

Prayer Alert

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I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. (Deuteronomy 32:3,4)

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

National elections: Please pray for elections taking place in Baden-Württemberg (Germany), Colombia and Switzerland on 8 March. Also Democratic Republic of the Congo and Vietnam on 15 March.



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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

[How new-found faith is fuelling netballer Berri Neil](#)

England netball international Berri Neil has spoken about how a painful sporting defeat led her to discover faith in God. The 23-year-old Loughborough Lightning player struggled emotionally after her team lost the 2025 Netball Super League Grand Final to London Pulse, a club she had previously played for. Feeling deeply discouraged and questioning her purpose, Neil accepted an invitation from her twelve-year-old brother to attend church. The experience became a turning point in her life. She describes encountering joy, peace, and a new perspective that helped her realise that success or failure in sport does not define her ultimate purpose. Neil says her new faith has brought freedom from pressure and anxiety, reminding her that God has a greater plan for her life. She has also been encouraged by discovering other Christian teammates who are helping her grow spiritually. As her team prepares for the new season after winning the Netball Super Cup, Neil believes the difficult loss ultimately became a blessing that led her to faith and renewed hope both on and off the court.

Praise: God for Berri Neil's testimony; may her faith inspire athletes everywhere to seek Christ's purpose. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

More: www.netballsl.com/news/how-new-found-faith-is-fuelling-berri-neil/

Pakistan: Christian minority proclaims faith through theatre

Christians in Pakistan are using theatre to proclaim the Gospel through a growing creative movement centred in Karachi. The Othniel School of Biblical Art (OSBA) is preparing its 2026 season of 'Journey to Salvation', a large-scale musical production presenting the story of Jesus from Creation to the Ascension using only Bible verses. Scheduled for 7–15 March at the National Academy of Performing Arts, the production combines drama, music, and worship to bring Scripture to life on stage. Since its launch, the ministry has expanded rapidly, reaching thousands through dozens of performances and launching a Christian art gallery to encourage faith-inspired creativity. Over 110 actors from diverse backgrounds have participated, reflecting the unity of Pakistan's Christian community. Organisers expect the 2026 performances to reach more than 8,000 attendees, with potential media exposure to millions across the country. Despite financial and cultural challenges faced by Christians as a minority, the movement continues to grow. Leaders believe theatre can help younger generations encounter the message of Christ in powerful, memorable ways.

Praise: God for bold Pakistani believers using creative arts to proclaim Jesus and strengthen faith in challenging contexts. (Psalm 96:3)
More: www.godreports.com/2026/03/pakistan-christian-minority-proclaims-faith-through-theatre/

British Isles

Starmer defends Iran response as Badenoch calls for more action

Keir Starmer has defended the Government's cautious response to the escalating conflict in the Middle East, stating that protecting British nationals remains the country's highest priority. During Prime Minister's Questions he rejected calls from Kemi Badenoch for Britain to take direct offensive action after Iranian attacks targeted Western-linked bases in the region, including facilities in Bahrain and Cyprus where British personnel were present. Starmer argued that the UK should not enter a war without a clear legal basis and a carefully considered strategy. Although the Government declined to participate in the initial US-Israeli strikes on Iran, Britain has allowed US forces to use UK bases for defensive operations and has strengthened its regional presence. Additional air defence systems, radar, counter-drone capabilities, Royal Navy assets, and F-35 aircraft are being deployed to protect personnel and allies. The Government has also arranged charter flights to evacuate British citizens from the region as tensions continue to escalate across the Middle East.

Pray: for restraint, clarity, and protection for British citizens as leaders navigate escalating tensions in the Middle East. (1 Timothy 2:1–2)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y4458d9jdo

Reeves in emergency talks with oil and gas chiefs

Rachel Reeves has held urgent talks with senior oil and gas executives after warnings that energy bills for UK households could rise by around £500 due to the war in the Middle East. The meeting at Downing Street included representatives from companies such as BP and Offshore Energies UK, as the Government assessed the economic impact of the conflict. Rising oil and gas prices have already unsettled global markets and pushed energy costs higher. Economists warn that sustained increases could add to inflation and significantly raise household energy bills, particularly affecting lower-income families who spend a larger share of their income on utilities. Reeves has signalled she still intends to end the Energy Profits Levy, also known as the windfall tax, but may reconsider the timing depending on market conditions. Industry leaders argue that removing the tax would encourage long-term investment in the North Sea energy sector. The Government is also monitoring whether further intervention may be needed to protect households if energy prices continue to climb.
See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/cwy81d7y9zgt?app-referrer=search>

