



**“Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”**

2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NIV)

# RAMADAN (24 APRIL – 24 MAY)

## PRAYER CALENDAR

### APRIL 2020

**1 | SRI LANKA** Thank you to those who've prayed for our Church family in Sri Lanka following the Easter bombings in 2019. Continue to pray for comfort for all the families who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Pray also for strength for those who are caring for those injured in the attacks.

**2 | MYANMAR** Saya Thun,\* a missionary, serves Believers from a Buddhist Background with his family. He faces constant persecution because of this ministry yet, he and his family continue to serve these believers. Pray for the Lord's continued protection over Saya Thun and his family.

**3 | MYANMAR** One of the believers that Saya Thun\* and his wife care for is Khin Htay.\* One day Khin's husband threw her with petrol and set her alight because she refused to worship the Buddhist gods. Pray for her recovery as well as provision for those who take care of her.

**4 | LAOS** Pastor Savang's community has threatened to kick out all Christians from their village if they continue to follow Jesus. Pray that God will give them discernment and wisdom as they deal with this situation.

**5 | VIETNAM** The government monitors many Christians and conducts raids on their house churches. Pray that those who continue to meet will remain strong



## VIETNAM continues

in their faith and that they'll serve as an encouragement to those whose faith is starting to waver.

**6 | CHINA** Believers from a Buddhist Background in some of China's most remote and mountainous regions are so isolated that they only meet other Christians once or twice a year. Many of them are also illiterate or have no Bible or pastors to teach them. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach them biblical truths.

**7 | INDIA** Deepi's\* family and neighbours are opposed to her faith in Jesus. She is now under strict supervision so that she can't go to church. Pray that she will know God's love and presence, despite not being able to meet with other believers.

**8 | BRUNEI** Brunei is becoming increasingly Islamic, especially in education and laws that repress minority religions. As a result, youths and non-Muslim families are leaving the country. Pray that Christian youths and their parents will be encouraged to stay and be God's witnesses in the country.



**9 | INDONESIA** Pray for the development of new projects for 2021. Pray for God's wisdom and successful collaboration between all those involved in these projects. May each project answer the needs of the believers we serve in Indonesia and contribute to the spread of God's Kingdom in the country.

**10 | MALAYSIA** Alcoholism and teenage pregnancy are huge problems among young people in East Malaysia. Pray that those youth who attend Open Doors' youth camps (held in partnership with local church leaders) will find their hope and deliverance in God.

**11 | NORTH KOREA** North Korea idolises its current and previous leaders from the Kim family. Pray that God will show the people of North Korea that idolising human leaders can't bring them the help or hope that they need, only God can do that.

**12 | MALDIVES** Last year, President Solih expressed that his government will be implementing measures to address the root causes of racism, xenophobia, and hate speech. This is good news as Maldivians are taught to despise other religions, especially Christianity. Pray for a breakthrough in this country.

**13 | CENTRAL ASIA** In a Central Asian country, security services were informed about secret Believers from a Muslim Background and arrested them. Pray that God will strengthen these believers and give them courage and wisdom during this time.

**14 | KYRGYZSTAN** Janara, a Believer from a Muslim Background and former lawyer for Eldos (believer attacked in 2018) has health issues brought on by the danger and stress she faced for helping him. Pray for safety for her and her family as well as good health for her.



**15 | BURKINA FASO** Naomi (45), who has nine children, lost her husband Eli last year when terrorists attacked their community. Pray for healing and provision for her and the many other widows in the country.

**16 | TAJIKISTAN** Pastor Bahrom Kholmatov was released early from prison in December. Praise God with us for his release. Pray that he and his family will continue to be a shining light for Christ despite all that has happened.

**17 | MOROCCO** Pray for Kais,\* a young believer who lost everything when he professed his faith. He is slowly rebuilding his life but is struggling. Pray for strength to persevere.

**18 | UGANDA** Robert (17) grew up in a Muslim family. The Lord used visions and dreams to bring him into the Kingdom. His

## UGANDA continues

parents tried to get him to recant his faith, but he refused. Thank the Lord for Robert's testimony. Pray for the Lord's continued provision for him and spiritual growth.

**19 | CAMEROON** Haoua (mother of Kadidja who passed away from liver cirrhosis) still faces mockery and provocation from her Muslim neighbours. Pray that the Lord will answer her prayers for relief from the constant pressure and that He'll protect her and her family against the temptation to give up hope.

**20 | TUNISIA** Female believers in a northern city of Tunisia are struggling to survive and want to meet more together. Pray for God to undertake for them and to help them find ways to come together safely.

**21 | IRAN** We are hearing increasing stories of physical, sexual and psychological abuse from within families, society and the Christian community itself. Pray for strength and healing for the many believers who are struggling to cope with the abuse.

**22 | INDONESIA** Pray for a group of Believers from a Muslim Background in a Muslim majority community on Java Island. The authorities have been growing suspicious about their activities. Pray that God will give the Christians leaders and members wisdom to respond to the situation with love.

