

OpenDoors PRAYER CALENDAR



Representative image used.

Lord!
Please raise Your eyes
and look at Your people.
It has been seventy years
since the separation.
We have done nothing
proud in Your eyes,
But we are still Your
people, marked with a
seal.
As we have made a vow
to live to Your Word,
We are all eyes and ears
to You now.

After the seventy years,
we are joyful yet in awe,
As we await Your deciding
gift despite all our faults.
Among faith we tremble
in fear.
Lest the tragic separation
might result in a long sigh
Of the generations to
come.
Lord! Please have
compassion onto Your
children.

A prayer by Lee Sang-Sook,
a Christian from South Korea.



Countries with extreme persecution

1 Afghanistan

It's impossible to live openly as a Christian in Afghanistan. Pray that despite believers' isolation, they would be strengthened and encouraged, and that God would make "seeing eyes blind" so that their faith would not be discovered.

2 North Korea

Being discovered as a Christian is a death sentence in North Korea. Pray for strength and survival for North Korea's secret believers and that God would tear down the strongholds of the Kim dynasty.

3 Somalia

It's impossible and dangerous to publicly admit your Christian faith in Somalia as doing so could lead to believers being killed on the spot. Pray that despite the danger, a strong Church will grow among the Somali people.

4 Libya

Athit is under house arrest and prohibited from preaching or organising Christian activities or going outside his village to evangelise until March of 2022. Pray for Athit as he faces difficulties in his ministry.

5 Yemen

Christians in Yemen usually keep their faith secret; if they're discovered they could face the death penalty. Pray that secret believers will have wisdom and discernment as they support one another.

6 Eritrea

Christians from non-traditional denominations face the harshest persecution in Eritrea. Pray that church leaders would have wisdom to engage their government on the issue of religious freedom.

7 Nigeria

More Christians are murdered for their faith in Nigeria than in any other country, and violence is increasing. Pray that those who are mourning for loved ones will know God's peace and that the government will take decisive action to protect all citizens.

8 Pakistan

Christians in Pakistan face extreme persecution in every area of their lives. Pray for protection over Pakistan's churches, especially around Christian festivals this year.

9 Iran

We thank the Lord for His protection over our local partners and the successful delivery of medicine to believers despite challenges. Pray for Him to continually be with our local partners as they reach out to believers in the country.

10 India

Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus, and that the country should be rid of Christians. Pray for protection from attacks for Indian believers, particularly new Christians.

11 Saudi Arabia

Christians living in Saudi Arabia – where the legal system is based on Islamic law – risk severe opposition, even death. Many hide their faith. Pray for wisdom and protection for all Christians as they follow Jesus.



Pray for believers in Nigeria who risk their lives every day to live out their faith in Jesus.

Countries with very high persecution

12 Myanmar

Buddhist nationalism is especially strong in Myanmar and drives much of the persecution of Christians. Pray that all believers in Myanmar will enjoy fellowship with other Christians so they can encourage one another amid persecution.

13 Sudan

Last year saw the military staging a coup two years after President Omar al-Bashir was overthrown. The Church has somehow been caught in the middle of the conflict that followed. Pray for God's grace and protection for Christians in the country.

14 Iraq

Iraq saw recurrent violent protests over the last few years, and the instability is a catalyst for the increase in persecution of Christians. Pray for an end to the violence, and for God's peace to fill the hearts of Christians – and

those who persecute them.

15 Syria

A decade of civil war has made Syria a breeding ground for the persecution of Christians. Pray that amid war and persecution, Syrian believers will shine the light of hope in their communities.

16 Maldives

Behind this luxury holiday destination lies an oppressive regime relentlessly determined to keep the islands 100 percent Muslim. Pray that the government's attitude will soften towards Christians and other religious minorities.

17 China

The Church in China continues to enjoy extraordinary growth. However, recent years have seen an increase in persecution. Pray for wisdom for church leaders as they lead congregations in light of increased restrictions.

