



**"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."**

**John 14:27**

## October 2021

### 1 Gaza

Pray for the small Christian remnant in Gaza – followers of Jesus who want to bloom where they were planted. Pray that they will have the courage and the faith to live a faithful life amid challenging circumstances.

### 2 Arabian Peninsula

Understanding the concept of a biblical marriage is a challenge for new believers as it's very different from an Islamic marriage. Pray for wisdom for believers on how to deal with this challenge. Pray for divine arrangements of marriages for secret believers.

### 3 Saudi Arabia

For new believers, it's very helpful to have a Christian role model who can guide, challenge, comfort and encourage them. Pray that soon, ten people like that will emerge in Saudi Arabia.

### 4 Lebanon

Pray that the young people who have worked so hard to restore the area around the port in Beirut will be allowed to take more responsibility in the new Lebanon, working with the rest of Lebanon to piece the country back together.

### 5 Sudan

Despite the transitional government's verbal commitments to ensuring religious freedom for all, Christians continue to experience limitations in the day-to-day expression of their faith. Pray for wisdom for the government as they seek to

(Sudan continues)

improve the lives of every Sudanese and that this fragile democracy will have the opportunity to grow in strength.

## 6 Nigeria

In 2017, two of Hannatu Ezra's\* children were killed when the family tried to flee Boko Haram captivity. She still carries the trauma of her loss and being held captive for two years. Pray that the Lord will provide a way for her and her remaining children to visit the Open Doors trauma centre.

## 7 Bhutan

Due to the Covid-19 travel restrictions, it has become difficult for Open Doors local partners to organise programmes on their planned dates. Pray that God will help them to carry out the programmes in a timely and safe way.



## 8 Nepal

At the time of writing, the number of Covid cases is on the rise again. Pray for God's healing on Nepal and the safety and protection of Open Doors local partners and their family members during the pandemic.

## 9 Myanmar

The current military coup has created turmoil in the country. Many citizens have protested and lost their lives. Many are traumatised by the deaths and violence. Pray for the restoration of righteous governance and tolerance. Also, pray for emotional healing for the people of Myanmar.

## 10 Iraq

Many ladies and young girls have been harassed or abused and are now outcasts. Pray that their situations will be taken seriously by international authorities. Pray that the Church will welcome them with open arms and comfort those who are suffering, often in silence.

## 11 Syria

Ranim\* is a teenage Muslim girl who took part in a training programme at one of the Centres of Hope in the east of Syria. Her brother is refusing to let her attend church any longer and is forcing her to wear a hijab. Pray for Ranim and many girls like her.

## 12 Burkina Faso

When jihadists visited Isaiah's\* village, they made it clear that everyone was to convert to Islam or be killed. Isaiah made the difficult decision to flee with his family. They struggled to make ends meet. Thankfully, they were able to receive relief aid from Open Doors. Pray that God will provide Isaiah with an opportunity to earn a living for his family.

## 13 Central African Republic

Pray for the Lord's continued provision for His children amid elevated commodity prices. Also, pray that the Lord will provide favourable farming conditions, so people aren't very dependent on buying food. Please also ask God to intervene in the security situation.

#### 14 India

In many villages, Hindu extremists are involved in collecting funds for the Hindu temples. Christians who don't contribute face severe opposition. Pray for strength for them to remain firm in their faith and ask God to prevent the Hindu extremists from putting pressure on them.

#### 15 Mauritania

There is a strict apostasy law in Mauritania, which could result in the death penalty for new believers. Pray that the law will be abolished, but also that believers will experience that their freedom in Christ is much bigger than their fear for a law.

#### 16 Laos

Believers from the Akha tribe have very little knowledge about God, and their faith in Jesus Christ is still young. They desperately need leaders who can teach the rest of the people in their tribe. Pray that God chooses someone from that community who will be able to teach and lead the tribe to God.

#### 17 Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, there is an increase in persecution against Christians. There have been more frequent reports of opposition against churches and believers. Pray that the Church in Sri Lanka will be strengthened to stand strong amid this opposition.

#### 18 North Korea

As the pandemic continues to limit travel and meetings, Open Doors work in providing supplies for Christians from North Korea through our networks in China has become more difficult. Pray that God will open doors for the deliveries and that He will protect and guide each stage until the recipients safely get the items.

#### 19 Algeria

The church closures have made it difficult for isolated believers as they can't gather with other believers to get away from their situations for a bit. Pray that the Holy Spirit will minister to them as they long for fellowship with other believers.

#### 20 Israel

Due to the pandemic, the mistrust and hatred between the different religious and ethnic groups have been growing. The fact that people for various reasons didn't want to be vaccinated or didn't keep the measures to minimise infection, resulted in growing hate between the different groups. Pray for peace in the country.

#### 21 Colombia

Pray for pastors in rural Colombia who have had to look for work on neighbouring farms and, therefore, have little time for their ministry. Pray for provision and encouragement for them and their families.



