

Prayer Alert

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I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High. (Psalm 7:17)

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

The latest edition of Hope Countryside's Seeds of Prayer for Autumn 2025 can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).

Please pray for the Guinea constitutional referendum on 21 September (first step in the transition back to civilian rule). Also, let's cover the Seychelles presidential and parliamentary elections on 27 September. See the Prayer Alert [2025 Elections Prayer Guide](#).



We invite the Prayer Alert community to join us on the free online Interseed House of Prayer app where we are praying and sharing thoughts on the weekly prayer guide issues and themes.

Interseed is available on the Android and iOS platforms. More info [HERE](#).

Invitation - to serve with the PA team!

How would you like to join our Prayer Alert team? We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England. If you appreciate what we do and are confident with browsing the internet, discovering relevant articles and basic editing, we would love to hear from you! Please hit 'reply', introduce yourself, and we will be in touch.

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

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Praise Reports

USA: Charlie Kirk murder sparks wave of people returning to church

The murder of Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk has ignited a surprising spiritual response. In life, he urged people to return to faith, marriage, and family. Now, after his death, many are doing just that. Catholic ministry leaders report church attendance rising by up to 15%, with unfamiliar faces filling pews. On social media, countless testimonies describe families returning to services for the first time in decades. A TikTok user shared how she and her husband brought their children to church after years away, determined to raise them with conviction like Kirk's. Others spoke of parking streets away from packed sanctuaries, buying Bibles, or recommitting to God. One man admitted he had never believed in God until Kirk's death stirred him to become a better husband and father. Though tragic, this moment is inspiring many to seek spiritual truth. Pray that God will comfort Kirk's widow Erika and their children, and use this loss for Kingdom growth.

Praise: God that even through tragedy, many hearts are being awakened to faith and family life in Christ. Pray for Kirk's widow and family at this time. (Romans 8:28)

More: www.faithwire.com/2025/09/16/charlie-kirk-murder-sparks-wave-of-people-returning-to-church-sharing-on-social-media/

Jamal Bryant's church gets unemployed members 300 job offers

At New Birth Church in Georgia, Pastor Jamal Bryant recently turned an altar call into an unexpected job fair. During a September service, he invited unemployed members to the altar for prayer, then asked hiring managers present to share opportunities. The response was immediate: directors, supervisors, and business owners stepped forward, resulting in over 300 job offers for struggling congregants. Bryant praised the church's faith in action, noting the need amid rising black unemployment, which recently reached 7.5%, the highest since late 2021. Economists warn the downturn is hitting black communities disproportionately, particularly as cuts in federal employment take effect. While national leaders debate solutions, New Birth showed what a church family can achieve by caring for one another in practical ways. Stories like this echo the early church's example of meeting both spiritual and material needs. God is still using His people to bring provision, dignity, and hope.

Praise: God for a church that meets both spiritual and practical needs, offering hope and provision in Christ. (Philippians 4:19)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/jamal-bryant-church-gets-unemployed-churchgoers-300-jobs-offers.html

British Isles

Trump meets Starmer as £150bn US investment is announced

Donald Trump has met Keir Starmer at Chequers during his second state visit to the UK, following the announcement of £150 billion in American investment. The funds, pledged by major firms including Blackstone, Prologis, and Palantir, are expected to create around 7,600 jobs across Britain. The leaders are set to sign a 'technology prosperity deal' to boost UK artificial intelligence development, while also discussing trade, investment, and foreign policy. The talks come after a Windsor Castle state banquet, where both Trump and the King hailed the 'special relationship' between the UK and US. While Starmer hopes to spotlight renewed transatlantic ties and economic opportunity, both governments face awkward questions, including ongoing controversies linked to Jeffrey Epstein and differing positions on Israel. Chancellor Rachel Reeves will also host a Downing Street reception for US and UK business leaders to showcase deeper cooperation. The visit marks a significant moment for strengthening economic and diplomatic bonds between the two nations.

