



“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.”

Psalm 34:7-9 (NIV)



OpenDoors

PRAYER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2020

1 | CHINA Pray for Christians who will celebrate Christmas this year in small home groups instead of larger meetings. Pray that the restrictions and government control will fade in comparison to the joy of celebrating the birth of King Jesus.

2 | CENTRAL ASIA The Church in Central Asia gives out a lot of Christmas gifts, especially for children, the elderly, and disabled people. Pray that these gifts will help the Church show God's love to these people.

3 | INDIA Christians in India face many challenges as persecution intensifies with many incidents occurring during the Christmas season. Pray for protection for our brother and sisters, and that they'll be able to celebrate Christmas without fear.

4 | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES Churches and missionaries use Christmas to share the Gospel with Muslims. But sometimes they face challenges, get discouraged or feel alone. Pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen them to faithfully reach out to others for His kingdom.

5 | INDONESIA In places such as Aceh, West Sumatra and West Java, the Church faces possible bombings over the Christmas season. Pray for peaceful Christmas celebrations and for God to be with Christians who've been disowned by their families.

6 | BANGLADESH Pray that all Christians

BANGLADESH continues

in Bangladesh will be able to celebrate Christmas safely this year, without any incidents. Pray that this Christmas celebration will bring messages of hope to non-believers so that they'll come to know Christ.

7 | BRUNEI There is a law against celebrating Christmas in public. However, Christians can still celebrate within church compounds and their homes. Pray for wisdom, boldness and opportunities for Christians to share the Gospel with others during this season despite these restrictions.

8 | CAMEROON Many people's lives have been disrupted by Boko Haram violence with many Christian communities being the target of this violence. Pray for peace as they celebrate Christmas and may they be reminded anew of the hope we have in Christ.

9 | HORN OF AFRICA Many Believers from a Muslim Background will be celebrating Christmas in secret, many for the first time ever. Pray that the Lord will renew their faith, grow their love and strengthen their hope as they reflect on their salvation.

10 | ISRAEL Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ may be called the highlight of the year in Bethlehem where it took place. Many events are usually organised to share the Good News. Pray for wisdom as they celebrate this season amid the pandemic.

11 | MALAYSIA During the Christmas season, secret believers who live with their Muslim families will not be able to commemorate this day. Pray that during this time, they'll be able to experience the joy of giving with other believers.

12 | MALDIVES As the country boasts being 99.9% Muslims, there are no Christmas celebrations with the general population not even knowing what Christmas is about. Pray for the Gospel to enter the hearts of the people of the Maldives.

13 | NIGERIA This is another Christmas that the Chibok girls, Leah Sharibu and hundreds of other women abducted by Boko Haram will spend in captivity. Pray fervently for the Lord's Spirit to renew these women's faith.



14 | TUNISIA Pray that this Christmas, Tunisian Christians will continue to pray in the Spirit so that their hearts and minds will remain clear. Pray also that they'll not feel intimidated and frightened as they do right now.

15 | IRAN Christmas time can be dangerous for Iranian believers. In the past, there have been raids on house churches during this time. Pray that God will protect our brothers and sisters as they commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.

16 | SRI LANKA Celebrating Christmas has been a struggle for believers in Sri Lanka due to Buddhist extremism. Pray for wisdom for them in how to celebrate this season and for peace to reign during this time.

17 | ERITREA Many Christians belonging to "unrecognised religious" groups, who were arrested this year, will spend Christmas in jail. Pray that the Holy Spirit will minister to them and will renew their strength.

18 | IRAQ Over the last few years, many Christians who were displaced by Islamic State in 2014 have returned to their towns. Pray that Christmas celebrations in their home churches will be a great encouragement.

19 | SYRIA Pray for Christmas time to be blessed and filled with warmth and manifestations of the true meaning of God's love. Pray also that the Church will continue to be a light in the darkness, especially during the Christmas season.

20 | COLOMBIA In Colombia, Christian families rather focus on the tradition of family instead of the birth of Christ as it considered wrong to be a Christian and

COLOMBIA continues

those who are Christian face persecution. Pray that God will strengthen family ties during this time.

21 | SUDAN Last year, the then transitional government in Sudan recognised Christmas as an official holiday for the first time since 2011. Pray that Christians will safely be able to celebrate this season without backlash from extremists.

