

OpenDoors **PRAYER CALENDAR**

February–April 2023



Stand up for the rights of persecuted believers

Christians – primarily men – are falsely accused of committing crimes or insulting the majority religion. This form of persecution knows no age limits. Christians also face being denied citizenship, denied custody of their children, denied the ability to marry a Christian spouse or kicked out of their communities all because they follow Jesus.

Thankfully, a Gift of Hope to stand up for the rights of persecuted believers equips Christians to fight such injustices.

When believers were kicked out of their community in Mexico for their faith, Open Doors was able to assist them with legal help. *“Thanks to your prayers and support, Open Doors has been able to hire lawyers to fight for the rights of these believers,”* said an Open Doors worker in Mexico.

Scan here.



FEBRUARY



1 North Korea

Christians are viewed as the most dangerous political class of people in North Korea and face extreme persecution for believing in Jesus. Pray that God strengthens the faith of the many secret believers in the country.

2 Somalia

Somalian believers who've converted from Islam are seen as traitors and considered "high-value" targets for killing by groups like Al-Shabaab. Pray for the protection of these believers.

3 Yemen

Yemeni Christians risk banishment and even death for believing in Christ. Pray that God makes way for provision for families in need and those isolated for being Christian.

4 Eritrea

Christians who are not part of the three recognised denominations face surveillance, raids and imprisonment in inhumane conditions by the state. Pray that God will undertake for these believers and that their faith will not be shaken.

5 Libya

Christians in Libya often face immense pressure from families to renounce their faith. Refusing to do so can lead to homelessness and joblessness. Pray for perseverance for these believers and provision for those seeking employment and safe havens.

6 Nigeria

Persecution of Christians is often brutally violent as Islamic militants and armed bandits attack with increasing impunity. Pray that all those affected by violence will be healed of wounds and trauma.

7 Pakistan

There is a silent epidemic of abduction, forced marriages and forced conversion of Christian girls and women to persecute whole Christian communities. Pray for healing from trauma for Christian women who've faced abduction.

8 Iran

Christian house groups comprising converts from Muslim backgrounds are often raided and leaders and members are arrested for "crimes against national security". Pray that the president will honour the rights of Iran's religious minorities.

9 Afghanistan

It continues to be impossible to live openly as a Christian in Afghanistan and persecution has increased since the Taliban took over in 2021. Pray for the safety of Christian converts who could face violent consequences if their faith is discovered.

10 Sudan

Christians are vulnerable to extreme persecution in their public and private lives, particularly if they've converted from Islam. Pray for protection, encouragement and courage for Christians who've converted from Islam.

11 India

The persecution of Christians continues to intensify as Hindu extremists aim to cleanse the country of their presence and influence. Pray that persecuted Christians will be empowered to stand strong.



12 Syria

Christians in Syria, especially church leaders still grapple with daily persecution, despite the public threat from the so-called Islamic State having largely subsided. Pray for peace in the country and for the protection of Christians, particularly church leaders.

13 Saudi Arabia

Christians are forced to live out their faith in secrecy. Female Christian converts risk physical violence, while male converts risk public humiliation, beatings or imprisonment. Pray for secret believers in Saudi Arabia to know that God is close and faithful.

14 Myanmar

Converts in Myanmar continue to experience persecution from their Buddhist, Muslim or tribal families and communities. Pray for the provision of all physical and spiritual needs for these new believers and for their faith to be strengthened.

15 Maldives

Believers in Maldives are forced to keep their faith a secret and can be reported to Muslim leaders or authorities if revealed. Pray that God sustains believers who are in isolation and secrecy.

16 China

Church attendance is rigorously monitored, and many churches are being closed down. Christian leaders are generally the main target of government surveillance, and some have been abducted. Pray that, despite this, faith will flourish in China and for the safe return of abducted leaders.

17 Mali

Violent extremist attacks continue unabated across Mali. Christian missionaries live in constant fear of abduction by extremists. Pray for stability in Mali and that God's peace will reign over the country. Pray that God comforts and provides for internally displaced believers.

18 Iraq

Many Iraqi Christians are affected by intolerance and persecution mostly by militant Islamic groups and non-Christian leaders. Pray that the government will protect the rights of Christians and other religious minorities.

19 Algeria

Christians in this country are vulnerable to prosecution under blasphemy and proselytising charges. Meanwhile, authorities continue to systematically close churches. Pray that laws restricting religious freedom be repealed and for the reopening of closed churches.

20 Mauritania

It's illegal to convert from Islam to another faith. Any deviation from Islamic belief is strongly opposed nationally. Pray for courage for secret believers as they seek to worship God and support each other in their walk of faith.

21 Uzbekistan

Believers face increased pressure from their families for becoming Christians. They may be beaten or expelled from their communities for their new faith. Pray for God's protection and provision for Christians who lose their jobs or are expelled from their communities.

22 Colombia

Church leaders are targeted by guerrilla groups because they denounce corruption, defend human rights, and oppose the cartel. They also risk being killed. Pray for the protection of pastors and for their faith to remain strong.

23 Burkina Faso

Believers who've converted from Islam face rejection from family and community members and are constantly forced to renounce their faith. Pray that the Lord will be at work in the lives of these persecuted believers.

24 Central African Republic

Since 2013, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been embroiled in conflict. Christian leaders who publicly denounced the violence are persecuted. Pray for lasting peace and stability in CAR. Pray for guidance as believers live out their witness to Christ, especially pastors and their families.

25 Vietnam

Most Christians belong to Vietnam's ethnic communities and so face social exclusion, discrimination and attacks. Pray that they will know the presence, peace and love of God.

26 Turkmenistan

The government heavily restricts religious freedom, and churches are monitored. Ask God to soften the hearts of those in authority, so Christians will have the freedom to worship and share the Gospel.

27 Cuba

Church leaders or Christian activists face arrest, closure of their churches or businesses, prison sentences, and harassment if they criticise the regime. Pray for resilience and wisdom for Christians and church leaders.

28 Niger

Niger re-entered the top 50 of the World Watch List in 2022, reflecting how the persecution of Christians has continued to increase. Ask God to heal traumatised believers, who've been violently attacked for their faith.