Pray: for integrity, discernment, and God's guidance in deepening UK-US ties for the good of both nations. (Philippians 2:4)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/trump-uk-visit-live-starmer-melania-charles-kate-news-b2828799.html

Small boat immigrant deportation flights grounded again

The Government's new 'one in, one out' deal with France to deport Channel migrants has hit delays, as deportation flights were grounded for a third consecutive day. The Home Office is appealing a High Court ruling which halted the removal of a man claiming to be a victim of modern slavery. Home secretary Shabana Mahmood condemned 'last-minute, vexatious' appeals, vowing to fight attempts to block removals and pledging to review the Modern Slavery Act to close loopholes. She insisted that Britain's generosity was being exploited and promised to 'robustly defend the public's priorities'. The UK-France pilot scheme, agreed by Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron in July, would return asylum seekers arriving illegally in small boats while allowing approved applicants to enter the UK through a legal route. Officials maintain flights will still go ahead in the coming days, despite setbacks. Critics warn, however, that deportations must carefully consider genuine trafficking cases and vulnerable individuals. Breaking news: the first deportation has taken place. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckg653r06jgo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckg653r06jgo)

Pray: for justice, mercy, and God's wisdom in shaping immigration policies that secure borders while protecting the vulnerable. (Psalm 146:9)

More: <https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/small-boat-deportation-flights-grounded-third-day-home-office-3924635>

Musk's language abhorrent, says Shabana

Home secretary Shabana Mahmood has branded Elon Musk's language at a London rally 'abhorrent', after he warned of violence linked to uncontrolled migration and called for Parliament's dissolution. Mahmood insisted: 'No-one gets to mess with British democracy', stressing that Britain is a tolerant and diverse nation. Musk's remarks, delivered in conversation with activist Tommy Robinson at the 150,000-strong 'Unite The Kingdom' march, were condemned across the political spectrum. Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey said Musk was 'deeply irresponsible, deeply dangerous', while Downing Street called his words inflammatory and threatening to public order. Debate also arose over whether Musk's Tesla and energy ventures should receive UK contracts, with critics urging government review. Nigel Farage defended Musk's appeal to 'fight' through free speech and elections, though others accused him of fuelling division. As protests and counter-protests highlighted national tensions, Mahmood affirmed that English identity embraces both long heritage and diverse backgrounds.

Pray: that public voices use their influence responsibly, fostering peace, not division. (Ephesians 4:29)

More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m4rz0pvmno

Christian councillor 'shocked' at Danny Kruger's defection to Reform UK

Conservative councillor Clare De Silva has expressed her sadness at fellow Christian Danny Kruger's defection to Reform UK. Kruger, MP for East Wiltshire since 2019 and formerly shadow work and pensions minister under Kemi Badenoch, announced his move alongside Nigel Farage, who appointed him to lead a new Reform team preparing for government. Calling the decision 'very painful', Kruger declared, 'The party is over: the flame is passing from one torch to another', and praised Farage as 'our last hope' on the right. De Silva told Premier Christian News she was shocked and saddened, calling the departure a poignant loss. While disagreeing with his choice, she stressed the importance of Christians disagreeing well in politics: 'I know Danny is a God-fearing man and will have made this decision really carefully... we should disagree well.' The moment highlights both division and opportunity for grace among believers in public life.

Pray: that Christian leaders in politics will show grace, unity in Christ, and seek the good of the nation. (Romans 12:18)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-conservative-mp-shocked-at-danny-kruger-defection

No food trade deal until we get youth mobility, EU tells Starmer

Brussels has warned that no deal on easing border checks for UK food imports will be reached unless Britain agrees to expand youth mobility schemes. The proposed sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement - central to Labour's plan to reduce food costs by 2027 - would align rules on plants, animals, and food products, cutting supermarket prices and border delays. But EU negotiators insist progress depends on allowing more young Europeans aged 18 to 30 to live and work in the UK. Cabinet office minister Nick Thomas-Symonds pressed for urgency during talks in Brussels, stressing the need for relief as food inflation has risen for five consecutive months, with key staples up 5.1% annually. European diplomats, however, argue the SPS deal is more important for Britain than the EU. Meanwhile, UK firms face possible exclusion from bidding on EU defence projects worth €150 billion unless terms are finalised soon, with France resisting UK involvement. The Government faces mounting pressure as household food costs continue to climb.