Pray for pastors in Colombia who had to start working on neighbouring farms to provide for their families.

## 22 Latin America

Pray that the information collected through questionnaires from pastors of the persecuted Church will help us in our planning for the next four years. Pray for wisdom for our team as they use the information to implement plans to assist the Church in the region.

## 23 China

Praise God that the current wave of persecution has not deterred churches from being involved in overseas missions. Pray for more awareness among Chinese churches of the plight of persecuted believers worldwide and that they'll continue to ask God how they can play a role in serving the persecuted Church.

## 24 Vietnam

Poh\*, a Hmong believer, was attacked by his father for boldly proclaiming his faith, and he and his wife Mai\* and their two children were forced to leave their village. Pray that God will provide for Poh and his family in all their needs and that he will have a stable source of income.

## 25 Central Asia

Last year, when Kalamat's\* husband left her and their six small children, she was close to sending them to an orphanage and taking her life because she couldn't feed them. Thankfully, Open Doors local partners visited her with food, prayed for her and shared the Gospel with her. She accepted Jesus. Pray for her safety as a believer among Muslims.

## 26 Uzbekistan

When three underground churches were closed, three families from a Muslim background opened their houses for meetings but had to stop because of the

(Uzbekistan continues)

pressure from their Muslim relatives and communities. Those house churches were vital for local believers. Pray for a chance for those churches to meet again.

## 27 Southern Philippines

Pray for deliverance from the pandemic, poverty, political terror and oppression that is greatly affecting the Church. Pray also for church leaders – that God will give them wisdom as they lead their congregations.

## 28 Maldives

Pray for Open Doors partners from neighbouring countries who have a heart for the Maldivians. They've done a lot of work serving Maldivians living in their countries. Pray that may be equipped and strengthened as they serve Maldivians.

## 29 Brunei

Continue to pray for the leaders of Brunei – for God's will to be done in the nation through them. Pray for the royal family, where the Sultan has the highest level of power in the country.

## 30 Indonesia

Some radical Islamic movements have been trying for decades to adopt Sharia law, but it has failed. Pray that no evil plot against God's people shall prosper, no matter how hard men try to make it happen. Pray that believers will not fear anything as they live as God's faithful witnesses among Muslims.

## 31 Palestinian Territories

Pray for the effectiveness of the various social media platforms, which provide opportunities to meet and learn. Although the pandemic limited people in their freedom of movement, it also created opportunities to meet with fellow believers online.





### 1 Uganda

Since the death of her Muslim husband in 2016, Anandi\* has lived at the mercy of God as her Christian family abandoned her and her young daughter for marrying a Muslim. Pray that Anandi and her daughter will come to know God as their only provider and protector.

### 2 Zanzibar

Rosa\* sells produce from her family's land. Muslims in their community have refused to support her business. Earlier this year, some Muslims destroyed their fruit trees and stole 30 of their chickens. Pray that the Lord will show His favour to Rosa and her small business so she can share the Gospel through it despite opposition.

### 3 Colombia

Facilitators are our voice in Colombia. They are pastors that establish contact with churches in their regions and inform us of any difficult situation faced by any church or pastor. Pray that God will be with those pastors and their families and that He will provide for them in all their needs as they serve the Church in the country.

### 4 Iraq

Praise the Lord for the Church in Iraq and the way that it's been standing with its people, and for the wonderfully committed people around Iraq who haven't given up despite all they've endured. Pray that God will continue to be with the Church in Iraq as they shine the light of Christ amid difficulties.

### 5 Lebanon

In Lebanon, there is hardly a day without some really bad news that simply takes out hope of the Lebanese. Pray for the people

(Lebanon continues)

of Lebanon that their hearts will be turned from hatred to love and that believers will cling to the hope they have in Christ despite their circumstances.

## 6 Bhutan

In the rural areas of Bhutan, village leaders are discouraging people from meeting and praying on the pretext of Covid, although there is no such pressure from the government. Pray that believers will be able to meet and pray together while keeping all the Covid protocols.

## 7 Myanmar

Pray that believers who've attended persecution preparedness training run by Open Doors local partners will be able to use what they've learned and share the lessons with other believers, particularly during this challenging time in the country.

## 8 Vietnam

Three months after Yen\* and his wife converted to Christianity, their relatives and other villagers came and demanded they leave their house and never return to the village. Pray that God will give Yen's family peace and that they'll continue to focus on the Lord.

## 9 Nepal

Nita is physically and mentally persecuted by her husband because of her faith in Christ. Pray that God will give her strength to face the persecution and that He will change her husband's heart and bring him under His grace.

## 10 Tanzania

Isaac\* (29) gave his life to Christ earlier this year. When he shared the news with his brother, he chased him out of the house and warned Isaac that if they meet

(Tanzania continues)

again, he will kill him. Pray for Isaac and his pastor's safety as his pastor is assisting him. May the Lord keep them and the church safe from any harm.

