



*"The Church is so vulnerable... They can be targeted... Again and again extremists are alleging that we're trying to convert the country into a Christian nation." –Pastor Samuel\**

## India Prayer Special

**Week 1: 1-7 August**

**Believers facing harassment, rejection and violence**

Persecution in India is rising amid the pandemic. Church buildings are attacked, demolished and vandalised; and pastors and believers are beaten, threatened, excluded by their communities and even killed. Believers from a Hindu Background are especially targeted.

- PRAY**
- Pray that the believers will continue to stand strong in their faith, despite these challenges.
  - Pray for provision for Christians who are socially boycotted in their villages.
  - Pray for those Christians mourning the loss of loved ones due to persecution, or who are healing from violent attacks on them and their families.

## Week 2: 8-14 August

### Believers facing false accusations

Several states in India have adopted anti-conversion laws, and there are rumours about introducing such laws nationwide. In reality, such laws strongly restrict religious freedom and are often used as a means to discriminate against religious minorities, including Christians and Muslims. In recent years, a significant number of cases have been made against religious minorities under these laws. It can take years for false cases to be closed, and those who are accused are under constant pressure and may have to report regularly to the police.

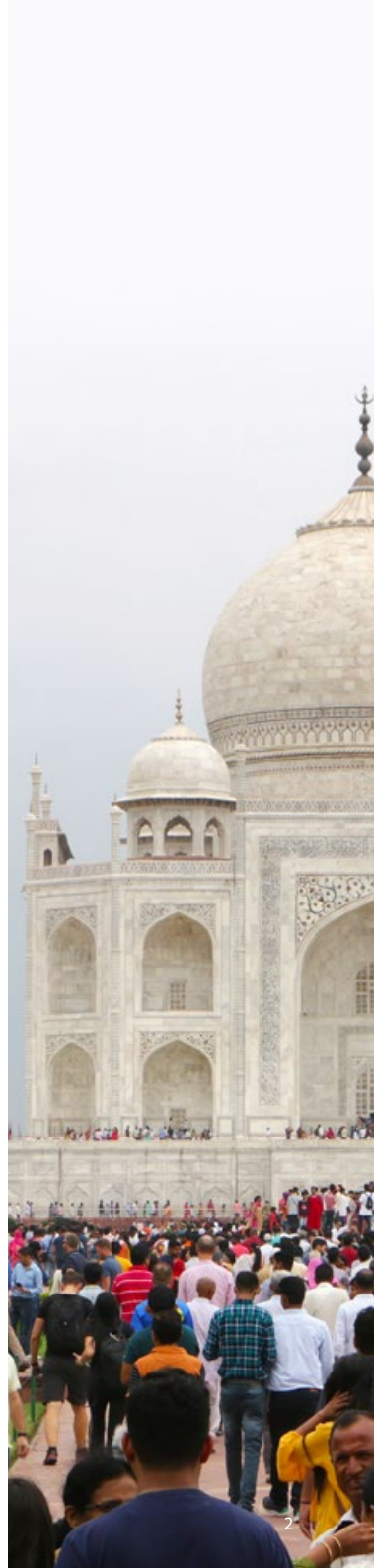
- PRAY**
- Pray for comfort and encouragement for those who are fighting ongoing legal cases.
  - Pray that those who've been falsely imprisoned will soon be free, and that they'll know God's love and presence are with them.
  - Pray for protection against false accusations, especially for church leaders and evangelists.

## Week 3: 15-21 August

### Persecutors of believers

Believers in India are under constant pressure from their families and communities to return to Hinduism. Hindu religious leaders are one of the main sources of anti-Christian sentiments spreading among the Hindu masses. Extremist groups are the hands and feet that exert Hindu pressure on Christians, with local villagers usually carrying out the hostilities against Christians. They also face opposition from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been giving direct political support to the Hindutva militant wings all over the country.

- PRAY**
- Pray and ask God to change the hearts of those who persecute believers so that they'll turn away from the violence they



*"I really hated Christians because I heard they offered money to lure people to leave their original culture and tradition. Whenever I came across any Christians in my area, I used to beat them and abuse them using filthy language."* –Pastor Madan\*, a man

who God transformed from a persecutor to a servant of Christ

(Week 3 continues)

perpetrate against believers.

- Pray that as believers grow more into the likeness of Jesus, they'll pray for their persecutors.
- Pray that the resilience and testimony of believers will cause their persecutors to question their own beliefs.