18 Qatar

Qatari Christians from a Muslim background face significant persecution, particularly from their families. Pray that secret believers will be allowed by their family and community to worship freely.

19 Vietnam

In Buddhist-majority Vietnam, the most intense persecution is reserved for non-traditional Protestants and converts from indigenous religions. Pray that the suspicion of Christians will be replaced with an appreciation of their value to society.

20 Egypt

Christian persecution happens mostly at the community level. Pray that despite this, Christians will have courage to shine the light of Christ in their communities.

21 Uzbekistan

No religious activities beyond state-run and state-controlled institutions are allowed in this highly authoritarian state. Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage, equip and empower believers amid such difficulties.

22 Algeria

Most Christians in Algeria are converts from Islam. They're at risk of persecution from their extended family and the wider community. Pray for improved relationships between Christians and local leaders and that it will garner respect towards Christianity.

23 Mauritania

The restrictive environment in Mauritania makes it impossible for Christians to gather openly. Pray that the law will change so it's no longer illegal to leave Islam and for opportunities for believers to share the Gospel.

24 Mali

The coup of summer 2020 has exacerbated Mali's political instability, opening the door for Islamic extremists. Pray that Christians exhausted by constant threats will be renewed by the Holy Spirit.

25 Turkmenistan

Persecution of Christians in this repressive Islamic state comes largely from the government and society. Pray for an easing of heavy restrictions on these believers and churches.

26 Laos

Christian activities are heavily monitored by the Communist authorities, including those of registered churches. Pray that believers under pressure to recant their faith will have strength to stand firm.

27 Morocco

Converts to Christianity face opposition from family members, who do not want them to practise their new faith publicly. Pray for courage and protection for believers facing opposition from their families.

28 Indonesia

Indonesian society has become steadily more Islamic in recent years. Pray for strength for Christians who are rejected by their Muslim families and society. Pray also that Indonesia will continue to be protected from attacks by militant groups.



MARCH

Countries with very high persecution (continued from Feb)

29 Bangladesh

Bangladeshi society is growing increasingly Islamic, with the government doing more to appease concerns from Muslim hardliners. Pray that Christian converts will be protected from increased violence.

30 Colombia

Colombia may be largely Christian, but persecution of believers is getting worse. Pray for courage and protection for Christians living in areas controlled by guerrilla and criminal groups.

31 Central African Republic

The Central African Republic (CAR) has seen near-constant conflict and fighting since 2013. Pray that stability and peace would return to the Central African Republic and that God would change the hearts of militants that target Christians.

32 Burkina Faso

Extremist attacks have driven followers of Jesus from their homes and villages, with many being forced into refugee camps. Praise God that there have been fewer violent attacks. Pray for peace to return to the country.

33 Niger

In the past six years, the Sahel region has seen a huge increase in violent Islamist attacks, with the government losing a lot of territory to the jihadists. Pray for wisdom for the government to deal with this increase in



Last year, we asked you to pray for Poh* from Vietnam who was beaten by his father for boldly proclaiming his faith. He's so thankful for your continued prayers and support.

"I praise God for His continued protection over my family and me... I'm very thankful for the supporters who continue to remember me and my family in their prayers. I pray for blessings from God above for you and your families," says Poh.

(Niger continues)

violence that can adversely affect believers.

34 Bhutan

All Bhutanese citizens are expected to be Buddhists and anyone who leaves Buddhism to follow Jesus is watched with suspicion. Pray for wisdom for those leading churches that are being monitored.

35 Tunisia

Christians who've converted from Islam are most vulnerable to persecution – often from their own family members and surrounding society. Pray that believers across Tunisia will be filled with renewed boldness and faith as they follow Jesus.

36 Oman

Islam is the state religion, and all Omani citizens are assumed to be Muslim. Pray that God would open doors and provide opportunities for believers to tell others about Jesus and that isolated believers will find fellowship with other believers.

