



Keep in your Bible

"If you say, 'The LORD is my refuge,' and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."

Psalms 91:9-11 (NIV)



OpenDoors

PRAYER CALENDAR

AUGUST 2020

1 | WORLDWIDE BODY OF CHRIST Not one single person has been left unaffected by the coronavirus pandemic. Pray that we, as the Body of Christ, will cling to the hope we have in Him and that we'll be His ambassadors to those around us during this time.

2 | NORTH KOREA Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, Open Doors workers like Matthew* decided to stay in the area of China that borders North Korea to take care of the shelters and safehouses for North Korean refugees in China. Pray that God will protect and bless faithful workers like him.

3 | ALGERIA Many churches are closed because of government regulations. Now, even more have been closed and activities stopped due to the coronavirus crisis. Pray for believers as they re-organise themselves in response to the current situation.

4 | IRAQ Church leader Father Daniel says: "Iraq has a weak health system. The only thing we can do to stay safe is to stay at home." Pray for good health for the people of Iraq during the pandemic, as well as for protection over medical staff treating infected patients.

5 | INDIA Many students are worried about their future because their exams have been cancelled due to the current pandemic. Pray that the Lord will give them peace and that the coronavirus will

INDIA continues

be brought under control so the students can write their exams.

6 | MYANMAR Discipleship training had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Pray that local partners of Open Doors will be able to resume this training in the coming months. Also, pray for the Lord to keep believers safe from the virus.

7 | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES The pandemic is affecting our work in this country. A team member shared: "It's a challenge for most of us to reschedule training and seminars that have already been planned. We need wisdom and guidance for what is yet to come." Pray for wisdom and encouragement for the team.

8 | BHUTAN Churches in central-south Bhutan are constantly monitored by authorities and hindered from gathering for fellowship. Pray that God will give them wisdom in this situation and that He'll grant them opportunities to come together.



9 | CHINA Nazar* injured her legs earlier this year and needed emergency surgery after she was involved in a car accident. It will be a while before she can walk properly again and she continues to recover at home. Pray for her full and speedy recovery.

10 | BRUNEI One of the challengers for the Church in Brunei is that many young Christians are leaving the country because of the lack of opportunity, causing concern about how future church leadership roles will be filled. Pray for wisdom for the Church amid such concerns.

11 | INDONESIA Budi*, a young preacher, shares the Gospel with Muslims and more than 70 have come to Christ under his ministry. Pray for God's protection and blessing over him as he shines God's love and light in a new community.

12 | MALAYSIA Our partners would like to replicate a youth camp, which has impacted many lives in another country, for the youth in Malaysia. Pray for God's wisdom for them as they organise and facilitate the youth camp this year.

13 | SRI LANKA "Our people are hearing of believers [being] physically attacked. There is also a lot of monitoring of churches," shares one of our partners. Pray for God's protection for all pastors and believers as they experience an increase in opposition, especially those in Buddhist villages.

14 | MALDIVES An unpublished 2009 study on violence against children states that one in seven children of secondary school age in the country has been sexually abused at some point in their lives. Pray for God to undertake for all children who've been abused and that He'll protect the children of the Maldives from such atrocities.

15 | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES After Laura, a survivor of the January 2019 bombings in Jolo, attended a trauma debriefing run by Open Doors partners,

SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES continues

she said: "Now that I've joined the debriefing, I feel so relieved." Pray that many more will be equipped by these debriefings to work through traumatic events.

16 | VIETNAM Children's spiritual identity is formed between the ages of six and nine, and solidified by the time they reach 13, so this is the best time to introduce them to God and His Word. Pray that Open Doors supported summer Bible camps will help children in their spiritual growth.

17 | LAOS Last year, a group of 10 new believers were summoned by the village chief and elders. A few feared losing their homes and recanted their newfound faith. Those who didn't recant were socially boycotted. Pray for continued protection and provision for them.

18 | INDIA Mahesh*, who recently accepted Jesus as his Saviour, is being rejected by his family because of his new faith. His family members, especially his sons, are abusive towards him. Pray for comfort and encouragement for him. Pray also that his family and community will come to know the love of God.

19 | NEPAL When Christians in remote villages experience persecution, it can be difficult for our local partners to reach them quickly. Pray for the Christians in these villages, that God would strengthen them and provide in their needs.

20 | TAJIKISTAN Continue to pray for the church formerly led by Pastor Bahrom Kholmatov, that's still struggling with legal issues regarding the confiscation of their church building. Pray for strength for this church and that they'll have their building back soon.