Pray: for fair, transparent negotiations that protect families from rising costs and encourage just cooperation between nations. (Proverbs 16:8)

More: www.thetimes.com/article/763788f7-32d1-4c6c-8436-0f5ec1a85643?shareToken=a0e6d61637b622cb697e4f4a80fce08f

Don't scrap care plans for SEN children's educational needs, say MPs

MPs have warned against scrapping education, health and care plans (EHCPs) for children with special educational needs and disabilities. In a new report, the education select committee calls for EHCPs to remain as a vital 'backstop of accountability' for families, alongside statutory minimum standards for SEND provision in all schools. The eight-month inquiry highlights the unsustainable strain on the system, with 638,745 children now holding EHCPs - the highest since their introduction. Despite a decade of rising funding, outcomes for many pupils remain poor, and parents often face exhausting battles to secure support. The committee recommends more training for teachers, greater specialist provision, and funding increases in line with inflation. Campaigners stress that EHCPs give children enforceable rights, while the Government insists reforms will strengthen provision and reduce the need for conflict. MPs argue that long-term sustainability requires an inclusive, well-resourced education system backed by cross-agency cooperation.

Pray: that children with additional needs receive the support and justice they deserve. (Psalm 82:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c15kwv30007o

Europe

Russia and Belarus conduct military exercises as NATO feels the heat

Watched by US military officers and delegates from Turkey and Hungary, Russia and Belarus have launched large-scale military exercises across their territories and nearby seas, showcasing advanced weaponry and tactical nuclear capabilities near NATO's eastern flank. The drills, involving roughly 6,800 troops as well as fighter jets and missiles, practised modern combat tactics like drone-assisted infantry assaults. Relations between Washington and Minsk seem to be improving; Belarus has recently released 52 political prisoners, prompting the Trump administration to ease some sanctions. Meanwhile, NATO allies remain uneasy after Russian drones repeatedly violated Polish and Romanian airspace. European leaders worry the exercises highlight Russia's growing nuclear reach and evolving battlefield strategies, while Moscow insists it is open to dialogue but blames Western nations for obstructing progress toward resolving regional tensions.

Pray: for wisdom, restraint, and constructive diplomacy for Russia, Ukraine, the USA, and NATO. Continue to pray for peace. (Isaiah 2:4)
More: edition.cnn.com/2025/09/15/europe/us-observes-russia-belarus-wargames-intl-latam

Germany: ten years after Merkel opened borders to migrants

Ten years after Angela Merkel opened Germany's borders to migrants with her famous 'We can do this' pledge, the nation continues to grapple with the political and social repercussions. Syrian refugee Anas Modamani, who arrived alone at 17 after a perilous journey and became briefly famous for a viral selfie with Merkel, now lives in Berlin with German citizenship and an IT career. Between 2015 and 2024 Germany registered 2.6 million first-time asylum requests - over a third of the EU total - primarily from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq. While many Germans initially embraced 'Willkommenskultur', the mood has now changed significantly, evidenced in the rise of the far-right AfD. Current chancellor Friedrich Merz has tightened border controls, though courts have blocked some measures. As public opinion hardens - 68 percent now favour fewer refugees - applications from Syrians and Afghans have fallen. Modamani senses a colder atmosphere and says he might leave if hostility grows.

