dead, including security personnel and alleged gang members. El Mencho was seriously wounded on 22 February during a firefight with special forces and died while being transported to Mexico City. President Claudia Sheinbaum praised the operation and pledged to restore peace. Authorities say order is gradually returning, though tensions remain high in affected communities. The level of violence has been made worse by warfare between and even within different cartels: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2g3vmde0eo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2g3vmde0eo)

Pray: that peace and stability will return across this troubled country. (Psalm 46:9)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2lp7xwql4o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2lp7xwql4o)

### **Panama: government takes over control of ports from Hong Kong company**

The two key ports at either end of the Panama Canal have been taken over by the Panamanian government. This follows a supreme court ruling last month that the renewed 25-year concession given to Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison to operate the ports was 'unconstitutional'. The authorities have entered the terminals at Balboa and Cristobal and assumed administrative and operational control. A government decree authorised the Panama Maritime Authority to do this 'for reasons of urgent social interest'. Beijing described the ruling as 'absurd' and 'shameful', while warning that the Latin American country would pay 'heavy prices both politically and economically'; in response, president Jose Raul Mulino defended Panama's judicial independence and strongly rejected China's threats. The takeover marks a significant development in the strategic and political debate surrounding one of the world's most vital shipping routes.

Pray: that justice and wisdom will guide all the leaders who are involved. (Proverbs 21:1)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/2/24/hong-kong-conglomerate-says-panama-canal-ports-seized-by-authorities](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/2/24/hong-kong-conglomerate-says-panama-canal-ports-seized-by-authorities)

### **Cuba: Russia, Canada, Mexico promise aid for beleaguered island**

Russia's deputy prime minister Alexander Novak has said Moscow is discussing the possibility of supplying fuel to Cuba as the USA tightens restrictions on oil shipments to the island. The move follows new US measures aimed at cutting off Venezuelan oil supplies and threatening sanctions on countries that export fuel to Cuba. Russia, previously a major supplier alongside Venezuela and Mexico, has criticised the restrictions, warning of humanitarian consequences. Cuba relies heavily on imported fuel to power its electricity grid and already faces economic strain under longstanding US sanctions. The UN has cautioned that further shortages could deepen hardship. In response, Canada and Mexico have pledged humanitarian aid, including food and essential supplies. Washington has also announced \$6m in humanitarian aid, provided that it is not distributed by the Cuban government. More than two million people have left the island since the Covid pandemic, due to the collapse of the tourism sector. Breaking news: four men in a Florida-registered speedboat have been killed by a Cuban border patrol. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c24drvj8yl2o](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c24drvj8yl2o)

Pray: that provision and stability come to those facing hardship. (Philippians 4:19)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/2/25/russia-considers-fuel-support-for-cuba-as-canada-pledges-food-aid](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/2/25/russia-considers-fuel-support-for-cuba-as-canada-pledges-food-aid)

### **Laos: another opposition activist killed**

Amid growing concern over repression in Laos, another activist, Bao Mo Khaen, has been killed. Known for criticising the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party online, he was reportedly detained by soldiers in Vientiane on 14 February, and his body was discovered beside a damaged motorbike six days later. His death follows other cases involving Lao dissidents in recent years, including enforced disappearances and attacks at home and abroad. Observers note that such incidents often coincide with politically sensitive periods such as the national election on 22 February. Laos remains a one-party state, and the election was conducted without opposition candidates. Economic pressures, rising debt and youth emigration have added to public discontent. Human rights advocates argue that the pattern of violence reflects efforts to silence dissent and instil fear. Authorities have not publicly provided detailed explanations regarding Khaen's death, and concerns over accountability persist.

Pray: that justice and protection will surround those who speak truth in Laos. (Psalm 82:3)

More: [thediplomat.com/2026/02/laos-elections-stained-by-activists-death/](http://thediplomat.com/2026/02/laos-elections-stained-by-activists-death/)

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