Pray: for economic stability and protection for vulnerable households as energy costs and global tensions increase. (Philippians 4:19)
More: www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/energy-bills-gas-electricity-oil-iran-war-donald-trump-b1273378.html

Home secretary unveils strict new rules for asylum seekers

Shabana Mahmood has announced sweeping changes to the asylum system aimed at tightening immigration controls and reducing taxpayer-funded support for those who break the rules. She will outline the reforms as part of a wider overhaul intended to curb illegal migration and restore public confidence in border policies. Under the new measures, asylum seekers who work illegally, commit crimes, or are able to support themselves financially will lose access to government-funded accommodation and financial assistance. The changes, expected to take effect in June, will replace the previous legal duty to provide support with a more conditional approach. Mahmood says the reforms are designed to create a system that is both firm and compassionate, ensuring help is directed toward those with legitimate claims while discouraging abuse. The Government also plans regular reviews of refugee status and further measures to reduce reliance on hotel accommodation for migrants. Critics argue that the proposals may unfairly target vulnerable people, but ministers say stronger control is essential for maintaining public trust.

Pray: for justice, compassion, and wise policies as Britain seeks fair solutions to migration challenges. (Leviticus 19:34)
More: www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/new-rules-home-secretary-asylum-seekers-immigration-visas-b1273486.html

Government to create new lab to keep UK in the fast lane on AI breakthroughs

The Government has announced plans to establish a new Fundamental AI Research Lab aimed at advancing major breakthroughs in artificial intelligence. Backed by up to £40 million in funding over six years, the initiative will support ambitious 'blue sky' research designed to overcome persistent challenges in current AI systems. These include problems such as hallucinations, limited memory, unreliable reasoning, and unpredictability. By addressing these weaknesses, researchers hope to create AI systems that are more accurate, transparent, and trustworthy. The lab will also provide scientists with access to powerful computing resources worth tens of millions of pounds to support cutting-edge experimentation. The research could lead to significant improvements in healthcare, transport, infrastructure, and scientific discovery. AI is already being used to assist cancer diagnosis and develop improved battery technology, but experts believe its potential is far greater. By investing in fundamental research and drawing on the UK's strong academic and technology sector, the Government aims to ensure Britain remains a global leader in developing responsible and beneficial AI innovation.

Pray: that emerging AI technologies will be developed responsibly, serving humanity and protecting truth, dignity, and wellbeing. (Daniel 12:4)
More: www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-create-new-lab-to-keep-uk-in-the-fast-lane-on-ai-breakthroughs

Binge drinking rises sharply among gen Z in their early 20s

New research suggests binge drinking and drug use among Generation Z rises sharply once young people reach their early twenties, challenging the idea that they are a more restrained generation. The research, which tracked nearly ten thousand people born in the UK between 2000 and 2002, found that 68% of 23-year-olds reported binge drinking at least once in the previous year. This represents a significant increase from age 17, when the figure was 53%. Almost a third said they binge drink at least once a month. Drug use also increased during this transition into adulthood. Nearly half of those surveyed had tried cannabis by age 23, while around one third reported experimenting with harder drugs such as cocaine, ketamine, or ecstasy. Researchers also noted rising vaping and gambling among young adults. Experts warn this stage of life can be particularly risky, as the brain continues developing into the mid-twenties. The findings highlight the importance of providing effective support, education, and healthier environments for young adults.

Pray: for young adults to find purpose, freedom from addiction, and healthy communities which nurture hope. (1 Corinthians 6:12)
More: www.theguardian.com/society/2026/mar/05/gen-z-binge-drinking-triples-since-teens

Anglican breakaway group GAFCON to elect alternative to Sarah Mullally

Leaders of the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) are meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, to consider appointing an alternative senior leader to the Archbishop of Canterbury, shortly before the installation of Archbishop Sarah Mullally. GAFCON, formed in 2008, represents a coalition of mainly conservative Anglicans who say they seek to defend biblical teaching and preserve orthodox doctrine within the global Anglican Communion. The group has been critical of developments within parts of the CofE, particularly discussions around same-sex blessings and questions of church leadership. At the gathering, delegates are expected to elect a primate who would act as a leading bishop and symbolic figure for churches aligned with the movement. Some Anglican leaders have expressed concern that such a move could deepen divisions within the worldwide Communion, and churches have been urged to pursue unity through established structures and ongoing theological dialogue. The meeting highlights continuing tensions over authority, doctrine, and the future shape of the global Anglican family. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgrz1rx0ejzo>