Pray: for compassionate yet practical policies that protect refugees while fostering unity and understanding within host nations. (Hebrews 13:2)
More: edition.cnn.com/2025/09/05/europe/germany-refugees-migration-changed-sentiment-intl-cmd

Worldwide

Israel has committed genocide, says UN inquiry

A UN commission of inquiry has concluded there are reasonable grounds to believe Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza since the 2023 war with Hamas began. The 72-page report cites four of the five acts defined under the 1948 Genocide Convention - killing, causing serious harm, deliberately inflicting life-destroying conditions, and preventing births - along with statements by Israeli leaders, as evidence of genocidal intent. It highlights widespread civilian deaths, collapsed infrastructure, repeated displacement, and a UN-declared famine. Commission chair Navi Pillay said speeches by Benjamin Netanyahu and other officials, combined with Israel's military conduct, support the inference of intent to destroy those living in Gaza in whole or part. The commission also warned other nations of their legal duty to prevent and punish genocide, noting potential complicity if they fail to act. Israel's government rejected the findings as false and biased, arguing that its operations are targeting Hamas in self-defence and comply with international law. Meanwhile, the long-awaited offensive by the Israeli military against Gaza City has begun: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx270y1rgzeo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx270y1rgzeo)

Pray: for wisdom for those investigating what the UN report is saying. Pray for the desperate residents of Gaza City trying to find safety as the Israeli offensive gathers pace. (Psalm 82:3)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8641wv0n4go

Nigeria: new chapter in global fuel trade with first export to USA

The massive 650,000-barrel-per-day Dangote refinery has delivered its first US gasoline export, signalling a new chapter in global fuel trade. The tanker Gemini Pearl discharged about 320,000 barrels of gasoline at Sunoco's Linden facility in New York harbour, with Vitol purchasing the cargo from Switzerland-based Mocoil Oil and selling most of it to Sunoco. The shipment meets stringent US motor fuel standards, a key milestone for the refinery after many startup delays. Two more USA-bound cargoes are en route. While these exports demonstrate Dangote's potential to reshape energy flows and reduce Nigeria's reliance on fuel imports, further US deliveries may pause soon because the refinery's gasoline unit is expected to undergo two to three months of repairs, according to an industry monitor. Meanwhile, the refinery has also begun direct fuel supplies to marketers in Nigeria, which potentially could put an end to the country's shortages. [See https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/09/private-a-deserted-as-dangote-refinery-begins-direct-fuel-supplies/](https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/09/private-a-deserted-as-dangote-refinery-begins-direct-fuel-supplies/)

Pray: for wise stewardship of energy resources in Nigeria, and for fair benefits for producers, workers, and consumers worldwide. (Psalm 24:1)
More: www.reuters.com/business/energy/vitol-sunoco-take-first-gasoline-cargo-nigerias-dangote-us-sources-say-2025-09-15/

Syria: worst drought in decades pushes millions to the brink

Syria is facing its worst drought in 36 years, devastating wheat production and deepening a nationwide hunger crisis. Farmer Maher Haddad has harvested barely a third of his normal yield, reflecting a 40% drop in wheat output across the country. The FAO estimates a shortfall of 2.73 million tonnes this year - enough to feed 16 million people - while rainfall has plunged 70%, crippling three-quarters of rain-fed farmland. Nearly 90% of Syrians already live in poverty; over 14 million are food insecure, and 9.1 million suffer acute hunger. Bread prices have skyrocketed, forcing families to borrow for daily food. Aid groups like the World Food Programme are providing emergency subsidies and direct payments to farmers, but long-term solutions such as new irrigation systems are hampered by years of war, soaring fuel costs, and economic collapse. Without sustained international support and adequate rainfall, Syria's food crisis could escalate dramatically into 2026, threatening rural livelihoods and driving further displacement.

