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OpenDoors

# PRAYER CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 2019

### 1 | CHILDREN OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

In some countries, Christian children are bullied by their peers and even by their teachers. While in others, they face rejection from their families or indirect persecution through the imprisonment or death of their Christian parents. Pray for our future generation and light-bearers, that they will grow mightily in the faith.

### PRAY FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATION...

#### 2 | BRUNEI

Christian children's spiritual life is being neglected as parents are too busy with work to teach them the Word of God. They're growing up weak in the faith. Pray for God's wisdom for Christian parents to raise their children with a knowledge of God's love despite their work schedules.

#### 3 | MALAYSIA

A teacher has told us, "Most of the Christian students in East Malaysia don't know what a Christian life is. They've never read the Bible, even if they're born to Christian families." Pray for more committed and godly Christian teachers to help guide these young people to deepen their knowledge of God.

#### 4 | MALDIVES

The people of Maldives are plagued by many social issues – drug addiction, gang culture, rape, and even incest, which especially affects the young people. Pray for God to intervene and reveal Himself to them in dreams and visions so they can find Him, and in Him, hope and a future.

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

**5 | IRAN** Many teenagers and young adults end up becoming addicted to things such as drugs, alcohol, porn and social media because of an increasing sense of hopelessness and lack of prospects. Pray for those being mentored as youth leaders so they can influence other Christian youth.

**6 | NORTH KOREA** In North Korea, children are taught at school that Christians are evil and will harm them, so Christian parents can't share their faith with their children. Pray for the children of secret believers in North Korea that, somehow, they will eventually be able to hear the Gospel and make the decision to follow Jesus.



**7 | INDIA** Some Christian students face discrimination when applying for educational loans from their banks. Pray that God will provide for them so that they will be able to pay for their studies.

**8 | SRI LANKA** According to the Archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, at least 176 children lost one or both parents in the Easter bombings earlier this year. Pray for comfort and strength for these children as they continue to make sense of their loss.

**9 | CHINA** In an effort by the government to alienate the younger generation from the Gospel, no child or teenager under 18 is permitted to enter churches or take part in 'religious activities'. Pray for these young people – that they'll come to know the Gospel through their older Christian relatives.

## PRAY FOR OUR LIGHT-BEARERS...

**10 | ISRAEL AND PALESTINE** Earlier this year, many children enjoyed summer camp activities where they learned about the Bible and about Jesus and His love for them. Pray that their lives will be filled with this love and hope despite the difficult circumstances they face.

**11 | LEBANON** Pray for the many young people in this country who love Jesus with all their hearts. Pray that through their lives, many will see Christ and that it'll have an impact on the whole country.

**12 | EGYPT** In a country where persecution is rife, children's ministry helps our youngest brothers and sisters to become strong, educated children who know their worth in Christ. Pray that through this ministry many children will grow in their identity in and love for Christ.

**13 | BANGLADESH** Thank God for the successful completion of a youth camp in July for more than 400 youths. Pray for the young participants, that they'll continue to be strengthened and encouraged in their faith through all they learned at the camp.

**14 | MALDIVES** Children in the Maldives are taught the Quran from a young age. Pray that God will intervene in their lives and leave a strong 'first impression' so that when they're older, they'll seek out Jesus.

**15 | IRAQ** Pray for the young people

of this country who don't see any future because of corruption and the threats of new extremist groups. Pray that young people will find a reason to stay in Iraq despite all the difficulties.

**16 | BHUTAN** In a society where relationship practices conflict with their faith, an Open Doors Youth Discipleship programme helps youth know what a healthy relationship is. Pray that through this programme, Christian youths will have godly relationships, so that the coming generations will have a strong faith and good families and mentors.

### PRAY FOR OUR SONS...

**17 | SYRIA** Abraham (7) grew up without his father after he was kidnapped by extremists about six years ago. Pray that God will be a father to children like Abraham who have lost their father to kidnappings, the fighting in the civil war or death because of the war.