**23 | OPEN DOORS PARTNERS** Join us in praying for Muslims around the world who begin Ramadan tomorrow. Pray that God will give us love towards Muslims around us and that through us, they'll see Christ and come to know Him as their personal Saviour.

## RAMADAN BEGINS

**24 | MUSLIM WORLD** Today marks the start of the month-long fast for Muslims worldwide. They believe that they'll earn spiritual rewards by fasting. Pray that the Gospel will take root in the Muslim World so that they'll be drawn to Christ.

**25 | ARABIAN PENINSULA** The Arabian Peninsula is home to some of Islam's most holy places and strict regimes. It's not an easy place to follow Christ, and yet God is moving in miraculous ways. Pray that in word and deed, Christians will be a shining light to the Muslims around them.

**26 | SAUDI ARABIA** According to Islamic tradition, Saudi Arabia is the birthplace and final resting place of the prophet Muhammad. Here, there is no room for any other religion. Praise God that despite this, Muslims are turning to Christ. Pray that the truth of Christ will be revealed to many more Muslims in visions and dreams.

**27 | OMAN** Omanis practise a unique brand of Islam called *Ibadiism*, which is a majority sect only in Oman and is more tolerant towards Christians. Pray that this tolerance towards Christians will provide many opportunities for Muslims and Christians to talk about Christ.

**28 | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** Evangelism is prohibited, but non-Muslim groups can worship in dedicated buildings or private homes. Pray that Christians will be a living testimony to Muslims in this country.

**29 | YEMEN** Yemen abides by the strictest interpretations of Islam. Leaving Islam to convert to another religion is forbidden. Yet, some have become

### YEMEN continues

Christians. Pray that God will open the hearts of many Muslims to the truth of the Gospel.

**30 | QATAR** Qatar is one of the only two Wahhabi Islam (very puritan version of Islam) countries in the world. Pray for protection for Christians in this country and that God will grant them wisdom in reaching out with the love of Christ to the Muslims in this country.

## MAY 2020



**1 | ISLAMIC ASIA** In countries where Islam is the dominant religion, Christians face hostility from their families, communities, governments and Islamic extremists. Pray that these people will acknowledge Jesus Christ as the one and only Saviour.

**2 | BANGLADESH** Until recently, Bangladesh managed to stay clear of the kind of radicalism that has plagued other parts of the world, but that's changing. Pray that this will not hinder the growth of the Kingdom in this country but that it will draw many Muslims to Christ.

**3 | MALDIVES** All nationals are considered Muslim and are expected to take part in Islamic rituals and community events such as attending the local mosque. Anyone caught not doing this will be questioned. Pray for wisdom for Christians and that God will help them to use these situations to be a shining light for Him in the darkness.

**4 | PAKISTAN** Pakistan is home to a plethora of radical Islamic groups. Pray for a divine encounter to take place amongst the people of this country as well as the radical Islamic groups so that they'll come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**5 | BRUNEI** Every day in the local newspapers, there are reports of converts to Islam who were given gifts and financial support. In contrast, Christians aren't allowed to evangelise at all. Pray that, in such an unfair playing field, God will grant His Church wisdom and boldness in sharing Jesus.

**6 | INDONESIA** Christian converts from Islam are often heavily pressured to renounce their faith. Pray that they would have access to Bibles and Christian community so they can be strengthened to endure the pressure. Pray that as they reflect Christ, Muslims will start to question their faith.

**7 | MALAYSIA** The constitution defines ethnic Malays as Muslims, which means they don't have the liberty to leave Islam, and those who practice other religions are

## **MALAYSIA continues**

forbidden from sharing this among Malay Muslims. Pray for change in Malaysia.

**8 | MIDDLE EAST** The Middle East is the birthplace of the Christian Church. Yet today, in some areas, the Church has almost been eliminated under Islamic pressure. Pray that God will use the Christians that are left to continue to be salt and light in the region.

**9 | IRAQ** Despite the difficulties church ministries and leaders face, they stand strong to proclaim and glorify Jesus' name. Pray to the Lord that their example will promote peace, church unity and development in the country.

**10 | AFGHANISTAN** Officially there are no local Christians in Afghanistan, so all visible acts of Christian worship are dangerous. Pray that the Gospel will continue to find its way into the hearts and homes of Muslims.



**11 | JORDAN** An open testimony of faith by a Christian from a Muslim background can lead to beatings, arrest and even death. Pray for God's hand of protection to be over these Christians and that they'll be reflections of Christ to their Muslim family members.

**12 | SYRIA** Christians from a Muslim background are especially put under pressure by their family, as their conversion brings great dishonour to them. Pray that the Lord will change the hearts of these Christians' families so that they'll also surrender their lives to Christ.

