

**20** Manku\* and his family came to Christ after his wife was healed. When local villagers found out, they beat him, banished the family and denied Manku any work in the village. Pray that the Lord will strengthen Manku's faith and provide a way for him to earn a living.



#### PRAY FOR INDIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS

**21** Pray for Christian girls who are put under house arrest by their families because of their faith. Pray that God will sustain and protect them and pray that their families will come to know Him.

**22** Women and girls in India are subject to molestation, rape, physical and verbal abuse; attempted murder; being forced to participate in Hindu rituals; isolation and expulsion from their home or village. Pray for God's hand of protection to be over Christian women who are doubly vulnerable because of their gender and faith.

**23** Pray for courage for a sister who was beaten up by a group of young men from her village and warned that she would be killed if she did not give up her Christian faith. Pray that the Lord will be her shield and defender.

**24** Shanti trusted Jesus after He healed her from a mental health issue. Her family threw her out and her village threatened to expel her unless she denied Jesus. She prays, "Lord, I pray that You would provide a good place for me to live. Please help me stand strong in You."

**25** Mother-of-four, Jaanvi\* (38), has been sent away for following Jesus, yet longs to see her village come to know Him. "I see the Hindus around us suffering from illnesses and lack of peace, just like my family once suffered. I pray that they will come to know Jesus Christ."

**26** Open Doors trains local churches to run persecution survival seminars for women affected by persecution. Pray that these seminars will give many women the strength and encouragement they need to stand firm in the faith.

#### PRAY FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF LIVES

**27** Open Doors works through local church partners to support Christians in India with Bibles, discipleship, livelihood and advocacy support, and relief aid. Pray for wisdom and resilience and that this work will strengthen the Church.

**28** Give thanks for persecution survival training run by Open Doors' local church partners to help Christians respond biblically to persecution. An attendee says, "We now know how to live and act as responsible Christians. I will continue my ministry with even more zeal."

**29** Rajan was given livelihood support through a worm composting project run by Open Doors' church partners. He has since included more people in the project and started a cell group. Give thanks that 12 persecuted families are now earning additional income through this project!

**30** Over the past couple of years, thousands of Christians in India have been attacked for their faith. Pray for courage and protection for local Rapid Response Teams taking great risks to support victims of violence with emergency food and medical care.

**31** As persecution becomes more extreme, Open Doors plans to double support, through local church partners, for Christians in India. Pray for discernment for those working to strengthen the Church for the long-term task of building God's Kingdom in India.

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



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# PRAYER FORCE ALERT



PRAYER CALENDAR FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE



"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." – Isaiah 9:2

**March  
2019**





### PRAY FOR THE NATION OF INDIA

- 1** More than four years ago, the Hindu nationalist party came to power in India. Since then, anti-minority violence has increased, and India has risen significantly on the Open Doors World Watch List. Pray for God to change the hearts of India's leaders to stand up for and protect the rights of Christians and other minorities.
- 2** Pray for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government. Pray that they will come to a knowledge of the truth about Jesus, so that God's people in India may be free to live peaceful and quiet lives that honour Him (1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- 3** The ruling party is intensifying its activities in northeast India. In some districts the public presentation of the Gospel is restricted, and Christians are openly criticised on social media. Pray for wisdom and boldness for Christians as they spread the Gospel.
- 4** Eight states in India have anti-conversion laws in place, which are often misused to harass and even imprison Christians. Pray for perseverance and protection for especially Believers from a Hindu Background.
- 5** Nearly 80 per cent of Christians in India come from a Dalit and tribal background, which means that they are already oppressed for being lower caste. So, they are doubly vulnerable. Pray that they will find strength and hope in Jesus' example of faith in the face of unjust suffering (1 Peter 2:19-21).

**6** Violence against Christians has increased in the run-up to the general elections taking place this year. Pray for the Lord's protection over our brothers and sisters during the elections and that the new government will work towards religious freedom for all, including minorities.

### PRAY FOR THE CHURCH OF INDIA

- 7** Churches have been vandalised, bombed and set on fire, and church leaders beaten and threatened to pressurise Christians to renounce their faith. Pray that church leaders will have courage and perseverance to strengthen their members to continue to come together despite the persecution.
- 8** Pastor Sujit\* has been attacked by Hindu extremists and his church demolished three times. Yet he still meets with his congregation in secret and hopes one day to rebuild the church. "Please pray," he says. "I believe God will certainly open the way to resume the construction work."
- 9** Pray for a pastor in northern India who has been released on bail after charges of supposed forced conversion. He remains under strict police surveillance. Pray for his family's protection as a Hindu extremist group continues to threaten him.
- 10** Pray for Pastor Gyran\* who was forced to reconvert to Hinduism by 200 Hindu extremists. Pray that the Lord in His mercy will restore Pastor Gyran's faith and pray for his physical and spiritual protection.
- 11** Many Christians in India live in poverty and cannot afford to buy their own Bible. Pray that God will put them in contact with those who distribute Bibles. Pray also for the protection of those distributing God's Word.
- 12** Praise God that, despite trials and persecution, the Church in India is growing! Give thanks for those who risk their safety, freedom, and even their lives to share their faith in their communities – may the Holy Spirit keep adding to their numbers.
- 13** Last September, Unga Karma (35) was abducted and killed by Naxalites after people from his village falsely reported that he gave information about the Naxalites to the police. Pray for his wife and four children who have been left without a breadwinner – may God provide in their every need.



### PRAY FOR BELIEVERS FROM A HINDU BACKGROUND

- 14** In recent years, Hindu extremists have become more aggressive, claiming that to be Indian is to be Hindu. Pray for a tenacious faith for Believers from a Hindu Background who face constant pressure to return to Hindu beliefs.
- 15** Believers from a Hindu Background are often targeted by 'ghar wapsi' or 'homecoming' campaigns designed to reconvert people to Hinduism. Pray that God will provide discipleship opportunities for young believers, so they can resist the temptation to recant their faith in Jesus.
- 16** In Karan's Hindu village, his father is the village chief, so it is a disgrace that Karan is a Christian. Pray that Karan will be strengthened by God's Word through Bible training and that his whole family will come to know Jesus.
- 17** Gallu\* was abducted, beaten and tortured by local villagers to force him to renounce his faith. Thankfully he escaped from his abductors. Pray for physical and emotional healing for Gallu, and for protection for local believers who are extremely fearful.
- 18** When Mamta\* decided to follow Jesus, Hindu extremists brought her name to the attention of a senior government official, accusing her of converting other Hindus to Christianity. Pray for Mamta's protection and ask the Lord to bring her wider family to salvation.
- 19** Pray for Hindu extremist groups who oppose the growth of the Church in India. Ask God to soften their hearts to the Gospel so that many will find salvation in Jesus.