22 | INDONESIA Believers from a Muslim Background find it difficult to celebrate Christmas by themselves – especially those rejected by their families and neighbours. Pray that God will guide them as to how they can celebrate this time.



23 | WORLDWIDE Many will face this Christmas without their loved ones due to the pandemic or because their loved ones have sadly passed away. Pray for the Lord's comfort to be with those separated from their families and those mourning the loss of their loved ones this Christmas.

24 | NORTH KOREA On Christmas Eve, people celebrate the late Kim Jung Sook's birthday (the grandmother of Kim Jong-Un). Pray that believers will have a joyful Christmas as they celebrate in secret and that they'll experience God's answer to their prayers.

25 | CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE Many Christians around the world commemorate this day as the birth of Jesus Christ. Many non-Christians partake in this day by spending time with loved ones. Pray that today, the love of Jesus will shine through His children across the world, and others will be drawn into this love.



26 | ARABIAN PENINSULA In the Arabian Peninsula, fear is a barrier to the growth of the Church. People fear what will happen to them if they start following Christ and fear that other Christians may betray their trust. Pray that this bondage of fear will be broken.

27 | MALAYSIA Open Doors local partners have been running online training for the past few months, which has equipped local leaders to run their own training in their communities. Pray that this training will be a blessing to all who attend them.

28 | BRUNEI Elora*, a young believer in her 20s, says: "My heart beats faster when it comes to Brunei. There is a burden I can't explain. Pray for the salvation [of] the people of Brunei. Pray for the Sultan, the government and authorities."

29 | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES Open Doors conducts training for women who sew mats and other household products for an income. The training helps them learn more techniques and creative ways of weaving. Pray that the women will be able to easily pick up these new techniques during the training.

30 | SRI LANKA Many believers in urban areas are unaware of the persecution faced by their brothers and sisters in more rural parts of the country. Pray that an Open Doors initiative to raise awareness among them will move them to pray and support their persecuted Church family.

31 | BURUNDI This year, Burundi swore in president-elect Evarista Ndayishimiye (52) after President Pierre Nkurunziza died unexpectedly. Pray that the new leaders will be reminded that they receive their authority from God, who will require an account from them.



JANUARY 2021

1 | COLOMBIA Indigenous communities are restricting access to their communities and, in some cases, blocking roads that lead to their native lands because of the pandemic. These actions prevent missionaries from reaching out to Christians and providing help. Pray for wisdom for them to be able to encourage these Christians.

2 | MEXICO Pastor Genaro and his family live in a community in the Guerrero mountain range. The region is one of the most dangerous places in the country because of drug trafficking. Pray for protection for Genaro and his family as they serve Christ in the region.

3 | MYANMAR The support and assistance provided to Christian students through an Open Doors project will allow them to be educated outside of the

MYANMAR continues

Buddhist monastic schools. Pray for wisdom for the students as they complete their studies.

4 | INDIA Reeta, whose husband Ashok Singh was killed by Naxalites because of his Christian faith, decided to stay in their village with her four small children to continue her husband's ministry and lead the church there. Pray for God's protection over Reeta and her children.

5 | NEPAL Many people are struggling with their mental health, and some have even committed suicide during the pandemic. Pray that people's hearts will be comforted by the everlasting peace of God and for strength to overcome their fears.

6 | CENTRAL ASIA Thanks to your support and prayers, Open Doors is supporting many projects in Central Asia to provide digital Christian resources to believers and seekers. Pray for protection over this ministry and the people that oversee it.



7 | NORTH KOREA Pray that the idolising of the Kim family will stop in North Korea and that only the name of Jesus Christ will be lifted high in the land. Pray also that God will protect those who believe in Him in the country.

8 | CHINA Praise God that Believers from a Buddhist Background that speak an ethnic dialect finally have the Word of God in their mother tongue! Pray that their lives will be transformed through the Word and that it will lead many to faith in Christ.

9 | VIETNAM While Chien* and his family were away in another village conducting a Bible study, people from his village set his property on fire. Pray that God will provide a new shelter, clothes, and food for Chien and his family.

10 | LAOS When Vilay* and her daughters became Christians, her husband threatened to leave her many times. Eventually, he held a ceremony in which he openly divorced her. Pray that Vilay and her daughters will continue to abide in the Lord and that He will mend their broken hearts.

11 | IRAN It's illegal for Christians to evangelise Muslims. Yet, many believers want to share the Gospel with their families and friends. Pray that the Lord will guide them to the people who are ready to hear the Gospel.