21 | UZBEKISTAN A few months ago Zarif, Amina and Madina were beaten by their uncle for becoming Christians. Pray for these children and their deaf parents, who are in danger of being brutally beaten again and put under pressure by their Muslim relatives to return to Islam.

22 | CAMEROON A Believer from a Muslim Background, Bouba (40), faces severe ostracism from his family for his faith. Pray that he can find more friends in Christ to be a support structure for him and that his relationship with his family will be restored.



23 | CHAD Achiam*, a blind 20-year-old woman, the only believer in her village, has faced many difficulties for her faith. She asks for prayers for her studies as she writes her advanced level exam this year. She also asks for prayer for her family to come to know Christ.

24 | IRAN The rift between the government and citizens has been growing. More and more people are resisting the government's message of hate towards the West. Pray for a depth of love to grow in the hearts of all the people instead of hate, and that Christians will take the lead in spreading this love.

25 | MALAYSIA The king of Malaysia, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, celebrated his birthday last month. Please pray for the royal family and the rest of those in authority as they continue to lead the nation. Pray that they'll have wisdom as they lead and a desire to serve their people well.

26 | YEMEN If the war continues in Yemen, it'll become the world's poorest country. Praise the Lord that, despite the war, believers can grow in their faith. Continue to pray for them and for an end to the war and suffering.

27 | SAUDI ARABIA We praise God for Saudis who are asking questions about faith, but there aren't enough believers in the country who are willing and able to connect with these seekers. Pray that God will provide workers for this ministry.

28 | GULF Some Christian healthcare workers in the Gulf region are being denied protective clothing as they care for coronavirus patients. Thankfully through the support of our partners, we're able to provide them with clothing. Pray that God will bless them for the work they're doing, despite the risks to their own health.

29 | TAJIKISTAN A few church leaders have been fined by authorities for working on translating the Bible. The fines are more than these church leaders can afford. Pray for provision for them to pay the fines.

30 | TUNISIA Rania* started a small business to sustain herself financially. Pray that she will be successful and that the Lord will use her business to bring Him glory.

31 | CENTRAL ASIA Anastasia*, a house church leader, started holding retreats for women and their children in the mountains last year. Pray that family bonds and women will be restored through these retreats. Pray for safety so that the secret police will not find out about these activities.



SEPTEMBER 2020

1 | AFRICA Believers from a Muslim Background are vulnerable, as their families and communities reject them when they become Christians. Pray that our economic support to these believers will help them make a living so they can provide for their families.

2 | MYANMAR Praise the Lord for the livelihood programme in Myanmar that helps believers work smarter on their farms. Pray for God's blessing on those who've received this training and that many more believers will be able to benefit from this training.

3 | BANGLADESH In April, Radha Sarkar (18) was sexually harassed by a local Muslim man named Sagar (19). Radha's family and the other Christians fear for the safety of their women and children, as Sagar previously raped a disabled woman in the village. Pray for protection for all these believers.

4 | INDONESIA Pastor Anto* (57) became actively involved in reaching out to an unreached people's group after attending a *Standing Strong Through the Storm* seminar, as it lifted his spirit to reach out more. Pray that God will bless him with continued good health, wisdom and strength to do this work.

5 | CAMEROON Boko Haram has expanded its battleground into countries like Cameroon. Since late 2015, in the far northern region of the country, the only home some Christians have ever known has been turned into a war zone. Pray for protection for them so they can continue to be Christ's witnesses in the region.

6 | BRUNEI Please continue to pray for young believers in Brunei – that God will bring mature Christians into their lives who'll encourage them and help them in their walk to grow into mature Christians who'll shine the light of Christ in their country.

7 | VIETNAM Praise God for 7 000 tribal believers who attended a family training programme earlier this year. Pray that these believers will live out what they've learned and that it will help them become closer as both families and the Body of Christ.



8 | MALDIVES Nearly all believers in the Maldives are expats from Sri Lanka and India. Most of them meet in small bedrooms – squeezing in about 30 people at a time, sometimes more. Pray that the Word of God will spread so that more Maldivians will get to hear the Gospel.

9 | LAOS Many house church leaders are concerned that government's implementation of stricter regulations during COVID-19 may be an opportunity for them to stop believers from coming together at all. Pray that this pandemic will not be used by the government to persecute Christians in Laos.

10 | NORTH KOREA Earlier this year, when COVID-19 struck the world, North Korea proceeded to guard its borders from any potential contagion. Sadly, this time of the year food supplies start to run out. Pray that God will provide for believers in the country during this chaotic season.