37 Cuba

As a socialist dictatorship, the presence of other social actors, such as the Church, civil society organisations, international organisations aren't allowed. Pray that change will take place in Cuba so that there will be freedom of belief for all religions and people.

38 Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the persecution you face as a Christian often depends on what denomination you belong to. Pray that Christians of all denominations in Ethiopia would embrace Christ's command for unity.

39 Jordan

Although Jordan likes to present itself as a beacon of tolerance and interfaith dialogue,

Islamic extremists continue to pose a threat to the Christian community. Pray that Jordan's leaders would be increasingly open to religious freedom.

40 Democratic Republic of Congo

Christians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo face some of the most extreme violence in the world. Pray that God would thwart the plans of those who violently attack Christians.

41 Mozambique

Attacks from Islamic extremists and the presence of drug cartels in some areas have all contributed to increasing persecution. Pray for protection from further attacks by Islamic extremists, and that God would hinder their plans.

42 Turkey

Religious nationalism is growing in Turkey, creating an increasingly stifling atmosphere and putting Christians under enormous pressure. Pray that those under pressure for their faith in Jesus will stand firm and grow in their love for Him.

43 Mexico

Criminal networks have spread throughout Mexico, and Christians face the constant risk of being targeted because they oppose corruption and drug use. Pray that God would fill believers with boldness to keep proclaiming the Gospel amid dangerous circumstances.

44 Cameroon

Islamic extremist group Boko Haram is active in northern Cameroon and has kidnapped and killed Christians. Pray for peace across Cameroon – ask God to thwart the plans of those who stir up violence and hatred.



Representative image used.

Pray that God would work in the hearts of Central Asian country leaders to bring about more religious freedom.

45 Tajikistan

It's common for churches to be raided by Tajik authorities, and for church members to be interrogated and even tortured. Pray for strength and endurance for pastors and church leaders, especially those who are monitored and detained by the government.

46 Brunei

Leaving Islam for another religion is illegal in Brunei. Pray for the sultan of Brunei, that God would transform his heart, and reveal His love and mercy to him and that God would protect believers who face persecution from their families.

47 Kazakhstan

The government has steadily increased its control over religious expression, which means increased surveillance, raids on

church meetings and arrests. Pray that God would work in the hearts of the country's leaders to bring about more religious freedom.

48 Nepal

Christians from Hindu backgrounds experience the most pressure in Nepal. They're seen as breaking with their cultural identity when they become Christians. Pray for protection and support for isolated and vulnerable believers in remote villages.

49 Kuwait

Conversion from Islam to another faith is not officially recognised in Kuwait. Pray for protection for those who must keep their faith secret and that the government will allow believers more freedom to worship and share their faith.

50 Malaysia

In Malaysia, the government monitors churches and it's illegal to share the Gospel with Malay Muslims. Pray for religious freedom across the country so that believers can share the Good News openly.

51 Kenya

Although Kenya is a majority Christian country, Christians living in the north-east and coastal areas live with the constant fear of being attacked. Pray that these believers will know God's love, peace and joy amid difficult circumstances.

52 Sri Lanka

Buddhist supremacy still dominates the country with every Sinhalese (an Indo-Aryan ethnic group) considered to be a Buddhist, so Christians are treated as second-class citizens. Pray that God would change people's hearts in the country to allow for equality irrespective of religious beliefs.

53 Comoros

Christians in Comoros can't share their faith freely in public. If they do, they face legal consequences. Pray that they would know God's peace and protection and that despite the restrictions, they'll find opportunities to share their faith safely.

54 United Arab Emirates

Local converts from Islam endure the most persecution while Christian expatriates aren't allowed to evangelise or pray in public. Pray that despite the oppression, God will use believers in the country to spread His message of hope.

55 Tanzania

Authoritarian action by the president is beginning to create difficulties for citizens

in general and especially for the Christian community. Pray that God will work in the president's life and heart so that he will allow people to practice their beliefs freely.