Pray: for humility, truth, and unity across the Anglican Communion as leaders seek faithfulness to Scripture. (Ephesians 4:3)
More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/anglican-breakaway-group-elects-alternative-sarah-mullally

Europe

Social media: growing disruption caused by deepfake videos

Security experts are warning about the growing influence of artificial intelligence in online disinformation campaigns after a British academic discovered a deepfake video using his likeness. Professor Alan Read of King's College London was surprised to see a video circulating on social media in which a synthetic version of his face and voice delivered a political rant he had never made. Researchers say such videos, suspected to be mainly of Russian origin, are part of a wider trend of AI-generated content designed to spread misleading narratives and undermine trust in democratic institutions. Some campaigns have criticised European leaders or attempted to discredit Ukraine during the ongoing war. Experts say newer AI tools have made it easier and cheaper to create highly realistic videos, allowing influencers to reach large audiences quickly. The speed and scale of these synthetic messages pose a growing challenge for governments, regulators, and technology companies as they seek to limit the spread of coordinated disinformation online.

Pray: that truth will prevail over deception. Pray that social media companies will know how best to respond to digital manipulation. (Luke 8:17)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2r7grrdwzo

European bank chief urges Europe to strengthen its 'strategic autonomy'

Looking on at the conflict in the Middle East, the president of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Nadia Calviño, has urged Europe to strengthen its 'strategic autonomy' more quickly. She warned that conflict and geopolitical uncertainty threaten economic stability and investment. European leaders are particularly concerned about the possibility of another energy shock after Iranian strikes in the Gulf unsettled global markets. Gas prices in Europe recently surged sharply, while oil prices also rose. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 disrupted supplies of cheap Russian gas, Europe has worked to diversify energy sources, turning to partners such as the USA, the Gulf states, and Azerbaijan. Calviño said European businesses have adapted, though higher energy costs still affect competitiveness compared with regions with cheaper power. She also emphasised Europe's commitment to cooperation, international law and peaceful engagement, expressing hope that diplomatic tensions will ease despite the difficult global environment.

Pray: for wisdom for European leaders as they pursue cooperation and peace amid rising international tensions. (James 3:17)
More: www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/03/04/war-in-middle-east-shows-europe-must-reinforce-its-autonomy-eib-chief-tells-euronews

Worldwide

Middle East: US and Israel strikes against Iran plunge region into widespread conflict

The Middle East has entered a new period of instability following joint United States and Israeli strikes on Iran which reportedly killed more than a thousand people and triggered retaliatory attacks across the region. Among those killed was Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, leaving uncertainty about the future leadership of the country. The strikes, described by US and Israeli officials as necessary to address security threats, have drawn global attention and concern. Iran has responded with missile and drone attacks targeting military installations and other sites across several countries in the region. The escalation has disrupted diplomatic efforts surrounding Iran's nuclear programme and raised fears of a wider conflict. Civilians across the Middle East face growing risks as violence spreads, while thousands of foreign nationals have struggled to leave affected areas. The conflict has also shaken global energy markets and travel networks, reflecting the far-reaching consequences of the crisis. Recent news: at least 87 were killed when a US submarine sank an Iranian tanker (see <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/sri-lanka-rescues-30-people-board-distressed-iranian-ship-foreign-minister-says-2026-03-04/>), and the US Senate voted against a bipartisan measure which would have limited Trump's war powers (see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yj28jld0o>).

Pray: especially for the many innocent civilians caught up in this violent war. Pray that world leaders will do their utmost to de-escalate the conflict as quickly as possible. (Psalm 46:9)
More: time.com/7382631/iran-israel-us-war-explainer-trump-middle-east/

Middle East conflict: Thailand likely to be hit hardest by Hormuz closure

The war in the Middle East tensions has raised concerns about global energy supplies after Iran reportedly closed the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route for oil and gas. The narrow waterway between Iran and Oman carries a large share of the world's seaborne energy trade, including significant volumes of crude oil and liquefied natural gas. Analysts warn that disruption to shipping could drive energy prices sharply higher, affecting many Asian economies which depend heavily on imported fuel. Among ASEAN members, Thailand is considered especially vulnerable, as oil imports represent a significant share of its economy. Economists say even modest increases in oil prices could weaken the country's financial balance. Other nations such as India, Pakistan, South Korea, and the Philippines could also face pressure due to reliance on imported energy. Some countries maintain limited reserves of fuel supplies, raising concerns if the disruption continues. Meanwhile, energy exporters such as Malaysia may experience short-term economic gains from rising prices.

