# Open Doors PRAYER CALENDAR

April / May 2021



"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me."

Psalm 138:7 (NIV)

## April 2021

## 1 Mozambique

At least 250 000 people were internally displaced (some multiple times) last year by Al-Shabaab attacks. Pray for provision in all their needs and endurance to continue to worship Christ amid their circumstances.

#### 2 Horn of Africa

Fatima\* (in her 20s) was banished by her Muslim family when they found out that she had become a Christian. Open Doors was able to assist her with her midwifery studies. Pray that as a midwife, she will be a blessing to the women she helps during childbirth

## 3 Lebanon

Pray that God will cleanse this country of wrong and that leaders of the Church will be good shepherds with a clear vision of what their flocks need at this time when nobody knows where to turn or where to go.

#### 4 Iran

Many people in Iran suffer from a deep sense of loneliness and unworthiness. Pray that God will give Iranian Christians wisdom in reaching out to such people and that the people will find their worth in Jesus Christ.

## 5 Myanmar

A group of Believers from a Muslim Background were laid off from their jobs three years ago. They continue to struggle to survive as they live as refugees, desperate for employment and housing.

#### (Myanmar continues)

Pray for God's providence, protection and sustenance for them.

#### **6** Central Asia

Last year Pastor Tammar\* passed away after contracting Covid-19, leaving his wife Nadine\* and their children behind. Pray for Nadine and her children, as they come to terms with their loss as well as for God's provision in their lives.

#### 7 The Gulf

Last year Leena\*, a young believer, was abused and poisoned by a cult leader. Pray for healing for Leena who was hospitalised after the incident. Pray also for Open Doors local partners as they raise awareness of cults that prey on young Christian girls.

## 8 Bangladesh

Last year, Bangladesh was impacted by Covid-19, Cyclone Amphan and horrendous floods. Pray for God's grace for His Church in the country so that they can be His hands and feet in serving others as people continue to recover from their losses.

## 9 Nigeria

Last year Rose's (34) husband was killed by Fulani militants who continue to attack communities across most of the country. She's struggling to make ends meet. Pray for God's spiritual and physical provision for Rose and many others like her.

## 10 Algeria

The past year has been difficult for Algerian believers, and many had economic struggles since the pandemic started. Pray for work opportunities for believers so that they can take care of their families.

## 11 North Korea

Open Doors runs Bible studies for trafficked North Korean women in China. Pray that the Lord will fulfil the needs of the women who attend the studies and that He will touch the hearts of their families.

## 12 Indonesia

Tolerance is something that people have been dreaming about for a long time, especially in religion. Sadly, facing intolerance is the norm if you don't practice



#### (Indonesia continues)

Islam. Pray that the Body of Christ will stand strong amid intolerance.

## 13 Qatar

We make efforts to get in touch with believers who have been worshipping Christ in isolation, not knowing there are other believers in the country. Pray that isolated believers are found, encouraged and discipled face to face.

## **14 Southern Philippines**

Your prayers and support have helped Open Doors to provide for hundreds of believers, who have lost their sources of income because of Covid-19. Pray for protection over volunteers and partners who distribute aid to communities.

## 15 Malaysia

The unemployment rate spiked to five per cent in April last year, higher than the annual average of the past 30 years. Pray for the people of Malaysia, especially believers, that they'll continue to trust in God and experience His provision.

## **16 East Africa**

A few years ago, Open Doors assisted Ayub\* and his siblings when their Christian mother passed away from suspected poisoning. Pray for protection for Ayub and his friends as they use some of their business profits to spread the Gospel and train believers.

#### 17 Vietnam

The two daughters of Gia-co\*, a believer who passed away last year, have been put in their uncle and aunt's care. Pray for continued comfort for them. Pray that God will hear and answer them in their times of trouble

#### 18 Laos

People in Pastor Inpong's village destroyed his house because he didn't want to stop the Christian activities he oversaw in his home. Pray that fear will not take over the hearts of Pastor Inpong and the other believers after what was done to his house.

#### 19 Yemen

Traditionally, Christian mentors and trainers sat with young leaders to study together and walked alongside them as they practised what they learned. That isn't possible right now. Pray for wisdom and discernment for those training leaders remotely.



#### 20 Arabian Peninsula

As the Church grows, many Believers from a Muslim Background desire to get married. Pray for God to connect believers to one another for the purpose of marriage and to raise up families who glorify His name.

