

Prayer Alert

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The Lord will rescue His servants; no one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned. (Psalm 34:22)

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

National elections: Let's be praying for parliamentary and presidential elections taking place in Portugal and Thailand (8 Feb) and Barbados (11 Feb).

'There is Hope' - Rob Parker

Many of us will appreciate Rob Parker's worship-leading ministry across the UK and internationally. We are pleased to share that he has just released an inspirational new album and accompanying book 'There is Hope'. More information [here](#).



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.

Praise Reports

Oklahoma: [revival breaks out at roofers' convention](#)
[Actress encourages others to wake up and reignite their faith](#)

British Isles

[Sarah Mullally formally confirmed as Archbishop of Canterbury](#)
[UK and China sign agreements in landmark visit](#)
[Royal Navy monitors suspected Russian spy ship just two miles from coast](#)
[Union threatens Labour after Andy Burnham blocked from by-election](#)
[London: three grim days see stabbings, murder investigation, shooting, collisions](#)
[Gang jailed over guns and £288m drug operation](#)

Europe

[Russia: new report estimates over one million casualties in Ukraine war](#)
[Russia: the Arctic is both opportunity and threat for Putin](#)

Worldwide

[Iran / USA: possible scenarios if Trump decides to attack](#)
[Minneapolis: continuing protests and criticism over federal crackdown](#)
[Africa: climate change causing drought in the east, floods in the south](#)
[Venezuela: over a hundred political prisoners freed](#)
[China: speculation about reasons for dismissal of two senior generals](#)
[Kenya: even when he had no home, he was rescuing wild birds](#)

Praise Reports

Oklahoma: [revival breaks out at roofers' convention](#)

An unexpected move of God took place at RoofCon, a major roofing convention held in Oklahoma City. Though the event was designed to equip professionals with business skills, founder Hunter Ballew sensed the Holy Spirit calling him to use the platform for eternal purposes. Evangelist Clayton King was invited to share a clear and simple Gospel message, emphasising how individuals can truly know they are born again. Attendance at the final session was voluntary, yet many remained. In a spontaneous step of faith, organisers purchased horse troughs and set up baptisms on the convention floor. Over two hundred men and women responded to the Gospel, with dozens immediately baptised. King described the moment as a powerful work of the Holy Spirit, noting a growing hunger for faith beyond church walls. He believes this reflects a wider awakening, as secular promises fail and hearts respond afresh to the transforming power of the Gospel.

Praise: God for awakening hearts beyond church walls, drawing many to salvation through bold Gospel proclamation. (Acts 10:44)
More: www.godreports.com/2026/01/revival-breaks-out-at-roofers-convention/

Actress encourages others to wake up and reignite their faith

Actress and Christian speaker Jen Lilley is calling believers to move beyond a passive faith and rediscover a vibrant, intimate relationship with Jesus. She observes that many people believe in God yet feel spiritually stagnant, settling for routine church attendance rather than a life fully alive in Christ. Lilley believes true renewal comes through deeper commitment, obedience, and freedom found in knowing Jesus personally. Through her podcast and her new devotional book, *Wake Up Your Faith: 365 Daily Encounters with Jesus*, she invites readers into daily, Spirit-filled encounters that awaken faith and confidence in God's healing, grace, and faithfulness. Drawing on her own journey from a successful acting career to wholehearted discipleship, Lilley challenges Christians to be bold in prayer and witness. She urges believers to step out in everyday moments, pray for others, and respond to the urgency of the Great Commission. Her message is clear: now is the time to awaken faith, live fully surrendered to Jesus, and actively make disciples.

Praise: God for awakening hearts to deeper faith, bold witness, and Spirit-filled discipleship in everyday life. (Romans 13:11)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/jen-lilley-encourages-others-to-wake-up-reignite-their-faith.html

British Isles

Sarah Mullally formally confirmed as Archbishop of Canterbury

Sarah Mullally has been formally confirmed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury during a service at St Paul's Cathedral. This was the legal moment when the responsibilities of the office were vested in her, ahead of her installation in Canterbury and the start of her public ministry. Presided over by Stephen Cottrell, the ceremony brought together bishops, clergy, laity, schoolchildren and representatives from across the Church of England and the global Anglican Communion. Archbishop Sarah took the oath of allegiance and made the declaration of assent, before receiving words of encouragement known as 'The Charge'. Archbishop Stephen urged her to 'be yourself', affirming that God has called her with her own gifts, experiences and perspective to serve Christ and build the Church. The service reflected the Church's diversity and concluded with Archbishop Sarah's first blessing, as prayers were offered for discernment, unity and faithfulness in her leadership. See <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/first-female-archbishop-canterbury-pledges-challenge-misogyny>

Pray: for Archbishop Sarah to lead with humility, discernment, and faithfulness to Christ's Gospel and mission. (1 Peter 5:2,3)