11 | CHINA China is trying to alienate young people under 18 from church life and exposure to the Gospel. Open Doors has embarked on an ambitious journey to equip churches with creative ways to reach young people for Jesus. Pray for our partner churches who are helping us develop materials for this work.

12 | TAJIKISTAN Bayram*, a soldier in the state army, sustained a broken jaw after he was beaten up by other soldiers because he's a Christian. He's unable to leave the military for another few months. Pray for sustaining grace and protection over him.

13 | INDIA Sonia*, a young woman, accepted Christ three years ago, resulting in her father not talking to her. Until now, her father still won't accept her. She asks that we pray for her parents so that they would come to know Christ as their Saviour.

14 | NIGERIA Mary Andimi's husband, Reverend Lawan Andimi, was kidnapped by suspected Boko Haram insurgents in January and killed after nearly three weeks of ongoing prayer and negotiations. Pray for the Lord's wisdom and direction as Mary continues to build a new life for herself and her children.

15 | KENYA April marked five years since Garissa University was attacked by Al-Shabaab. Thank God for His grace to the survivors and the healing they've experienced. Sadly, many years later, some of them are still unemployed. Pray for the Lord's provision for jobs for them.

16 | WEST AFRICA Youssouf (29) was an influential imam and fighter in an Islamic rebel group. Thankfully, God brought him to faith through a dream. His staunch Muslim family doesn't know that he's converted. Pray for spiritual growth for him and that he'll be a living testimony to his family.

17 | SOMALIA In Somalia, people watch suspected Christians all the time and if there is any doubt about their dedication to Islam, they're exposed on the web. Pray for the Lord's protection over the small but secret communities of believers in the country.



18 | ERITREA In early 2019, Faven*, a mother of four, lost her husband after he passed away in a remote prison. Pray for the Lord's continued comfort and provision for Faven as she continues to face great difficulty in providing for herself and her children.

19 | ISRAEL AND PALESTINE Thank God for initiatives to help poor and needy people across Israel and Palestine, who can't provide for their families after losing their incomes. Pray that God will use the many online church activities to encourage them.

20 | SYRIA A Christian from the Middle East shared: "It's as if mercy, grace, love and peace have disappeared and people have been seeing the awful traits of man. The war is ugly!" Pray with this Christian that mercy, grace, love and peace will return to Syrians.

21 | LEBANON The situation in Lebanon is still tense and the Lebanese people have lost hope for their financially ruined country. Pray with the Lebanese for a leader to come forward who loves God and wants to see justice and righteousness in the country.

22 | IRAQ Those still living in tents and caravans have very little means to protect themselves and their families from getting infected with the coronavirus. Pray that God will protect them during this time and will provide for them and their families.

23 | ARABIAN PENINSULA No one knows where Husani* is being imprisoned or for how long. Pray that God will deepen his relationship with the Father and that he can somehow serve non-believers in the place where he is. Pray also for his release.

24 | EGYPT Many Christians who are attacked watch their perpetrators walk free. The result is that believers like Nuri sees no justice for the murder of her husband. Pray for justice for the many believers who've been attacked or have lost loved ones.

25 | MOROCCO Farida's* husband left her because of her faith. Pray that she'll not lose her young son too. Pray also that God will grant her wisdom as she lives for Him and provide in her every need.

26 | MAURITANIA Several believers in Mauritania are facing judicial charges on the accusation of blasphemy. Pray for a fair trial for them and that the truth will prevail. Also pray for wisdom for them when they must testify in their court cases.

27 | NORTH KOREA A spiritual breakthrough took place in 1907 in North Korea but that all changed when Kim Il-Sung established a new regime in 1945, which saw the Christian community being oppressed. Pray for a spiritual revival to take place in the country once more.

28 | MYANMAR An intensive battle between government troops and the Arakan Army in Rakine State has been going on since the new year. People in the conflict zone, including Christians, are living in fear. Pray for God's protection over Christians in this area.

29 | LIBYA Maisa* is struggling in her marriage because of her Christian faith, as her husband is not a believer. Pray that God will undertake for her and that her husband will come to know Christ as His personal Saviour through her witness.

30 | PERSIAN SPEAKING WORLD Some believers can't come together for fellowship or to grow in their relationship with one another and Christ. They need God's strength. Pray that God will be with them and that they'll feel His presence.



*Names changed and representative images used for security purposes.

Persecuted  But never alone.



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide



Open Doors South Africa

www.opendoors.org.za
P.O. Box 1771, Cresta, 2118
T +27 11 888 9341
E southafrica@od.org