Pray: for abundant rainfall, strengthened agriculture, and swift global aid to prevent famine and sustain Syrian families. (Psalm 10:17)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c70x500lkdn0

Angola: nobody wants to talk about July protests

In July, protests over fuel price hikes erupted across Angola, paralysing parts of the capital Luanda and spreading to other provinces. Sparked by a taxi drivers' strike, these demonstrations quickly turned violent, leaving at least thirty dead and thousands arrested. Many residents now fear speaking openly, wary of reprisals. The unrest exposed deep social and economic inequalities in the oil-rich nation, where youth unemployment stands at 54% and over a third of the population survives on less than £1.50 a day. Young people, frustrated by poverty, corruption, and lack of opportunity, led the protests, which sociologists describe as a response to decades of misgovernance since the civil war ended in 2002. President João Lourenço condemned the violence as foreign manipulation but faces criticism for failing to diversify the economy or curb high inflation. As Angola prepares to celebrate fifty years of independence, many fear further unrest before the 2027 elections if systemic issues remain unaddressed.

Pray: for the president and his government to pursue justice, make good economic reforms, and provide real opportunities for the nation's struggling youth. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8ex6k88yy9o

South Korea: shifting social trends in Seoul

Seoul's household landscape is shifting as single-person homes become the city's most common household type, according to a 2024 report. Nearly 1.66 million residents now live alone - about 40% of all households - while two-person households make up 26.2% and four-person homes 12.3%. An aging population underscores the trend: people 60 and older represent 20.2% of residents, and more than 30% of households include someone 65 or older. Marriages, which plunged during the pandemic, rebounded to 42,471 in 2024, with an average first-marriage age of 34.3 for men and 32.4 for women; international marriages comprise roughly 10%. Divorces declined overall, but the average age at divorce has risen, with one-quarter now among those 60 and older. Meanwhile, households with young children have fallen over 40% since 2016, reflecting persistently low birth rates. City officials plan inclusive policies to counter social isolation, support young adults' housing needs, and foster a more child-friendly environment.

Pray: for South Korea's political and church leaders to know how best to respond to these shifting trends, especially in countering social isolation and providing compassionate community support. (Ephesians 6:2)

More: asianews.network/living-alone-most-common-in-seoul-households-report/

Brazil: convicted president Bolsonaro rushed to hospital

Former president Jair Bolsonaro was rushed to a Brasília hospital after experiencing severe hiccups, vomiting, and low blood pressure while under house arrest, his son announced. Bolsonaro, who has endured ongoing intestinal problems and six surgeries following a 2018 stabbing, had visited the same hospital days earlier for skin lesion biopsies. On 11 September Brazil's supreme court sentenced him to 27 years and three months in prison for plotting a coup after losing the 2022 election to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva; he has not yet been imprisoned because of appeals and procedural delays. In a separate case, a federal court has fined him one million reais (£138,000) for racist remarks made in 2021. Bolsonaro has denied wrongdoing, claiming to be the victim of political persecution, and Donald Trump has also called the trial a 'witch-hunt', but Lula has spoken of a 'historic decision' which safeguards Brazil's democratic principles. Public opinion remains sharply divided over his sentence and political future.

Pray: that Brazil's leaders will uphold justice, protect democracy, and pursue national reconciliation amid deep political divisions. (Amos 5:24)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/9/17/brazils-bolsonaro-taken-to-hospital-after-feeling-unwell

1,600+ Christians killed for their faith since 2000

A Vatican-led commission has confirmed that more than 1,600 Christians have been killed for their faith since the year 2000. The project, initiated by Pope Francis and supported by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), draws on verified testimonies to highlight persecution across denominations. ACN's John Newton described how believers worldwide face discrimination, harassment, abductions, and killings. He cited the 2015 martyrdom of 21 Egyptian construction workers, as well as this year's massacre of 200 Christians in Nigeria where families were displaced, homes burnt, and victims slaughtered. 'These tragedies are underreported,' Newton said, stressing that such violence rarely makes global headlines. The commission acknowledges the true death toll may be even higher. Yet Pope Leo XIV urges Christians to find hope in the faithfulness of martyrs, whose witness testifies to the gospel's unstoppable power and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. Their sacrifice continues to inspire courage and strengthen the global Church.

Pray: for persecuted believers worldwide to be strengthened in hope and courage. (Matthew 5:10)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/more-than-1-600-christians-killed-for-their-faith-since-2000-vatican-report-reveals

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