

**Open Doors**

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

# PRAYER *force* ALERT

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR  
PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

"You are my strength, I watch for You; You, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely."  
—Psalm 59:9-10 (NIV)

**SYRIA**

**21** More reports of Christians going back to their homes, either from abroad or from other areas inside Syria, have started to come in over the past couple of months. Please pray that as we help these families, more would be encouraged to return to Syria.

**22** The need for basic necessities is still an issue as the war in Syria rages on. Please pray that our brothers and sisters will be encouraged by the help they do receive. Pray also for spiritual encouragement as the situation in Syria takes its toll on them.

**LIBYA**

**23** Many Christians are struggling with bitterness because of the anarchy in Libya. The sense of insecurity and uncertainty is very high. Pray that God will strengthen these Christians to be an encouragement to those who are suffering in the current situation.

**IRAQ**

**24** The Chaldean church in Baghdad has closed eight of their churches because of people leaving the city. Please pray for Christians who are still in Baghdad to be encouraged and to remain strong in the faith, despite the current situation.

**VIETNAM**

**25** In 2016, Donh\* was beaten by the authorities for refusing to renounce Christ. Praise the Lord he could share the Gospel with his relatives who accepted Christ as their Saviour. Pray for strength for them as they have also been beaten for refusing to renounce Christ.

**ETHIOPIA**

**26** In 2013, Motuma Kemedede was murdered in front of his wife, Buze, son, Wasihun, and daughter, Bachu, for his dedication to Christ. Please pray for peace of mind and continued comfort for the family as they still face hostility.

**PAKISTAN**

**27** Pray for Christians in Pakistan, especially those who risk being charged with blasphemy against Islam by friends, family and neighbours. May God give them wisdom in choosing their words when speaking to Muslims, especially about religion.

**MAURITANIA**

**28** Pray for wisdom in teaching and disciplining illiterate Christians in Mauritania. Those who have accepted the Good News, are limited in their ability to read Scripture on their own.

**TUNISIA**

**29** When Rachel\* professed her Christian faith to her father, he kicked her out of the house. She is now struggling to find a place to live and feels unsafe in her city. Pray for provision for her during this uncertain time.

**30** Pray for Maia\* who is in an abusive marriage. Her husband mistreats her even more since she became a Christian. Pray that God will open her husband's eyes to what he is doing and that Maia will hold fast to her worth in Christ.

**BRUNEI**

**31** A Christian in Brunei said, "Living out my faith in Christ is like stepping on glass, as I don't know when I will [get cut] and get into trouble with the law. We have to be careful all the time." Pray that God will give Christians wisdom and boldness in living out their faith in this country amid unfair religious laws.

\*Names changed and representative images used for security purposes.

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## KYRGYZSTAN

**1** Pastor Miran\* was falsely accused and imprisoned for sexually harassing a schoolgirl. He has since been cleared of all guilt and released, but is still persecuted by the local authorities. Please pray for strength and endurance for Pastor Miran.

## CHINA

**2** Pastor Matthew severely injured his left leg, after falling, while climbing a steep slope, to visit and pray with isolated Believers from a Muslim Background (BMBs). Please pray for healing for Pastor Matthew so that he can soon return to his work amongst BMBs.

## BANGLADESH

**3** In September, in Bangladesh, Open Doors held a Women's Conference to train and equip Christian women to serve the Church. Pray that those who attended would have returned home inspired and encouraged to serve in their local churches.

## INDONESIA

**4** In September, a retreat for Believers from a Muslim Background was held, in partnership with mission organisations, in West Java. Pray that as these Christians have returned to their normal lives, they may be refreshed and strengthened to face persecution.

## INDONESIA continues

**5** Following the East Jakarta bombing in May, the government has found, upon further investigation, that there are more than a dozen Islamic State cells in Indonesia. Pray that an anti-terrorism bill will be passed soon to curb the growth of these cells.

## MALAYSIA

**6** In Malaysia it has become increasingly common for Muslims to speak out against Christian evangelism, and a coalition of non-government Islamic organisations has proposed that Christian evangelism be altogether banned. Pray for wisdom for the Church in responding to this proposal.

**7** Last month, Christians in Malaysia attended various *Standing Strong through the Storm* seminars to help prepare them for persecution. Pray that God will give them wisdom and guidance to apply what they have learnt in their everyday lives.

## MALDIVES

**8** Pray for increased unity and collaborative efforts among all the mission workers who are discipling new believers in the Maldives. Pray for God to help them overlook their differences and instead focus on building the Kingdom of God in the country.

## SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

**9** Almira\* was born into a Muslim family but became a Christian after her landlord shared the Gospel with her. Almira now endures persecution at the hands of her family. Pray for the salvation of Almira's family.

## MYANMAR

**10** Earlier this year, around 100 000 Christians were forced to flee Myanmar due to persecution. *"They killed people, sent people to jail because of [their] religion,"* a Christian refugee was quoted as saying. Pray for God's protection and provision for Christians in Myanmar.

## SRI LANKA

**11** Buddhist mobs are assaulting pastors and their families in certain parts of Sri Lanka. Please pray for the protection of the pastors and their families, as well as the members of their congregations, who are facing violence and discrimination due to their faith.

## LAOS

**12** Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters who are imprisoned for proclaiming their faith in public in Laos. Pray for their immediate release and that one day all Laotian Christians will be able to profess their love for God without the fear of being arrested.



Pray for believers from a Buddhist background in countries like Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Laos who are persecuted by their families, communities and the authorities for following Christ.

## SOMALIA

**13** There are not many ministry workers in Somalia due to the extreme danger and risk. Pray that God will open the door for fruitful ministry to take place in the country, despite the danger, so that the Gospel message will reach all the Somali people.

## EAST AFRICA ISLANDS

**14** Very young and inexperienced indigenous Christian communities, in need of discipleship, are emerging in some areas of the islands. Due to persecution, discipleship is difficult. Pray for courage and wisdom for church leaders to reach out to these communities.

## WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

**15** In this region, the persecution of Christians by Hausa-Fulani herdsmen, a radical Islamic tribe, is rife. Pray that the light of God will pierce the darkness in their hearts so that the herdsmen will come to know Him as their Saviour.

## EGYPT

**16** The economic situation in Egypt continues to deteriorate and commodity prices keeps increasing. Egyptians are worried about the impact of this on their inadequate salaries as they try and provide for their families. Pray that they will know God as their generous Provider during this difficult time.

## SUDAN

**17** Sudan is an increasingly difficult place to live as a Christian. The influence of Islamic leaders on the government is more powerful than its commitment to respect human rights. Pray for grace for Christians to withstand the pressure and to uphold their testimony.

**18** In Sudan, church leaders are the main target of security services who relentlessly persecute Christians. Pray for protection for these church leaders, as well as wisdom and courage, so that they can continue their ministry work.

## TANZANIA

**19** Please pray for Emanuel, a former Muslim witch doctor, who became a Christian during an open-air service. Pray that he will grow in the faith and that God will provide him with another job to take care of his family.

## NIGERIA

**20** In 2005, 12-year-old Martina's father was hastily buried in a mass grave along with others who were killed in clashes between Muslims and Christians. This deeply traumatised her, but through a trauma healing programme for children, presented by Open Doors, she could find peace. Pray that more children will be healed through this trauma programme.