

# Prayer Alert

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**But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. (Psalm 73:28)**

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

## Praying for Elections

Please pray for the parliamentary elections in Niue (2 May).



## 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

### [Charles III highlights his Christian faith in speech to Congress](#)

In his historic address to both houses of Congress, King Charles III spoke openly about the importance of his Christian faith, describing it as a guiding force in both his personal life and public role. He emphasised how faith inspires compassion, unity and understanding across different communities, highlighting the value of interfaith relationships. His remarks, frequently punctuated by warm applause, also reflected hope amid global uncertainty, as he pointed to the Christian message of light overcoming darkness. While largely spiritual in tone, the speech included subtle references to current global tensions, including the need for cooperation through alliances such as NATO and continued support for Ukraine. He concluded: 'And so, to the United States of America, on your 250th birthday, let our two countries rededicate ourselves to each other in the selfless service of our peoples and of all the peoples of the world. God bless the USA, and God bless the United Kingdom.'

Praise: God for Charles's candidness about his faith. Pray that leaders will be granted wisdom and insight in these difficult times. (Romans 15:13)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/king-charles-links-christian-faith-to-leadership-in-landmark-us-congress-address>

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## Diagnosis of terminal cancer is 'a touch of grace'

Former US senator Ben Sasse has spoken candidly about faith, suffering, and mortality following a diagnosis of multiple cancers, including late-stage pancreatic cancer. In an emotional interview, he reflected on how the illness has reshaped his priorities, drawing attention away from public achievements toward family, relationships and spiritual dependence. Sasse described the diagnosis as both deeply painful and unexpectedly clarifying, prompting greater honesty about life's limits and human vulnerability. He spoke of his love for his wife and children, expressing sorrow at the thought of missing future milestones, yet also a deep trust in God's sovereignty. Despite intense physical suffering, he said the experience has strengthened his faith and awareness of dependence on God. His interviewer stated, somewhat quizzically, 'God, you believe, has a plan'. 'Absolutely', Sasse replied confidently. 'There are no maverick molecules in the universe.'

Praise: God for Ben's testimony. Pray that those facing serious illness will know God's presence, comfort and sustaining hope. (Isaiah 41:10)

More: <https://www.faithwire.com/2026/04/27/ben-sasse-calls-terminal-cancer-diagnosis-a-touch-of-grace-explains-why/>

## British Isles

### Starmer avoids ethics inquiry over his handling of Mandelson appointment

Keir Starmer has narrowly avoided a parliamentary ethics inquiry over his handling of the appointment of Peter Mandelson, following a Commons vote which exposed divisions within his own party. Although Starmer defeated the Conservative-led motion, a group of Labour MPs rebelled, reflecting concerns about transparency and public trust. The controversy centres on Mandelson's past links to Jeffrey Epstein and questions over whether proper vetting procedures were followed. Senior figures, including former chief of staff Morgan McSweeney, have acknowledged the appointment as a serious error of judgment, while officials described pressure to expedite the process. Although testimony has not directly contradicted Starmer's account, the episode has weakened his authority and intensified scrutiny of decision-making at the highest levels of government. For a view on why Starmer's victory is less significant than it seems, see <https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/starmer-wins-impressive-as-it-might-seem-4385117>

Pray: that integrity and accountability will guide all leadership decisions and restore public trust. (Proverbs 11:3)

More: <https://www.ft.com/content/e564ba59-1e9f-45fd-8ce4-d7576f31a656?syn-25a6b1a6=1>

### London: one man arrested after two Jewish men stabbed in Golders Green

A 45-year-old man has been arrested after two Jewish men were stabbed in Golders Green, the latest in a surge of antisemitic attacks across north London. Metropolitan Police said the suspect, detained using a taser, is being questioned on suspicion of attempted murder and has a history of violence and mental health issues. Both victims remain in stable condition. The attack follows a series of arson incidents targeting synagogues and Jewish community sites, with 26 arrests already made. A group calling itself Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamiya claimed responsibility online, though police are assessing the credibility of such claims. Political and community leaders have condemned the violence, warning of rising fear among Jewish residents and urging stronger action to counter hatred and ensure public safety. When the chief of the Metropolitan police was briefing the public about these events, there were angry shouts that they are not doing enough and that he should resign: see <https://trib.al/gvZvNcY>