12 | BANGLADESH Many of the projects and activities that Open Doors planned have been limited due to the pandemic. Pray for our workers and partners as they try to find the best way to work and plan amid this crisis.

13 | WORLD WATCH LIST RELEASE Today, Open Doors releases its 2021 World Watch List, showing the 50 countries where Christians are most persecuted. Pray that the release of the list worldwide will open many more people's eyes to what Christians face and for wisdom for us to assist Christians in the countries on the list.

14 | INDONESIA Open Doors partners started a live talk show on Facebook called "Safari Rohani" (Spiritual Safari). They discuss topics related to current affairs and how the principles of the Bible are being applied to these situations. Pray that the audience will benefit from the information they gain.

15 | BRUNEI Last year over a few months, Brunei-Muara District recorded its highest number of conversions to Islam. Numbers are only increasing. Pray for God to work through His people in this nation to reach out with wisdom to others.

16 | SRI LANKA Most schools in rural areas don't have teachers to teach about Christianity, so Christian students are forced to study Buddhism or Hinduism. Pray that more young people will take up Christian education and become Christian teachers so that Christian children can study about their own faith.

17 | PALESTINE Many of our brothers and sisters in Palestine have lost their income due to the pandemic and have daily struggles to get food. Sometimes they desperately need medicine or health care. Pray that God will undertake for them and for strength during this time.

18 | LIBYA African believers who are working and living in Libya, sometimes for decades already, are mistreated in every walk of life. Pray for strength for them as they work to provide for their families and for endurance to live for Christ amid difficulties.

19 | KUWAIT The Christian presence in Kuwait is mainly from expatriate workers. For these non-Kuwaitis it's possible to gather in churches. Pray that it will not only be foreigners worshipping Jesus but that God will enable the Church to spread its roots widely in Kuwait.

20 | CAMEROON Pray for the Lord's grace to communities in Cameroon facing incessant violence from Boko Haram with many losses and disruption. Pray that the added complications of the pandemic will not place further strain on the government's ability to protect its people.

21 | MOZAMBIQUE Christians in the north of Mozambique have been facing increasing violence by extremists. Pray for the Lord's grace to Christians in affected communities and that they'll experience peace amid the storms.

22 | TUNISIA Many believers have been expelled from their houses because of their Christian faith. Pray for God to provide for them as they're rejected by their loved ones and to strengthen them in their faith.

23 | SYRIA There are still many conflicts between Christian denominations over minor things. Pray that leaders of all denominations will see the importance of uniting and standing together to support each other throughout the country.

24 | IRAN Many Christians have fled the country because of persecution. They're now living in a country where they're met with increasing opposition. They feel



IRAN continues

hopeless. Pray that the government of their new country is moved to recognise their plight.

25 | YEMEN Many of our brothers and sisters need a renewal of strength after five years of war. Pray for supernatural grace and strength for them to continue to be a living testimony of Jesus among their families and friends.

26 | ETHIOPIA Hakim* and Faiza* surrendered their lives to Christ after taking their son Salim to church for prayer as he was seriously ill almost from birth and doctors couldn't find a cure. Pray for their spiritual growth and that through discipleship, they'll become firmly rooted in the faith.

27 | LEBANON Pray that people will have a Zacchaeus experience, that Jesus visits their homes and that they'll commit their lives to Christ and start sharing the Gospel with their neighbours.

28 | IRAQ Over the past years, during wars, violence and utter misery in Iraq, there are Iraqis who have turned to the Lord. Praise God for this! Pray that the Body of Christ will continue to grow in the country so that years to come there will be a strong Christian presence in the country once more.

29 | SAUDI ARABIA God is answering decades of prayers for Saudi Arabia

SAUDI ARABIA continues

as there is encouraging growth in the underground Church. Praise God for working in the hearts of those who are searching for the truth. Pray for wisdom for leaders to shepherd these new believers.

30 | INDIA Open Doors local partners are hoping to start more long-term sustainable livelihood programmes for believers suffering financially. Pray for wisdom and creativity as our partners try to work out what programmes will be most effective.

31 | PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE Pray that as persecution against Christians continues to increase that the Lord will strengthen their resolve to be a shining light for Him despite the persecution. Pray also that He will equip them for all they'll face this year.



*Names changed and representative images used for security purposes.
All information correct at time of publishing.

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