**13 | SUDAN** All Christian communities in Sudan are afraid of having conversations about their faith with Sudanese Muslims as this might be construed as being an "act that encourages apostasy against Islam". Pray for opportunities for Christians to be able to talk about their faith with Muslims without any backlash.



**14 | AFRICA** The presence of Islam in Africa can be traced to the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD when the prophet Muhammad advised several of his early disciples to seek refuge across the Red Sea when they faced persecution from the polytheistic inhabitants of Mecca. Pray that Muslims searching for the truth across Africa will find Christ.

**15 | ALGERIA** It's forbidden by law to "shake the faith of a Muslim" or to use "means of seduction intending to convert a Muslim to another religion". Despite this restriction, the harvest is great, but the workers are few. May the Lord call and send people to spread the Gospel in Algeria.

**16 | EGYPT** In Egypt, especially in rural and impoverished areas, radical imams and less tolerant brands of Islam are growing in prominence. The government is making efforts to reverse this trend but has been unsuccessful so far. Pray that God Himself will stop the growth of this type of Islam in the country.

**17 | LIBYA** The military conflict in Libya has helped the influence of radical Islamic thought to grow. Subsequently, the anarchy has resulted in several areas becoming home to radical Muslims. Pray for an end to the conflict in this country, and that steps will be taken to minimise the influence of radical Islam.

**18 | MAURITANIA** Mauritania is a self-proclaimed Islamic Republic. Here, non-Muslims experience intimidation and persecution, particularly at the hands of Islamic groups. Pray that despite this, God will give them courage and boldness in sharing the Gospel with their Muslim families.

**19 | NIGHT OF POWER** The Night of

## NIGHT OF POWER continues

Power is a highlight of Ramadan. Muslims believe that on this night, the blessings and mercy of Allah are abundant, and sins are forgiven. Pray that tonight as they seek forgiveness, many Muslims will come to know true forgiveness of sins through belief in Jesus Christ.



**20 | MOROCCO** Moroccan law criminalises “shaking the faith of a Muslim”. This puts many Christians who talk to others about their faith at risk of arrest. Pray that when Muslims and Christians talk, God will make a way for them to share their faith.

**21 | TUNISIA** Tunisian believers all come from a Muslim background. If their faith is discovered, they may lose their jobs, be rejected by family and friends, and face verbal and physical abuse. Pray that God will protect them from harm and that He'll use them to grow His Kingdom in the country.

**22 | NIGER** Until recently Niger had been, somewhat, spared violent Islamic militancy and the Church was not the main target. Pray that as this continues to change that the Lord will grant His children safe passage to come together and allow them to share their faith with their Muslim neighbours.

**23 | SOMALIA** If Al-Shabaab finds someone who has become a Christian, the militants will often kill them on the spot. Despite the risks, Somali people are coming to faith in Jesus – some in miraculous ways. Pray that many more Somalians will come to faith in Jesus despite the dangers.

## RAMADAN ENDS

**24 | MUSLIMS WORLDWIDE** Continue to pray for Muslims worldwide as Ramadan ends. Pray that where seeds have been planted through the witnesses of Christians around them – that it will be watered and grow into a life-changing relationship with Christ.



**25 | EID AL FITR** Muslims around the world end their month-long fast with the festival of the breaking of the fast. Pray that God will do a mighty work in the lives and hearts of the many Muslims who will be coming together to celebrate this festival.

**26 | IRAN** It's a great disgrace when a Muslim's family member leaves Islam. Pray for strength for Christians who have been cursed and disowned by their families for their faith. Pray that God will open their families' eyes to the truth of who He is.

**27 | CENTRAL ASIA** Madina\* is a Uygyr woman from a Muslim background who experiences persecution for her faith. This has caused serious health problems for her. Pray for her health, children, safety, and that her faith will be strengthened.

**28 | CHINA** Cao used to wrestle with the question of why God would allow persecution. She no longer struggles with this as she remembers and attributes the strength and courage of today's Church to the sacrifice of those martyred 60 years ago. Pray that Chinese believers will be inspired by those who have gone before them.

**29 | CHINA** Cao has noticed that teenagers are being impacted by the faith and perseverance of their parents, who must now go to great lengths just to meet with other believers and worship God.

## CHINA continues

Pray for a great revival amongst China's youth as a result of these present trials.

## 30 | NORTH KOREAN MINISTRIES

Thanks to your prayers and support, Open Doors through local churches has been able to develop various projects for North Korean Christians in nearby countries. Pray that these ministries will be prosperous according to God's plans.



## 31 | BODY OF CHRIST WORLDWIDE

Pray that the global Body of Christ will come together in prayer and support for one another. Pray that we will stand united and put on the full armour of God, so that together we can take our stand against the devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:11).

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

Persecuted  But never alone.



**OpenDoors**

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Open Doors South Africa

[www.opendoors.org.za](http://www.opendoors.org.za)  
P.O. Box 1771, Cresta, 2118  
T +27 11 888 9341  
E [southafrica@od.org](mailto:southafrica@od.org)