More: www.anglicannews.org/news/2026/01/archbishop-sarah-mullally-takes-up-primatial-cross-at-confirmation-of-election-service.aspx

UK and China sign agreements in landmark visit

Keir Starmer has concluded a landmark bilateral meeting with Chinese president Xi Jinping in Beijing, marking the first visit by a British prime minister to China in eight years. The talks, held at the Great Hall of the People, signal a renewed phase of engagement between the UK and China at a time of global economic fragility and geopolitical tension. Starmer described China as a vital global player and spoke of the need for a more mature and sophisticated relationship, while President Xi emphasised long-term partnership and the importance of rising above differences. Discussions covered trade, services, education, healthcare, artificial intelligence, climate change and irregular migration. A series of cooperation agreements were signed, including progress towards visa-free travel for short-term UK visitors and a feasibility study on trade in services. While human rights concerns remain sensitive, the Government argues that constructive engagement, rather than isolation, offers the best route to economic growth, international stability and influence on the global stage.

Pray: for UK leaders to engage nations with discernment, integrity, and courage while upholding justice and peace. (Proverbs 16:7)

More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/c150yv75pn7o

Royal Navy monitors suspected Russian spy ship just two miles from coast

The Royal Navy has closely monitored a Russian cargo vessel after it spent around fourteen hours stationary above sensitive undersea data cables in the Bristol Channel, just two miles from Minehead. The ship, *Sinegorsk*, arrived late at night and anchored near multiple telecommunications cables linking the UK with the USA, Canada, Spain, and Portugal. The vessel's last recorded port was Arkhangelsk, a key base for the Russian Navy's northern fleet. Surveillance aircraft and a helicopter were deployed, after which the ship departed westwards. While MoD sources suggested the stop may have been due to poor weather, politicians and security experts described the behaviour as suspicious, given previous incidents involving Russian interference with undersea infrastructure. The episode has renewed concerns over the vulnerability of critical national communications and the ongoing security challenges facing the UK amid heightened geopolitical tensions.

Pray: for vigilance, protection, and discernment over UK waters and infrastructure amid growing international security threats. (Psalm 127:1)

More: www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2163978/royal-navy-tracks-russia-spy-ship-bristol-channel

Union threatens Labour after Andy Burnham blocked from by-election

Fresh divisions have emerged within the Labour party after the decision to block Andy Burnham from standing in a parliamentary by-election in Greater Manchester. The move, approved by Labour's National Executive Committee, has triggered a strong backlash from MPs, party activists and trade unions. Unison general secretary Andrea Egan warned Keir Starmer that the party risked damaging itself through excessive central control and intolerance of internal dissent. Writing publicly, she accused the leadership of factionalism and called for a radical change in direction to prevent further electoral losses. More than fifty Labour MPs from across the party have expressed concern, with local activists also demanding the decision be reversed. Critics argue the move undermines democratic accountability and weakens Labour's position in a once-safe seat now vulnerable to Reform UK and the Greens. Breaking news: Andy Burnham has said he will accept the Labour decision even though it was hard to take. See <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1klyz4rg80u>

Pray: for integrity, humility, and unity in UK political leadership, resisting division and serving the common good. (Proverbs 4:26)

More: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15503835/Union-control-freak-Labour-Andy-Burnham-Parliament.html

London: three grim days see stabbings, murder investigation, shooting, collisions

A series of violent incidents across London in late January has left communities shaken, with multiple stabbings, a confirmed murder, a shooting and several serious road collisions reported within three days. Among the most distressing cases are a 10-year-old boy fighting for his life after being struck by a car in Stanmore, and a 17-year-old stabbed in a south London park. Police have also charged a man

with the murder of a 58-year-old woman in Ilford, while other knife and gun attacks remain under investigation, with some suspects still at large. The incidents highlight the persistent human cost of violence in the capital, even though recent data suggest that overall homicide and knife crime levels have declined in recent years. Faith leaders and community campaigners stress that reductions in violence are the result of sustained grassroots engagement, mentoring, policing measures and legislative change. However, these events underline the need for continued vigilance, compassion and prevention.

Pray: for protection over London's communities, healing for victims, and lasting peace through justice and prevention. (Psalm 34:14)
More: www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/grim-3-days-london-sees-33316401.amp

Gang jailed over guns and £288m drug operation

Four members of an organised crime gang have been jailed following the discovery of a vast firearms and drugs operation based in Wigan. Police uncovered an industrial-scale tablet manufacturing set-up capable of producing tens of thousands of counterfeit drugs per hour, alongside viable firearms and ammunition. The investigation was triggered by intelligence from encrypted messaging platforms used by criminals. Millions of tablets were seized from properties, a shipping container, and a hired van, with estimated street values ranging from £57.6 million to £288 million. Officers also uncovered efforts to disguise the criminal enterprise behind a fake business selling tablet machinery. Detectives said the combination of mass drug production and access to deadly weapons posed a serious threat to communities locally and nationally. The sentences, totalling nearly fifty years, underline the determination of law enforcement to disrupt organised crime networks and protect the public from exploitation, addiction and violence.