Pray: that fear will be replaced with peace and protection for Jewish communities. (Psalm 4:8)

More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/29/suspect-arrested-after-two-jewish-people-stabbed-in-london>

### Scientists find clue as to why cancer is increasing among young people

A major study by researchers at the Institute of Cancer Research and Imperial College London has found that eleven types of cancer are increasing among younger people in England, including bowel, breast and pancreatic cancers. Although cases remain relatively rare, the trend has puzzled scientists, as many known risk factors such as smoking and alcohol use have declined or remained stable. The only data which aligned with the increase in cancer was levels of overweight and obesity, which have been on the rise since the 1990s, but even this is an imperfect answer: factors like diet, pollution and improved detection are still under investigation. Personal stories, for example Bradley Coombes, only 23, whose bowel cancer was diagnosed too late despite clear symptoms, show the importance of recognising the disease early. The researchers also said that while cancers in young people were increasing, it was important to remember they were still dwarfed by cancers in older age groups.

Pray: that the researchers will have wisdom and insight. Remember those caring for those affected by cancer, whether young or old. (Jeremiah 30:17)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crepdjdj0z4o>

### Government scrambles to buy jet fuel, airlines reluctant to cancel flights

The Government is working urgently to secure emergency jet fuel supplies for airlines as global shipments fall to record lows due to the disruption around the Strait of Hormuz. Supplies of jet fuel have dropped significantly, raising concerns that airlines may only have weeks of fuel remaining during the peak summer travel season. Keir Starmer has warned that holiday plans could be affected, while rising fuel costs are already pushing some airlines to increase ticket prices. In response, ministers are considering allowing UK carriers to use alternative fuel types commonly used in the United States, which could ease supply pressures. Airlines are at present reluctant to cancel flights, hoping for a swift resolution to the crisis, but financial pressures are mounting. The situation highlights the vulnerability of global supply chains and the potential impact of geopolitical tensions on everyday travel.

Pray: that stability will quickly return to global supply chains, and protect livelihoods and travel plans. (Philippians 4:19)

More: <https://www.cityam.com/jet-fuel-shortage-looms-as-government-scrambles-to-secure-supplies/>

## **Crewe: Ahmadi sect accused of sexual offences, forced marriage, modern slavery**

Nine people have been arrested in Crewe following allegations of serious sexual offences, forced marriage and modern slavery linked to members of the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light (Arpol), a sect from which mainstream Muslim groups have long distanced themselves. More than 500 officers took part in coordinated raids as part of an investigation launched after reports of abuse dating back to 2023, involving one woman who was a member at the time. Police said that those arrested include men and women of various nationalities, while stressing the inquiry is focused on alleged crimes, not religious beliefs. The authorities are working with local services to safeguard residents, some of whom have been displaced. The police said there is no wider threat to the community, but patrols have increased as investigations continue.

Pray: that justice will prevail and victims receive protection, healing and lasting support. (Psalm 82:3-4)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c759n2lnxz0o>

## **Europe**

### **Ukraine accuses Israel of allowing looted grain to enter its ports**

Ukraine has accused Israel of allowing grain looted from its occupied territories to enter Israeli ports, deepening tensions between the two countries. Volodymyr Zelensky warned that Kyiv could impose sanctions on those involved, following the arrival of a vessel near Haifa believed to be carrying stolen wheat. Ukraine says such shipments are part of a broader pattern of Russian exploitation of agricultural resources since the invasion began. Israeli officials have rejected the claims, insisting that no formal evidence has been provided and that legal procedures must be followed before any action can be taken. Israel-Ukraine relations have been persistently tense since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. Israeli leaders have sought to keep channels open with both Kyiv and Moscow, limiting military assistance to Ukraine mainly to non-lethal humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, the EU has requested further information and signalled it may act against those facilitating sanctions evasion.