## Week 4: 22-28 August

## Indian government

Since the current BJP government came into power in May 2014 and was re-elected in May 2019, pressure on Christians in India has risen drastically. Since coming into power, a power nexus of RSS extremists (a Hindu nationalist organisation known for its radical Hindu ideology), media and government-controlled officials has come into existence, and they work together against Christianity. This nexus carries most responsibility for the increase in hostilities towards Christians. Under their ruling, Hindu radicals can continue their attacks unabated, and the level of impunity is very high.

### PRAY

- Pray that God will soften the hearts of the Indian government towards Christians so that they can live out their faith without fear and retribution.
- Pray that God will open the eyes of the government to the truth of who He is so that they will turn away from their attacks on Christians and other minorities.
- Pray that the international community would take the situation of Christians and other minorities seriously and work with the Indian government to bring about positive changes for religious minorities in the country.





*"We risk contracting the infection – and being targeted by the anti-Christians."*

–An Open Doors partner in India

**Week 5: 29-31 August**

**Open Doors partners in India**

Open Doors local partners in India have continued to serve persecuted Christians during the Covid-19 crisis, bringing vital food aid to those who were denied government support because of their faith, as well as doing their usual work helping believers facing discrimination and attacks. Their work can be risky and taxing, but they faithfully continue to stand alongside persecuted believers in the country.

**PRAY**

- Pray that our local partners would be a blessing to the persecuted Christians that they meet, and that God will continue to give them wisdom about how to serve those believers the best.
- Pray for God's protection over our local partners as they go into very difficult places to encourage and support Christians.
- Pray that God will provide for them and their families and undertake for them spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally.

### 1 North Korea

North Koreans are educated and brainwashed with the concepts of Juche ideology (developed by Kim Il Sung). Through this ideology, they're taught to honour the Kim family. Pray that North Koreans will realise who their true Father God is, who has created them from the very beginning.

### 2 Vietnam

Due to Vietnam increasingly becoming part of the globalised economy, the economic fallout due to Covid-19 will be difficult, with Christians being among those affected by the general economic downturn. Pray for opportunities for them to better their economic well-being.

### 3 Laos

Open Doors in partnership with local experts have been able to join seminars and dialogues about religious freedom with the local or provincial government. Praise God for this! Pray that the Lord will open the hearts of the conservative communist officials even more.

### 4 Kazakhstan

Some members of the Shanyrak church in Astana are accused of insulting Muslims' feelings. This is a very serious charge, which can result in the church being closed and several people being imprisoned. Pray for wisdom for the lawyer who is helping the church with this case.

### 5 Brunei

Pray that believers in the armed forces will be God's salt and light in that community. Pray also that more of them will be active

(Brunei continues)

in contributing to nation-building, so that they can influence the Sultan of Brunei and other governmental leaders – just as God used Joseph to influence the Pharaoh of Egypt.

### 6 Indonesia

Pray that despite persecution, believers will continue to set their eyes on what is unseen and eternal and live out their faith as a token of gratitude for God's salvation. Pray that they'll spread His Word, far and wide, among their Muslim neighbours and friends.

### 7 Nepal

Pray for the Christians who are harassed and targeted through anti-conversion laws. Earlier this year, a few Korean missionaries were deported after being found guilty of proselytising. Pray for courage and wisdom for believers to continue sharing their faith safely.

### 8 Maldives

Pray for Christian expats from Sri Lanka and India who live in the Maldives, but aren't Muslims. Pray that they will point Muslims to Jesus Christ, who can bring true peace to their lives.

### 9 Sri Lanka

A group of people who oppose Pastor Jeba\* and his church opened a wood-sawing and cement-block business next to the church, which connects to his house. The loud machine noise is taking a toll on his family. Pray that God will give Pastor Jeba and his family strength, peace and wisdom to know how to solve this issue.

### 10 Southern Philippines

During the pandemic youth discipleship training for believers is continuing through

(Southern Philippines continues)

online meetings. Many of the young people live in remote areas without Internet. Pray for God to provide what is needed so that the training can be done among these young people too.

### 11 Myanmar

The country has been in turmoil since the military coup earlier this year. Lwin\*, an Open Doors local partner, says: "Many Christians are interceding for their country." Join them in praying for peace in the country. Pray that believers will be rooted in the Word of God during this time.



### 12 Malaysia

Pray for Open Doors partners who labour tirelessly to serve the Malaysian Church. Pray that God will give them wisdom, strength and peace. Pray that they'll continue to have a heart to serve and walk in the way of the Lord.