## 21 Nigeria

A village chief was brutally shot and killed by Fulani militants because he campaigned

www.opendoors.org.za 3

## (Nigeria continues)

for the rights of Christians. Pray for comfort for his wife and son who witnessed his death. Pray also for Christian leaders that stand up for the rights of Christians.

#### 22 Mali

Amadou\* moved to the city to study. He lived with his Muslim brother, but his brother eventually threw him out of his house because of his faith, and he had to stop his studies. Pray that Amadou can pick up his studies again and complete his education.

## 23 India

Pastor Ramesh, his wife and mother were brutally beaten by extremists, while Rakesh and his family were attacked and beaten up by people from their village. All because of their faith. Pray for healing, protection and comfort for these families.

#### 24 Brunei

The divorce rate in Brunei has increased a lot with most divorce cases happening in the capital of the country. Pray that God will bless married couples and help them to overcome the challenges they face, including Christians.

#### 25 Sri Lanka

Covid-19 has caused many in Sri Lanka to lose their jobs with many believers and non-believers not being able to support their families. Pray for God's provision and guidance for believers who are out of work.

## 26 Syria

The civil war in Syria is in its tenth year. Most children only know a life of war. Imagine the mental damage they have been subjected to. Pray that God will bring all warring parties back to the negotiation table, so peace will take place in the country.



## 27 Nepal

While the literacy rate among the young is high, this hasn't always been the case. Pray for women, young and old, who have learned to read and write in Open Doors literacy classes – that they'll continue to grow in their learning and in confidence.

## 28 Iraq

The country and its people have multiple scars that never get a proper chance to heal. Pray that the Church will unite and help each other where needed. Pray that they will live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mostly when everything has fallen apart.

## 29 Egypt

Christian children from a Muslim background must live with a Muslim and Christian name due to them not legally being allowed to change their religion and subsequently their names. Pray for strength for Christian families and that one day, the law will change to allow converts to change their names and religion.

## **30** Democratic Republic of Congo

The UN estimates that the Allied Democratic Forces has killed more than 1 000 civilians since the start of 2019 despite various military campaigns to destroy it. Pray for grace, protection and provision for the displaced and bereaved.

April / May 2021 4



## 1 Southeast Asia

Many believers faced tragedy last year because of the pandemic and multiple natural disasters. Pray that the weight of those tragedies will not bring them down but spur them further in their faith this year.

## 2 China

Pastor Adam\* lost his wife in December 2019 while facing challenges due to persecution and the pandemic. Pray that as he continues his ministry without her, God will raise up more church leaders through his ministry for the many small house churches.

## 3 Maldives

The pandemic has caused significant damage to the country's economy. Pray that believers will stand strong and trust in God in this new year in whatever challenges they may face.

## 4 Kenya

Lokho and her family came to Christ in 2019, since then they've lived isolated and marginalised lives in their local village where they're the only Christians. Pray for strength for Lokho and her family who feel very alone in their village.

## 5 Tunisia

A female believer is suffering in a bad marriage. Pray that the Lord will give her wisdom to cope with her current situation and that He will grant her a lasting solution to her current problems.

#### 6 Iran

There are many victims of abuse, both believers and non-believers, who have

www.opendoors.org.za 5

#### (Iran continues)

nowhere to turn for help and support. Pray with us that these people will find a way to connect with online resources and counsellors that can help them.

#### 7 Gaza

Christians in Gaza are a tiny minority, who more than ever suffer from lack of freedom to travel, lack of electricity and drinking water. Pray for those of them who lost their jobs and are no longer able to pay rent or tuition for their children's education.

## 8 Colombia

Pastor Perea leads ten congregations along the Atrato River, Chocó where paramilitary groups are present. Pray that the Lord will preserve the lives of pastors like Pastor Perea and people who work in this area.

## 9 China

Chinese believers face a formidable challenge to stand firm and witness for the Lord during increased persecution. Pray for wisdom for the Church to navigate and overcome trials in an increasingly hostile environment.

## 10 India

The media in India is now mostly controlled by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. They misuse it to launch hate campaigns on social media. Pray for God to change the hearts of leaders so that they will use their power for the good of all people.

#### 11 Cameroon

Sadia\*, a Believer from a Muslim Background, keeps trying to rebuild her relationship with her family despite them threatening her because of her faith. She asks that we pray for her family's salvation. Pray also for her healing from cancer.