Pray: that tensions will ease and vital energy routes remain open and secure. (Psalm 18:2)

More: asianews.network/thailand-named-among-asias-hardest-hit-highest-risk-in-asean-as-iran-shuts-strait-of-hormuz/

Pakistan / Afghanistan: many casualties as fighting continues

Heavy fighting has erupted along the long border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, raising fears of a prolonged regional conflict. The clashes began after Pakistani air strikes targeted locations in Afghanistan, including sites linked to Taliban forces, following accusations that militants were launching attacks on Pakistan from Afghan territory. Taliban authorities have denied supporting such groups. Pakistan says it has struck military facilities used by militants, including locations near the former Bagram air base, while Afghan officials report that their forces have resisted several attacks and captured at least one Pakistani military post. Both sides claim to have inflicted significant losses, though details remain difficult to verify. The UN mission in Afghanistan reports that dozens of civilians have been killed and more than a hundred injured. Aid agencies warn that ongoing violence is worsening humanitarian conditions and limiting access for relief efforts, including continuing to help those affected by the earthquakes in August and September which killed more than 1,400 people.

Pray: that leaders will pursue restraint and peaceful solutions protecting civilians from further harm. (Isaiah 2:4)

More: www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/least-42-civilians-killed-afghanistan-conflict-with-pakistan-un-agency-says-2026-03-03/

Ecuador and USA begin operations against drug trafficking

Ecuador and the USA have begun joint operations aimed at disrupting drug trafficking networks, according to an announcement from the US Southern Command. The command, which oversees US defence cooperation across much of Latin America and the Caribbean, said the activity is part of efforts to combat illicit drug flows in the region. Ecuador's defence ministry confirmed the cooperation, describing it as an 'offensive' operation but noting that specific details remain classified. The announcement follows comments from president Daniel Noboa, who said the country would work with the USA and other allies in a new phase of action against organised crime, including narcotics trafficking and illegal mining. Ecuador has faced growing challenges from criminal groups linked to international cartels in recent years. The joint initiative reflects wider regional efforts to counter powerful trafficking networks that continue to influence violence, corruption and instability across several countries in the region.

Pray: that the forces will succeed in curbing the traffickers and bringing justice and protection to affected communities. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/us-ecuadorian-forces-took-action-ecuador-combat-drug-trafficking-us-military-2026-03-04/

West Africa: twelve nations agree to establish force to combat jihadists

Leaders from the twelve nations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have reportedly agreed to establish a new regional force to address growing insecurity across West Africa. Military chiefs reached the decision during a meeting in Sierra Leone, where discussions focussed on the rising threat of jihadist violence, the spread of transnational organised crime, and ongoing maritime insecurity in the region. The proposed force aims to assemble about two thousand troops who would respond to terrorism and instability while remaining based in their home countries, with Sierra Leone serving as a logistical hub. Officials are still working through questions about how the force will be funded, and ECOWAS has not yet issued a formal announcement. Much of the concern centres on the Sahel region, where militant groups linked to Al-Qaeda and IS have been active for years. Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger - now outside ECOWAS - are viewed as crucial to cooperation.

Pray: that these leaders will be able to pursue cooperation, bringing stability and safety across the region. (Psalm 29:11)

More: www.africanews.com/2026/03/04/west-african-states-to-create-new-force-to-fight-jihadists-in-region/

Nigeria: health agency calls for stronger action against Lassa fever

Nigeria's Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has called for stronger action by state governments as the country faces a worsening outbreak of Lassa fever. The viral disease, endemic in parts of West Africa, typically peaks during the dry season from November to May, and at least 18 Nigerian states have reported cases, notably Bauchi, Ondo, Taraba and Edo. By mid-February, 326 infections and 75 deaths (including three healthcare workers) had been confirmed. Officials say weak infection-prevention practices and limited access to personal protective equipment have contributed to transmission in hospitals, including maternity and outpatient wards. The virus spreads through contact with food or household items contaminated by rat urine or droppings, or through direct contact with bodily fluids of infected individuals. Gaps in contact tracing, along with stigma and misconceptions which delay treatment, have also increased risks. There is currently no licensed vaccine for Lassa fever.

Pray: that affected communities will receive adequate protection and access to suitable treatment. (Jeremiah 30:17a)

More: www.africanews.com/2026/03/04/nigerian-health-agency-urges-stronger-state-action-on-lassa-fever-outbreak/

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