Pray: that the authorities will be able to restrain organised crime, protecting communities from violence, addiction, and exploitation. (Romans 13:3,4)
More: news.sky.com/story/gang-jailed-over-guns-and-drug-operation-worth-up-to-288m-13500281

Europe

Russia: new report estimates over one million casualties in Ukraine war

A new report from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies estimates that around 1.2 million Russian troops have been killed, wounded or gone missing since the invasion of Ukraine nearly four years ago. Despite this enormous human cost, Russia has expanded its control of Ukrainian territory by only about 12%: in the past two years, only by 1.5%. The statistics challenge assertions that a Russian victory is inevitable, noting that Ukraine's defensive strategy of trenches, mines, obstacles, drones and artillery has limited Russian advances to minimal gains. Mark Rutte has said that in December alone Russia lost 30,000 soldiers (in Afghanistan, they lost 20,000 in ten years). The toll far exceeds Russia's losses in all its post-World War II conflicts combined. Economically, the war has weakened Russia's long-term prospects, slowing growth, deepening labour shortages. The war is burdening the not only the current Russian economy but its future prospects, the report says: the country 'is becoming a second- or third-rate economic power'. Yet Putin is unlikely to settle for a peace deal without further Western pressure on his regime.

Pray: that Russian leaders will pursue peace and spare lives from further devastating loss. (Psalm 34:14)
More: edition.cnn.com/2026/01/28/europe/russia-ukraine-casualties-csis-report-intl-hnk-ml

Russia: the Arctic is both opportunity and threat for Putin

The Arctic occupies a central place in Vladimir Putin's strategic thinking, combining vast natural resources with critical military importance. Russia controls more than half of the Arctic coastline and sees the Northern Sea route as a future rival to the Suez Canal, especially as melting ice opens new shipping lanes. Western sanctions since the invasion of Ukraine have increased Moscow's reliance on Arctic energy exports and on China as an investor and customer. At the same time, climate change threatens Arctic infrastructure built on thawing permafrost, raising risks of environmental disasters and disease. Militarily, the region underpins Russia's nuclear deterrent, with key submarine bases on the Kola Peninsula protected by layered defences. Yet NATO's growing presence and China's expanding role complicate Putin's ambitions. The Arctic promises power and prestige, but it is also increasingly unstable and contested.

Pray: that Putin will choose wisely in knowing how to balance restraint, cooperation, and care for fragile regions. (Proverbs 8:12)
More: inews.co.uk/opinion/putins-coldest-war-threat-deadly-pathogens-melting-ice-4085925

Worldwide

Iran / USA: possible scenarios if Trump decides to attack

As Donald Trump warns Iran that 'time is running out' for a nuclear deal ([see](#)), and with US forces reportedly preparing for strikes on Iran within days, the consequences are far from clear. Limited 'surgical' attacks could hit Revolutionary Guard facilities, missile sites and nuclear infrastructure, but hopes for a rapid transition to democracy look highly optimistic, given past interventions elsewhere. Another scenario is the regime surviving but moderating its behaviour, though Iran's leaders have historically resisted change. Many observers fear a collapse followed by hard-line military rule, or worse, nationwide chaos and conflict involving ethnic minorities. Iran has vowed retaliation, which could take the form of missile and drone attacks on US bases or warships, or mining the Strait of Hormuz, which is a vital shipping 'chokepoint', especially for global oil and LNG. Iran's Arab neighbours, all US allies, are understandably jittery that Iran could attack them. The most dangerous scenario is escalation into a wider war with no clear end-state and severe regional and economic fallout.

Pray: that diplomacy and wise advice will prevail, preventing war and protecting the lives of ordinary Iranians. (Proverbs 20:18)
More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce3kenge1k9o

Minneapolis: continuing protests and criticism over federal crackdown

Two agents have been placed on administrative leave following the fatal shooting of Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse, in Minneapolis on 24 January. The killing has sparked protests, national outrage, and calls for accountability within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Initial official claims that Pretti was brandishing a gun have been questioned after video analysis found no weapon visible. A preliminary report states the shooting occurred during a physical struggle, contradicting earlier statements. The incident comes as protests continue over the federal immigration crackdown. Minneapolis mayor Jacob Frey has clashed publicly with Donald Trump over immigration enforcement and rhetoric, while another critic, Representative Ilhan Omar, who was attacked in a public meeting on 26 January, has blamed Trump for increases in threats against her. With tensions running high and investigations continue, lawmakers

are considering impeachment proceedings and removing funding for DHS in spending legislation which Congress must pass to keep the government from shutting down on 1 February. For an example of the heavy-handedness of the federal approach, [see https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/iranian-refugee-sisters-released-from-ice-detention](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/iranian-refugee-sisters-released-from-ice-detention)