Countries with high persecution

56 Azerbaijan

No religious activities beyond state-run and state-controlled institutions are allowed. State agents are reported to have infiltrated all religious congregations. Pray for churches to be wise in their conduct and for God to protect them from state agents.

57 Palestinian Territories

The influence of radical Islamic ideology is present within society, and historical churches have to be diplomatic in their approach towards Muslims. Harassment of church leaders by radical Jews also occurs. Pray for wisdom for the Church in their interactions with these groups.

58 Djibouti

Islamic militancy in the country is growing with hostility towards Christians likely to increase. Pray that God would equip Christians to endure whatever hostility they may face and use their suffering to point others to Him.

59 Kyrgyzstan

Although Kyrgyzstan is still one of the least oppressive countries in Central Asia for Christians to live, they feel vulnerable due to the ongoing chaotic political situation and the proposals for future restrictions. Pray for strength for them to stand strong.

APRIL



1 Persecuted Christians in the Muslim World

Tomorrow marks the beginning of Ramadan for Muslims worldwide. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of our persecuted family in Muslim countries as they prepare for the month of fasting, which usually sees an increase in persecution against them.

Ramadan Begins

2 Muslims in the Arab World

Pray that as many Muslims fast during

Ramadan, hoping to get closer to Allah that they'll come to see how their efforts to gain eternal life is in vain and that only through Jesus can they have hope, peace and eternal life.

3 Asia

According to the website, Asia Society, Asia is home to 65 per cent of the world's Muslims. Pray that as many of these Muslims fast, seeking God's favour that seeds of the Gospel will be planted in their lives this Ramadan.

4 Indonesia

Christians want to show God's love by respecting Muslims, but they don't want to be forced to do something they don't



Representative image used.

Ramadan is a good time to stand in the gap for our family of faith and for Muslims...

"I think Ramadan is a great time to be here in the Arabian Peninsula, to be with our families," says Tamer, a believer in the Arabian Peninsula. "My wife is not yet a follower of Christ, but she knows that I'm a Christian. She knows that I'm not fasting because of a legalistic Islamic law, but because I desire fellowship with Christ, and I'm interceding for the Muslims that I love so much. I know Satan doesn't like this, but I know and I'm believing that a miracle will happen...."*

(Indonesia continues)

believe in like taking part in Ramadan traditions. Pray for peace and God's protection upon those who aren't Muslims.

5 Bangladesh

During Ramadan, Muslim families will invite non-Muslims to join them in breaking their fast, but this can be a way for them to try and encourage believers to return to Islam. Pray that God will give them strength and wisdom to reject such invitations with gentleness.

6 Qatar

All people (with the exception of certain places like some shopping malls or restaurants) have to observe Ramadan in public, especially converts out of fear of their conversion otherwise being discovered. Pray for strength for them this Ramadan.

7 Somalia

Anything seen as deviating from acceptable good Islamic behaviour is responded to with intense pressure to conform. Pray that God will protect believers as they face pressure to conform to the customs of their non-Christian family members and society.

8 Brunei

Restrictions are gradually being imposed on the whole population even if they're not Muslim. For instance, during Ramadan all restaurants (including non-Muslim establishments) must close. Pray for strength for those who face pressure this month.

9 Maldives

The Islamic Ramadan fasting month is highlighted as one of the most sacred of the year. Pray that as families fast together and have meals together, they'll sincerely seek God and find Jesus (Matthew 7:7).

10 Sub-Saharan Africa

Ramadan is a time of heightened tension and loneliness for Christians. But it's also a time of heightened spiritual awareness for Muslims. Pray that Christians will remain firm in the faith and that many Muslims' journey to Christ will start during this time.

11 Morocco

Although Moroccan society is relatively liberal in some respects, Christians from a Muslim background in rural areas suffer bullying if they neglect Muslim customs, especially during Ramadan. Pray for strength for them as they face bullying.