### 13 Bhutan

Those who are against Christians often falsely accuse Open Doors partners of breaking the Covid-19 rules. Pray for wisdom for our partners to know how best to support persecuted believers during this challenging time and pray for their protection.

### 14 China

There are many "dark" areas within China's strategy to silence the Church, especially in youth work. But praise God that wherever things grow dark, the light of Jesus shines brighter and expels the darkness. Pray that China's youth will increasingly be attracted to the true light – Jesus.

### 15 Guinea

Last year Rachel (19), who lives with her extended family, was caught studying her Bible at home. Rachel knew her life was in danger, so she ran away. Pray that the Lord will protect Rachel and all those keeping her safe.

### 16 Central Asia

Continue to pray for Chalpona\*, whose Muslim sons want her to renounce her faith. Her sons smashed some things in her house after she told them that if they worry about what people will say about her, they should say they don't know her. Pray for strength for Chalpona as she faces this opposition.

### 17 Cameroon

Due to the incessant attacks by Boko Haram, many people have chosen to move into the mountains, where they have to contend with scorpions and snakes. Pray for God's provision and protection for those believers.

### 18 Ethiopia

When Haman (76) converted to Christianity earlier this year, men from his village were angered because he abandoned their traditional religion. They destroyed his crops, took his livestock and threatened to kill Haman and his family. Pray that the Lord will protect Haman, his family and the church where they have sought refuge.

## 19 Kenya

Last year, Leah's\* teenage daughter, Hubba\*, was raped. The elders of their Muslim community tried to get Hubba to marry the perpetrator, but her mother refused. Pray for the Lord's continued healing over Hubba and that He will give Leah wisdom as she helps her daughter grow.

## 20 Somalia

Last year, Ub's\* husband divorced her after learning about her conversion to Christianity. She struggled to provide for her nine children. Despite this, she is considered fortunate because she's still alive. Pray for safety, protection and provision for Ub and her children.

## 21 Comoros

In this majority Muslim country, Sylvie\*, a Christian mother of two daughters, is facing increasing pressure to attend Islamic teaching for her and her daughters. Pray that the Lord will give her wisdom on how to deal best with the pressure she experiences.

## 22 Democratic Republic of Congo

The Allied Democratic Forces avoid crowded towns, but have almost total control over vast areas in the countryside, where most of the people are Christians. Pray for wisdom for pastors as they minister to their flocks in these uncertain and dangerous circumstances.

## 23 Eritrea

In February the authorities released 21 Christian women from Dahlak island prison after holding them in captivity for three years and three months. Thank the Lord for their release. Pray for the Lord's provision for them as they come to terms with the hardships they've faced in prison.



## 24 Bangladesh

Most workers, including believers, have little to no education and aren't aware of their rights as workers. Many believers face discrimination by their employers. Pray that God will work in their employers' hearts to not discriminate against workers based on their faith.

## 25 Algeria

During 2020 the churches that were not closed due to pressure from the government, had to close due to Covid-19 measures, leaving the believers without a place to gather. Pray for strength for isolated believers who have no other believers around them to encourage them.

## 26 Iran

The impact of the pandemic has contributed to increased demands on our trauma counsellors. Pray for them, in particular for wisdom and sensitivity, as each person's situation is different, and that the help offered will have a significant impact on improved mental health.



### 27 Lebanon

Some children and teenagers haven't been to school for about a year. Internet connections are often very bad, so they have no options to follow lessons online. Pray that the Church will be able to make a difference for those children and teenagers.

### 28 Arabian Peninsula

Those who are seeking and Believers from a Muslim Background have easy access to various media platforms and materials to grow in their faith. But the different interpretations and doctrines on these platforms can create confusion. Pray for new believers to connect with Biblically grounded sources and individuals.

### 29 Syria

The people of Syria continue to suffer a lot. Bread and medicine will not heal the people in Syria, but our hearts and their hearts will be healed when we cry out to Jesus! Pray Psalm 51:1-2, 7-9 over this country.

### 30 Colombia

Covid-19 and the isolation because of it have affected our work with the rural Church, which is the most persecuted in Colombia. In these areas, illegal groups have taken advantage of the restrictions and further oppress the population. Pray for protection for our team members, who support the Church in these difficult places.

\*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](http://www.opendoors.org.za)

P.O. Box 1771, Cresta, 2118

T +27 11 888 9341

E [southafrica@od.org](mailto:southafrica@od.org)

 064 867 4730