Pray: that truth and justice will prevail. Pray for better relations between Israel and Ukraine. (Proverbs 21:15)

More: <https://edition.cnn.com/2026/04/28/europe/ukraine-israel-russian-stolen-grain-latam-intl>

### **Europe: temperatures rising faster than any other continent**

At least 95% of Europe experienced above-average temperatures in 2025, according to the latest report from Copernicus Climate Change Service, highlighting the continent's rapid warming. Record-breaking heatwaves struck across the region, with extreme temperatures reaching 50°C in Türkiye and prolonged heat affecting southern Europe. Northern regions, including parts of Scandinavia, also saw unprecedented heat. Accelerating glacier melt, reduced snow cover, and significant ice loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet have contributed to rising sea levels. Drought impacted over half the continent, while wildfires burned more than one million hectares. Marine heatwaves also disrupted ecosystems. Despite these challenges, renewable energy made progress, supplying nearly half of Europe's electricity. Experts warn that climate change is now a present reality, demanding urgent action to mitigate its growing environmental and societal impacts.

Pray: that leaders will act wisely to address climate threats and protect vulnerable communities. (Psalm 24:1)

More: <https://www.euronews.com/2026/04/29/unequivocal-evidence-europes-climate-crisis-threatens-food-health-and-economy>

## **Worldwide**

### **Nigeria: seven Du Merci children still in state custody**

Seven children from the Du Merci orphanages are still in state custody in Kano despite a meeting on 15 April which was meant to finalise their return. A document stating that the children had been returned to their adoptive parents (Professor Richard Tarfa and his wife Mercy, who founded the orphanages) was signed, yet the children were taken away and not released. While in state care, they have faced mistreatment, neglect, pressure to convert, and misinformation to scare them out of wanting to return to the only parents most have ever known. 27 children had been taken away in 2019, when Professor Tarfa was arrested and imprisoned on false charges: only twenty have been returned. In January, the death of 13-year-old David Tarfa while in custody, with no medical treatment although the authorities knew of his illness, has intensified calls for accountability: his body has still not been released to his family. CSW has continued to advocate for the Tarfa family and for justice to be done.

Pray: that the detained children will be safely and speedily returned to Professor and Mrs Tarfa. (Psalm 68:5)

More: <https://www.csw.org.uk/dumerci-case.htm?>

### **USA: a third assassination attempt on Donald Trump**

An attempted attack on Donald Trump at a black-tie gala in a Washington hotel has raised renewed concerns about political violence and security. Cole Tomas Allen, 31, was arrested after opening fire at security personnel during the gala, which was attended by Trump and many other senior officials. A security officer was injured but protected by body armour, and the suspect was quickly detained. In a 'manifesto' sent to family members shortly before the attack, Allen cited Christian theology and said he was trying to protect those harmed by the administration's policies. 'Turning the other cheek when "someone else" is oppressed is not Christian behaviour; it is complicity in the oppressor's crimes', he said. The manifesto also mocked the 'insane' lack of security at the hotel. A recent poll found that Americans believe the increasingly harsh rhetoric surrounding politics is encouraging violence in the country.

Pray: that peace, safety, and wisdom will prevail amid rising tensions and acts of violence. (Psalm 4:8)

More: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/trump-anti-christian-manifesto-behind-white-house-dinner-attack?>

## Pakistan and elsewhere: low snow levels pose significant threat for water resources

The Indus River basin, a vital water source for Pakistan and western India, is facing a growing threat as snow levels in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region continue to decline. Recent data show significantly reduced snow persistence, marking several consecutive years of below-average levels and raising concerns about water shortages for hundreds of millions of people. As meltwater is a key contributor to river flow, reduced snow cover will lead to lower water availability, increased drought risk, and pressure on agriculture, energy production, and livelihoods. Experts warn that the trend could have long-term consequences unless effective water management and regional cooperation are strengthened. There are similar problems with other river basins in south Asia such as Helmand and Amu Darya; also, hydropower operators in the Mekong, Yangtze (home to the Three Gorges Dam), and Brahmaputra should anticipate below-normal generation in early summer. The situation shows the increasing vulnerability of communities dependent on natural systems already under strain from environmental change.