**18 | PALESTINE** When Peter's\* (17) father was convinced that he could get rich as well as be able to marry a second woman if he converted to Islam, Peter and his siblings ended up in an orphanage. Peter eventually ended up on the streets where Open Doors helped him through our Hope School. Pray for the many "Peters" who've been neglected or rejected by their families.

**19 | COLOMBIA** In places like Colombia, young boys are forcefully conscripted into the illegal armed groups. Pray for these children in Colombia – that God will protect them from these illegal armed groups.

**20 | BANGLADESH** In June, Imran (7) needed an eye operation after Zihad (15) and his friends threw a stone at him because of his Christian faith. Thankfully, Imran is doing well. Pray that Zihad and his friends will be convicted of what they've done and seek forgiveness from the family.

**21 | CHAD** Young boys, as young as seven face pressure to take part in initiation rituals. This puts a lot of pressure on Christian families who don't want their sons to take part in these rituals. Pray for the protection of these boys and wisdom for their parents.

**22 | EGYPT** "Smoking, the use of drugs, and watching porn are spreading in school. Our boys want to be like the other children, and sometimes they imitate the bad habits of their [friends]," says Dyala about her sons. Pray for young boys in Egypt – that they'll make the choices that reflect Christ no matter what.

**23 | IRAQ** Marsel (12) dreams of a city in which people help and love each other, and where he can play in the street with his friends. Pray that one day soon this dream will become a reality for Marsel and the many other children in Iraq.



## PRAY FOR OUR DAUGHTERS...

**24 | KYRGYZSTAN** Amira lives in a safe house after having to flee from her Muslim family who wants her to reconvert and marry a Muslim. Pray for her safety. And that she'll become stronger in her faith, amid persecution. Pray also for her family to come to know Jesus.

**25 | CHINA** Jiajia is a young Christian girl from a Buddhist background. Earlier this year, having no money, Jiajia was forced to simply bandage her thumb after a relative broke it because she wouldn't bow down to their idols. Pray that Jiajia's thumb will heal perfectly and that she and others like her will courageously share their testimonies with others.

**26 | NORTH CAUCASUS** Recently a small girl, Ludmilla\*, feared that she would die as her parents beat her often. But after reading the Bible she received, she says, "Now I know that Jesus is always with me and I don't have to be afraid of anything!" Pray that God will soften the hearts of her parents towards her and that her young faith will continue to grow.

**27 | KENYA** After Sarah, a primary school student, became a Christian, she experienced mistreatment from her parents to the point that she had to flee to an older sibling's home. Her school fees are in arrears as her sibling is struggling to take care of her and her other children. Pray that Sarah will grow in her faith while experiencing the Lord's provision.

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

**28 | NIGERIA** The abduction of Christian girls, to be forcefully Islamised and married to Muslims, is a big challenge for the Christian community in northern Nigeria. Pray for wisdom for the Church as they engage with this difficult matter. Pray that the Lord will protect these girls from such abuse.

**29 | INDIA** Girls are perceived to be inferior to boys and so, they have lower literacy and education rates than boys. This perceived inferiority also leads to the selective abortion and infanticide of baby girls. Pray that as many of these girls grow up, they'll find their worth and identity in Christ despite what society may think of them.

**30 | EGYPT** In rural Egypt, kidnapping Christian girls as well as sexual violence is a constant threat. Daughters, sisters, friends – they go missing, often suddenly with only a fraction of the girls returning home. Pray for the protection of girls in Egypt from such danger.

**31 | CHRISTIAN CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA** Raising the next generation of Christians is such a privilege. Let's pray for our biological and spiritual children as well as our nieces and nephews – that God will work mightily in their lives so they can be the light-bearers of Jesus Christ in our country and beyond. May they also be a voice for our persecuted family.

Persecuted  But never alone.



**Open Doors**

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide



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