



Open Doors

Prayer Calendar

February 2012

Central Asia

1. Due to immense pressure and persecution, believers often need a safe place for rest, encouragement and training. Praise the Lord for the Open Doors Safe Houses in Central Asia! Pray for those believers who are currently at the safe houses – may God's living water (through His Word and His presence) refresh them during this time of rest.
2. Yousef (pseudonym) is one of the many people we were able to help with a micro-credit loan. He is a pastor and leads a home group. A few years ago he started his own business: packaging and selling spices. Pray that God will bless him with wisdom as he runs his business. Also pray that the Lord will guide and strengthen him as he leads the home group.
3. Pray for everyone involved in our socio-economic projects in Central Asia. There are far more requests than we can possibly honour and we need God's wisdom and discernment in managing this. Also pray that believers will continue to look to God for their provision.

Afghanistan

4. Pray for all those involved in Christian radio and TV and for the production of more video materials; may the Lord bless them with creative ideas and great concepts. According to statistics, about 55% of Afghans regularly watch TV. Although fewer Afghans watch satellite TV, thousands of urban and rural Afghans own a satellite antenna. There are many requests for videos with good values and even for Christian videos. May the believers be drawn closer to Jesus through these programs.
5. Seekers and believers often have questions after watching Christian TV programs or listening to Christian radio programs. Pray for those who handle these questions. This is an area of intense spiritual warfare; there are often verbal assaults. One team member said, "We never get discouraged when people swear at us. We get discouraged when people ask us for Bibles and we can't give them one." May they answer every question with a word in season. Also pray that more Bibles will be available for distribution.



6. Pray for a poor Afghan family who left their country and settled somewhere else in the region. They are new believers and their young daughter has cancer. She can hardly lie on her back as it is extremely painful. The doctors have said that there is no hope for her. Pray that they will hold on to the Word of God, that the Lord will continue to be their hope and that the joy of the Lord will be their strength.

Azerbaijan

7. Give thanks that in spite of increasing restrictions against Christian activities, a Bible Study seminar could be organized with participants from various churches. Azeri Christians ask us to stand with them in prayer: *"We would like to thank you so much that we had a chance to take part in the seminar, that you helped us financially and made it possible for us to study God's Word. There is a great need for the training of leaders in our country. Therefore we ask you on behalf of all Christians in the country, please continue to pray for us."*

Kyrgyzstan

8. Let us give thanks for Aisul (pseudonym), a Kyrgyz Christian lady who was able to participate in a Biblical training session. She wrote: *"I fell in love with the Word and now I understand what it means to believe in God; trusting Him in all the situations of life."* Please pray for Aisul that she will continue to daily meditate on the Word despite all the pressures she experience.

Tajikistan

9. Christians in Tajikistan ask that we pray for them; that they will be brave in preaching the Gospel to their countrymen. Many people are quite hostile to Christians, especially when they are Tajik or Uzbek.

Yemen

10. Pray for the small indigenous Church in Yemen. Pray that the Lord will give believers wisdom regarding meeting with fellow believers and opportunities to do so.
11. Yemen is the poorest Arab country – not necessarily due to a lack of natural resources, but rather due to widespread corruption, low education levels, violence and mismanagement. Right now the Yemenis are facing massive unemployment, especially the young Yemenis. Pray that the Lord will provide job opportunities for the youth.



12. Since Yemen became a country, when North Yemen and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen united in 1990, Yemen has had a violent history. The country has been governed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh from that first day in 1990. In theory Yemen is a democracy but in practice it isn't. Pray for the many families who have lost loved ones in the violence over the years, also remembering the *Arabian Spring* of last year and the impact it has had on Yemen.

Eritrea

13. In Eritrea, many of the prisoners' families have had no news from the prisoners in months. Pray that the Lord would grant them His comfort. Also pray for those in prison who have not had the opportunity to speak to their loved ones; may the Lord carry and strengthen them.
14. Eritrean refugees in Sudan and Ethiopia continue to face the threat of repatriation. Pray that they would be spared from this. Also pray that God's everlasting love will flood their tired hearts and that they will be established in the Word.

Indonesia

15. Open Doors recently held leadership training for a number of key workers in an undisclosed place in Sumatra, an area considered to be strongly Islamic. As the workers carry out their ministries, pray for the Lord to keep and to protect them and their families in the face of persecution. Pray for the Lord to lead them to those who are hungry to hear the Good News.
16. East Java is a difficult place for minority Christian churches. Religious pressure from the local Muslims is strong, especially when they see a church growing in numbers. Please pray for the Body of Christ in that area and for the Lord to guide pastors and church leaders when they face pressure.

Myanmar

17. There are believers who are not prepared to face persecution. When they are threatened in a strongly Buddhist community the chance is high that they will flee, retaliate and revert to their old religion. Pray for the Lord to strengthen and to prepare them so that they will respond with humility and forgiveness when persecuted.

Comoros

18. Widespread poverty remains a fundamental problem for the people of the Islands as a result of poor socio-economic development. Please continue to pray for the situation. Also pray for unity amongst the believers in Comoros.

Oman

19. Pray for the protection of those who distribute Bibles and other materials and for more open doors to continue with the distribution of Bibles in Oman. Pray that God's Spirit will help them to get the message of God's Kingdom across and to coach new believers.

Tunisia

20. Pray that seekers will find the Lord and accept Him. Also pray for their families around them (often unbelievers), that they will accept the new faith of their family member.
21. Despite the cultural and social pressures to conform, pray that all believers in Tunisia will walk in the power, love and self-control which enable them to boldly embrace and proclaim the truth of Jesus.



Iraq

22. Despite the many emigrations, there are wonderful followers of Jesus meeting together to worship God in various parts of Iraq. Pray that more Christian leaders in this country will feel the need to stay in Iraq and that they will continue to meet with other believers for fellowship.

Nigeria

23. Thank God for His grace on the believers affected by the post-election violence and for granting them courage to remain steadfast in the faith. Pray for unity amongst the leadership of the Church in Northern Nigeria, so that they will speak with one voice for the benefit of believers in the country.
24. Yusef (36) has been struggling with his health for the last couple of months. He has a wife, two children, an aged mother and four siblings under his care. Pray for his healing and for God's provision over him and his family.



Ethiopia

25. Pray for abundant grace and strength for each missionary and that God will kindle their passion for His work. Missionaries are at risk of being exposed by Muslim spies and are therefore dependent upon the Lord's guidance and wisdom in identifying genuine converts. Pray for their protection.

Laos

26. There are still no official or formal Bible schools and seminars in Laos, meaning that believers with a calling to serve in full-time ministry have to seek training outside the country. Pray for God's provision of resources for these keen servants of God and that the Holy Spirit will equip them with every spiritual gift they may need.
27. Meeting together every Sunday is a challenge for many local churches in the rural provinces of Laos. Unauthorized gatherings of more than 10 people in a house can easily raise suspicion from neighbours and local authorities. Meeting, therefore, becomes more difficult if the church is growing. Ask God to grant wisdom to the pastors as they find other means to lead their churches under such restriction.

North Korea

28. Underground Christians in North Korea pray for the evangelization of their country. Let's stand in agreement with their request and pray that God will use them for the advancement of His Kingdom.

Syria

29. Pray that the Christians in Syria will have the strength, endurance and courage to continue being a light in the country and amongst their Muslim neighbours and friends.