12 Libya

During Ramadan, all Christians feel social pressure to abstain from eating and drinking during the day; converts have to do this in order not to be discovered. Pray that God will undertake for them as they try to follow Him amid difficult circumstances.

13 Mauritania

Converts from Islam to Christianity often have to live their faith in secrecy and are hence obliged to take part in Islamic or local religious practices like Ramadan. Pray that they'll use this time to pray to God in order to grow in their relationship with Him.

14 Afghanistan

Whether an Afghan is known as a Christian (e.g. in a more tolerant family) or unknown, participation in Islamic activities such as Ramadan is expected. Pray for wisdom for believers who have to keep their faith secret as they're expected to join in fasting.

15 Malaysia

Many Believers from a Muslim Background visit their families during Ramadan, but



Pray that God would soften the hearts of the family members of Muslim Background Believers.

(Malaysia continues)

these visits can be incredibly difficult. Pray that God would use the believers themselves to soften hardened family members' hearts.

16 Iran

As persecuted Christians' bodies hunger and their tongues thirst during Ramadan as they have to fast in this Muslim majority country, pray that God will give them the strength to demonstrate the unconditional love of God to Muslims more than before.

17 Jordan

Christians are increasingly anxious about expressing themselves on social media (even concerning posts about food during Ramadan) and have reported a high level of self-censorship to avoid insulting the Islamic majority. Pray for wisdom for them.

18 Lebanon

Lebanon observes major religious festivals. So, a Christian from a Muslim background living in a rural Muslim area would be judged for refusing to participate in Muslim festivals like Ramadan. Pray that God would help them during this month.

19 Iraq

Christians report that there is increasing pressure from society, which includes more monitoring, the closing of shops during Ramadan and pressure on Christian women to veil themselves. Pray that society will soften their hearts towards Christians.

20 Arabian Peninsula

Pray for the many secret believers in the Arabian Peninsula during this time of Ramadan. Many of them pray and fast with Muslims from sunup to sundown to pray for the Muslims, some of whom are family members.

21 Syria

During the Muslim holy month of Ramadan Christians often experience an increase in hostility and aggression. Pray that it will be a peaceful month, free from violent actions and extremist activity.

22 Saudi Arabia

During the Muslim month of Ramadan, the pressure on secret believers in Saudi Arabia is felt even stronger than normal. Pray for endurance for these believers to withstand the pressure.

23 Central Asia

Pray that God will give the right words to those Christians who will reach out to Muslim friends and relatives during Ramadan. Pray that He would be at work in the hearts of those they will meet, preparing them to hear the good news of the Gospel.

24 Kuwait

During Ramadan, Christians struggle to cope with the government and their communities' requirement to fast. Pray for strength to endure and for opportunities to shine the light of Christ in their communities this Ramadan.

25 United Arab Emirates

Local Christians have to live their lives in a manner that is defined by others, like not eating and drinking in public during the Ramadan month. Pray for God to strengthen their bodies to abide by this requirement.

26 Yemen

The country abides by the strictest interpretations of Islam. Converts may face the death penalty if their faith is discovered. Pray that God will protect these converts from their faith being discovered.

27 Kyrgyzstan

Indigenous citizens converting to Christianity will experience pressure and occasionally physical violence from Muslims in society. Pray for safety and protection for these believers to be able to worship God.

28 Middle East

For many who left Islam and converted to Christianity in the Middle East, conversion means being expelled from family and community. Pray that these believers will find family and community within the Body of Christ.

29 Night of Power

This is considered the holiest night for Muslims as they believe this is when the angel Gabriel revealed the first verses of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad and that anything done on this night reaps many blessings. Pray that tonight they'll meet Jesus, the source of all power.


30 Turkmenistan

Muslim families, friends and villagers exert pressure especially on converts, while the government imposes many restrictions on the functioning of Christian churches. Pray that despite this, the Church in Turkmenistan will grow.

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



OpenDoors

Persecuted  But never alone.