## 12 Bangladesh

Last year, Rukhia Raut (23) was sexually assaulted by Muslim men who then killed her. Pray for comfort for her family as they continue to work through their grief. Pray also for justice for her family and families who've endured such tragedy.

## 13 Turkey

Muslim police consider becoming a Christian an insubstantial reason to be



#### (Turkey continues)

given refuge. This puts Christian refugee seekers at risk of being deported to their home countries. Pray that international diplomacy will acknowledge this as a serious problem.

#### 14 Somalia

Despite the threat of being imprisoned or losing her life, Faith\* (18) has chosen to follow Christ. Thank the Lord for Faith's bold choice to follow Christ. Pray for her safety and that her conviction will be a testimony to her family.

#### 15 Arabian Peninsula

A female Christian is experiencing severe forms of abuse, first through her family and now her in-laws for her faith. Pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen her so that she can endure in her faith.

## 16 Malaysia

Pastor Raymond Koh, Pastor Joshua Hilmy, his wife Ruth Sitepu and Amri Che Mat (a social activist) have been missing for the last few years. Pray for those working hard to help find answers to what happened to them and the many other people who've mysteriously disappeared.

#### 17 Sri Lanka

The Easter attacks of 2019 drastically affected the country's economy. It had not yet fully recovered when Covid-19 struck. Pray for stability for the country's economy and relief for the people affected, including Christians.

## 18 Nepal

Pray for Christian children attending public schools in strong Islamic regions where they often experience discrimination. Pray for encouragement, comfort, and a sense of hope for the students. Pray also that they'll remain strong in their faith.

## 19 Ethiopia

In 2019, Dari\* (9) was sexually assaulted by a boy in her village for being a Christian. Pray for justice for Dari and that the Lord will completely heal her physically, spiritually and emotionally from the trauma she experienced.

## 20 Kenya

Jemima\* came to faith after she left her Muslim family's home. Her family threatened to marry her off to a Muslim man that would lock her away. Pray that despite the threats, she will stand firm in her conviction and will be strengthened in her faith.

#### 21 Lebanon

A Christian from Lebanon says: "We should thank the Lord that we're still alive. The year 2020 didn't give us much opportunity to breathe." Pray that the Lord will undertake for the Church in Lebanon this year and give it wisdom in all it does.

## 22 Myanmar

Christian Rohingyas are persecuted by the government as a minority group and by Muslim Rohingyas for leaving Islam. They want to return to their homes because they face challenges inside refugee camps. Pray that God will help them find a home where they can live in peace.



www.opendoors.org.za

## 23 Syria

In the current circumstances, it's a big challenge for believers to keep hope. Pray that the Lord will help them see where He has gone ahead of them to pave the way for them and that they'll feel Him holding their hands.

## 24 Libya

Emna\* is under threat from her husband because of her faith in Jesus. Pray for protection over her life and that her husband will become curious about what Emna found in Jesus and come to know Him too.

#### 25 Morocco

Habiba\* was divorced by her husband because she came to Christ. She needs to find a new place to live. Pray that she will find a new place to live and retain custody of her children.

## **26 Southern Philippines**

Through Bible studies, we hope that believers will be strengthened in their faith. Pray that these studies will bear fruit among believers who attend it and that their faith and relationship with God will grow through this.

#### 27 Indonesia

Pray for churches throughout Indonesia to keep seeking the Lord and putting their faith in Him. May they feel His hand on (Indonesia continues)

them, despite all they may face for their faith.

#### 28 Laos

Near the end of last year, a Christian family's house was destroyed because of their faith. Pray for protection and provision for them and believers like them who face having their homes destroyed because of their faith.

## 29 Iraq

Iraq is a rich country with people living in poverty. Pray for wisdom for the rulers of the country in leading the country so that it can become stable and will strive. Pray also that Christians in the country can be used by God to be a ray of hope amid darkness.

#### 30 Tanzania

When Aisha's\* (18) Muslim family learned of her conversion, they rejected her and stopped paying her school fees. It has disheartened Aisha and made her lose hope. Pray that Aisha will continue to seek the Lord and that her family will come to know Him too.

#### 31 Burundi

When Onan\* became a Christian, his father, a well-known businessman in their town, kicked Onan and his wife Eliza\* out of his house. He also fired him from his job. Pray for the Lord's provision for Onan and Eliza in all their needs.

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

All information correct at time of publishing.

## Persecuted But never alone.