Pray: that truth, justice and accountability will prevail amid grief, anger and political tension. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgn0w129lqo

Africa: climate change causing drought in the east, floods in the south

For reporter Haru Mutasa, covering climate change stories was not part of the plan, yet one assignment led relentlessly to another. A routine trip to Kenya's Mandera County revealed a devastating drought along the Kenya–Somalia border. Dry riverbeds, starving camels and burned livestock graves told a grim story. Communities depended on infrequent water deliveries, sharing muddy water with animals. Pastoralists like Mohamed Hussein had lost most of their livestock, struggling to keep families alive. After leaving Kenya, Haru thought the story was over. Instead, heavy rains and floods swept across southern Africa. Soon she was deployed again, this time to Mozambique. In Maputo, neighbourhoods lay submerged in filthy floodwaters. Further south, highways had disappeared underwater and farmland had vanished beneath rising rivers. With dams upstream full, more flooding threatens. While the world looks elsewhere, these communities remain, facing a climate crisis that refuses to pause.

Pray: that communities facing climate extremes would find protection, provision and lasting resilience. (Psalm 24:1)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/1/28/drought-in-the-east-floods-in-the-south-africa-battered-by-climate-change

Venezuela: over a hundred political prisoners freed

More than a hundred people held as political prisoners in Venezuela have been freed, according to the human rights group Foro Penal (FP). Among them were FP lawyer Kennedy Tejeda and communications student Juan Francisco Alvarado. Tejeda, a lawyer and human rights defender, had disappeared after visiting detainees in Carabobo state on 2 August 2024 to provide legal assistance, and had since been held in Tocorón prison. While welcoming his return to his family, FP also urged the government to publish official release lists. Acting president Delcy Rodríguez promised to release prisoners detained under Nicolás Maduro following his refusal to concede the 2024 presidential election. She said this marked the beginning of a 'new political moment' which allowed greater political and ideological diversity. According to FP, there were 777 political prisoners in Venezuelan jails as of 19 January.

Pray: that more political prisoners will be fully released. Pray that the new government will be firmly established, and continue to strive for justice. (Isaiah 61:1)

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/1/26/venezuela-frees-104-political-prisoners-rights-group-says

China: speculation about reasons for dismissal of two senior generals

The recent decision to remove China's two most senior generals, Zhang Youxia and Liu Zhenli, and place them under investigation has prompted intense speculation. Zhang was the highest-ranking military figure in the Communist Party, while Liu oversaw key operational command structures. Although the suddenness of their dismissal surprised observers, China's opaque political system makes firm conclusions difficult. Official statements cite serious disciplinary and legal violations, consistent with Xi Jinping's long-running anti-corruption campaign within the military. Corruption in procurement and appointments has led to the investigation or dismissal of dozens of senior officers in recent years. While some analysts suggest internal disagreement or damage to military confidence, there is little evidence the moves threaten Xi's authority. Nor is it clear they weaken or strengthen China's military capabilities, including regarding Taiwan. Instead, the dismissals probably reflect an intensified drive to enforce discipline and reshape military culture ahead of long-term national planning.

Pray: that these changes of leadership will be in the best interests of the country and international relations. (Proverbs 11:14)

More: www.independent.co.uk/asia/china/china-military-coup-xi-jinping-b2909209.html

Kenya: even when he had no home, he was rescuing wild birds

Once homeless and living on the streets, Rodgers Oloo Magutha now shares his modest home with rescued birds in Kenya. Growing up near Lake Nakuru, surrounded by rich birdlife, he found his childhood curiosity growing into a lifelong calling. Over the years, he has rescued and cared for more than twenty bird species, including kites, owls, storks, crows and pigeons. Many arrive injured, starving or trapped, and he nurses them back to health before releasing them into the wild. His work fills a critical gap in a country with few wildlife rehabilitation centres. The challenges are constant: limited space, lack of veterinary training, scarce food and public misunderstanding, with some even accusing him of witchcraft because of his close bond with the birds. Yet Rodgers continues, motivated by compassion and wonder. His dream is to establish a legal, well-equipped bird rescue shelter, so that more vulnerable creatures can be healed and returned to freedom.

Pray: that Kenyan agencies will follow Rodgers' example and provide more facilities to rescue and care for vulnerable creatures. (Proverbs 12:10)

More: www.africanews.com/2026/01/16/kenya-the-man-rescuing-wild-birds-even-without-a-roof-over-his-head/

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