Pray: that wisdom and cooperation will guide efforts to secure water for vulnerable communities, and to make the best use of dwindling water resources. (Isaiah 41:17)

More: <https://asianews.network/shrinking-snow-forebodes-water-scarcity-in-indus-basin/>

## Canada: parents of Tumbler Ridge victims sue OpenAI and its CEO

Seven families affected by a deadly school shooting in Tumbler Ridge in February (see <https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/pray/regions/worldwide/item/54560-canada-eight-dead-after-attack-on-small-town-school>) have filed lawsuits in California against OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman, alleging negligence after warnings about the attacker's behaviour were not reported to authorities. The attack, carried out by an 18-year-old man, left eight people dead, including six children. The families claim that the suspect's troubling interactions with ChatGPT, including references to gun violence, were flagged internally, but that recommendations to alert the police were reportedly rejected by senior leadership. OpenAI denies wrongdoing, stating it enforces strict safeguards and has since strengthened its threat response systems. The lawsuits argue that earlier intervention could have prevented the tragedy, raising broader concerns about the responsibilities of technology companies in identifying and responding to potential real-world harm.

Pray: for the grieving families. Pray that tech companies like OpenAI will be more vigilant and more accountable, to prevent further tragic violence. (Amos 5:24)

More: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c99i03k0ly4o>

## Thailand: long-running insurgency increasing its attacks and propaganda

Thailand is facing increased activity in its long-running insurgency in its southern provinces, where violence has persisted for more than two decades. The separatist group Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) has escalated its operations in 2026, carrying out coordinated attacks including large-scale bombings of petrol stations and infrastructure linked to the state. While civilian casualties remain limited, security forces continue to suffer regular attacks. Propaganda campaigns have also intensified, spreading messages of resistance and identity across the region. Efforts at peace, supported by neighbouring Malaysia since 2013, have stalled amid political divisions, distrust and competing agendas. The country's new prime minister Anutin Charnvirakul faces mounting challenges in addressing both the violence and the deeper grievances sustaining the conflict.

Pray: that peace and reconciliation will take root in Thailand's troubled southern region. (James 3:18)

More: <https://asiatimes.com/2026/04/thailands-forever-war-greets-anutin-with-a-vengeance/>

## Colombia: at least twenty dead after terrorist highway bombing

At least twenty people have been killed and 36 injured in a bombing on the Pan-American Highway in Colombia's Cauca region, one of the deadliest attacks in recent years. The regional governor Octavio Guzman confirmed that most victims were civilians, including many women, with several injured still in critical condition. A dozen of the victims were from a village near the town of Cajibío, where hundreds of mourners held a vigil on Monday: one of them called, 'Please, no more death, no more violence'. President Gustavo Petro said a 'narco-terrorist group', led by Ivan Mordisco, one of Colombia's most wanted men, was responsible for the bombing. The attack underscores ongoing instability despite Colombia's 2016 peace agreement. It also highlights the problem of security, one of the main issues in the 31 May presidential election: when voters will pick a successor to Petro.

Pray: that comfort and peace will surround grieving families. Pray that the authorities will know how to combat and curtail such violence. (Psalm 34:18)

More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/28/at-least-20-killed-in-colombia-highway-blast>

## Australia and elsewhere: surge in demand for EVs due to Iran conflict

Rising fuel prices linked to the conflict in Iran are driving a sharp global increase in demand for electric vehicles (EVs). Dealers are reporting faster sales and higher prices for second-hand EVs, with some struggling to maintain stock. Growth is evident across major markets, including the US and China, as well as in emerging economies such as Vietnam. Analysts say that repeated energy shocks, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, are accelerating a longer-term shift away from fossil fuels. European countries and parts of Asia have also seen strong increases in EV adoption, while Australia reports rising consumer interest due to cheaper running costs, as well as the government's recent announcement that it has only about one month's supply of fuel in reserves. Although future demand will depend on oil prices, the trend may well represent a lasting change as consumers seek more stable and affordable transport options.

Pray: that nations will find sustainable solutions amid instability and rising energy pressures. (Isaiah 40:31)

More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2026/4/27/from-australia-to-vietnam-the-iran-war-is-fuelling-demand-for-evs>

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