## 11 Kenya

Rogo\* is a street vendor and Believer from a Muslim Background. After he accepted Jesus Christ, his wife took all his goods, which he sells at the market, and their child and left him. Pray that Rogo will be comforted by the Holy Spirit and trust Him will all his concerns and needs.

## 12 Syria

Online training courses are a challenge for the Syrian Church because the internet and electricity shortage are creating problems. Pray that these obstacles can be overcome and that the courses will be fruitful to all trainees and a blessing to the servants in the churches.

## 13 Iran

Pray for the youth who face many challenges because of the economic situation and high levels of unemployment. This can lead to many losing hope for the future. Pray for initiatives that seek to serve this group so that they'll find purpose and fulfilment in their faith.

## 14 India

Many pastors and leaders, including some Open Doors local partners, have lost their lives due to Covid-19. Pray for the protection of their family members. Pray that God will comfort them and fill them with His hope for the future.

## 15 Southern Philippines

In Southern Philippines, in places like Mindanao, Islam is the dominant religion. Therefore, our local partners have started

(Southern Philippines continues)

researching to see if natives of Mindanao living in other parts of the Philippines also face persecution because of their faith in Christ. Pray for God's guidance on where to go and whom to interview.

### 16 Maldives

Many Maldivians travel to India and Sri Lanka for medical reasons and their children's education. Pray that Christians from those countries will be a blessing to Maldivian Christians who are in need. Also, pray that they'll be a light to foreigners in their lands.

### 17 Brunei

There are only a handful of churches in Brunei. Pray for leaders and churches to find a way to unite believers in Brunei so that the Church may be strengthened. Pray that the Spirit of God may fill the hearts of the believers and do powerful and miraculous works in the nation.

### 18 Sri Lanka

A pastor in the northern province of Sri Lanka was beaten up and injured on the evening of Good Friday 2021. He was admitted to the hospital for treatment and was experiencing blurred vision and ringing in his ears. Pray for this pastor as he continues to work through the trauma of what happened to him.

### 19 Central Asia

Oram\* is a security guard. His employer has tried every possible way to get him to renounce his faith, such as delaying his salary, paying only part of his salary and accusing him of stealing from the company. He's struggling with the persecution. Pray for his emotional condition and growth in his faith.



### 20 Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, the amount of people struggling with depression is up to three times higher than the global average. Many of them struggle and cry out to God from their loneliness, isolation and deep sadness. Pray for Saudi believers to be rescued from this and to be able to access resources to treat their depression.

### 21 Morocco

At the time of writing, Weam\* was admitted to a psychiatric hospital by his family because he became a believer. Pray for his release and that the Holy Spirit will minister to him as he endures persecution from his family.

### 22 Tunisia

Nabil\* began doubting Islam and became a Christian more than a year ago. When he became a Christian, he chose to forgive his brother who violated him when he was younger, but he's still in deep pain. He asks that we please pray for him as he works through this trauma.

### 23 Niger

Dembe\*, a Believer from a Muslim Background, has received many threats from his father-in-law and the village chief. Despite

(Niger continues)

this, he has refused to denounce Christ. He and his wife-to-be had to find refuge at a local church. Pray that Dembe can return to his village and that the hearts of his father-in-law and the village chief will be miraculously changed to receive Christ.

#### 24 North Korea

It's estimated that about 50 000 to 100 000 believers are in prison or a banished area because of their faith. Pray that those who suffer the greatest persecution for their love of Jesus will be able to endure the pain by the strength that God especially pours into them.

#### 25 Uzbekistan

Batyr\* had to leave his home country for work last year. His wife Mira\* and their four children joined him this year. They had planned to be God's ambassadors to their Muslim families but now live in another country. Pray that Christians left among their Muslim relatives, friends and neighbours will witness to them.

#### 26 Mozambique

In Mozambique, there are millions of refugees and people who've been internally displaced by armed violence in sub-Saharan Africa. Pray that God will comfort and heal those who are traumatised by the violence they experienced or witnessed.

#### 27 Laos

Ever since Somkhit's\* (38) and Anida's\* (36) community found out in 2018 that they became Christians, they've experienced isolation and discrimination. Pray for God to strengthen them so that they'll stand strong in their faith and be the salt and light to their community amid the difficulties.

#### 28 China

About 30 million ethnic Muslims live in China. They fear God's punishment and have no assurance of His acceptance, forgiveness or eternal life. Pray that they'll get to know Jesus and receive Him as their Lord and Saviour.

#### 29 Malaysia

Pastor Daniel\*, an indigenous pastor, is worried for his congregation. In his small, poor village, some people tested positive for Covid-19. Many of the villagers here work on a day-to-day income. Pray for their speedy recovery and that they'll be able to work again to make ends meet.

#### 30 Indonesia

Women are a vital part of the Body of Christ. Pray that women who have attended our women's conference will use what they've learned in their lives as sisters, mothers, daughters as well as within the Body of Christ. May they live fruitful lives that glorify God.

\*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



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