

OpenDoors PRAYER CALENDAR

May–July 2023



Protect the Church in Africa

Our family of faith in Africa is facing immense trials. Our vision at Open Doors is to help keep them from being crushed, despairing, forsaken and destroyed. We want them to remain communities of hope amid persecution and suffering so that the light of Christ can outshine the darkness on our continent, so that many more can come to salvation.

When persecution strikes, persecuted believers usually don't have anyone to turn to and have to rely on the Church. We saw this during the pandemic in places like Uganda, where believers were rejected for leaving Islam and had no family to rely on for support. Believers like John*, who could receive relief aid from us, thanks to your support.

"When we see this relief, there is hope that at least out there are people who care for those who are going through hard times," said John.

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Representative image used.

MAY

1 Workers Day

Today, numerous nations celebrate workers' rights. We at Open Doors remember our workers and partners who risk their lives to serve the persecuted Church. Pray that God will bless them as they serve persecuted believers.

2 Bhutan

Surveillance is higher than before in Bhutan, with churches being forced to close fellowships because they are suspected of converting people to Christianity. Pray for protection for Christians gathering for church services.

3 Iran

Iranians have suffered many months of turmoil. Protests continue despite the risk of arrest, torture and even execution. Pray that God will comfort those who lost loved ones during this upheaval.

4 Egypt

Rania* risks everything to follow Jesus in her strict Muslim community. Pray that God will bless her and other believers like her to be salt and light for their communities and change lives through God's power.

5 African World Heritage Day

Today we celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of Africa. Pray for our continent and our family of faith in Africa, who is persecuted for their faith. Pray that the Good News will flood our continent to dispel Satan's lies.

6 Libya

It's a risk for people in Libya to reach out and help persecuted believers. Pray for the protection of kind souls who try to help them.

7 Morocco

As a predominantly Muslim country, many Moroccans have never heard the Gospel. However, Sami* boldly shares the Gospel with people. Pray for the fruits of his work and his safety.

8 North Africa

Naasima* says that North African fathers coerce their daughters to leave their education early and marry instead. Pray for a major change in how women are viewed in Muslim countries.

9 India

Religious extremists and leaders are demanding that tribal Christians should be delisted from the tribal schemes and privileges. Pray for strength for tribal Christian communities as they face persecution.

10 Tajikistan

After deciding not to honour church registrations anymore, the Tajik government made up false charges against the foreman of a home church after they applied and closed the building. Pray that this congregation and others like it can securely gather again.

11 Turkey

Christians in Turkey represent only 0,1% of the population. They often face smear campaigns and opposition. Pray for Christians to remain faithful and hopeful.



12 Mexico

Mexico ranks 124th out of 180 countries for corruption. Pray for believers who spread Christ's light amid the darkness, corruption and crime. Pray for God's protection as they stand against evil.

13 Southern Philippines

Islam has grown rapidly in the Philippines, the only Asian country where Christianity is the dominant religion. Pray as missionaries spread the Gospel nationwide that many will accept Christ.

14 Arabian Peninsula

People on the Arabian Peninsula are curious about faith and mysticism. Their curiosity often leads them to the occult. Pray for protection from demonic spirits and practices and that they will find Jesus.

15 Nepal

Due to Suman Bhandari* and his family's faith, they were forced to leave their home. Their only revenue is a tuckshop. Pray that God will bless and expand their shop to meet their basic needs.

16 Colombia

There will probably be many changes to the country under the new government. Pray for God's protection, mercy and wisdom for the new government.

17 Lebanon

Many Lebanese wonder how corrupt politicians can stay in power. Many have lost their bank savings and struggle to feed their families due to corruption. Pray for provision for believers and a light at the end of the tunnel for Lebanon.

18 Vietnam

Last year, the authorities released two religion draft decrees. Experts and churches worry that the decrees will further restrict Vietnamese religious freedom. Pray that in this season believers will be encouraged to seek and draw closer to God.

19 North Korea

Lady Da Hyeon is a secret believer who trained at our shelter. The pandemic prevented her from going home. Pray for her safety and guidance when she returns

(North Korea continues)

to North Korea to share the Gospel with her family and close friends.

20 Bangladesh

Christian students of converted families suffer at school. Pray that those young Christians can share Jesus' love and wisdom with others despite persecution. May their deeds glorify Christ.

21 Tunisia

Tunisia suffers from political unrest. Pray for stability in the country and for the Church to grow and be a light amid the unrest.

22 Iraq

With so much change and uncertainty over the past decade, people no longer know where they belong. Pray that faithful followers of Christ will find hope and direction in Jesus.

23 Uzbekistan

Many Uzbek Christians hide their faith due to discrimination against them. Pray that those Christians will feel connected despite their isolation and that God's love will fill their quiet times.

24 Central Asia

In Central Asia, Christians are closely monitored, so they worship covertly in small groups of two or three. Pray for their safety and joyful worship despite their circumstances.

25 Kazakhstan

A legally registered church has been denied access to banking services since 2017, so they can't pay taxes and their staff. Pray for a breakthrough in their situation.

26 Myanmar

Many displaced believers live in poor conditions in displacement camps and forests. Pray for God's providence of shelter and food so they can stay safe and nourished.

27 Syria

The only thing that goes up in Syria is financial inflation. Please continue to pray for believers in Syria, as they take strain from all the issues ailing the country.

28 India

After many states passed anti-conversion laws, believers face increased hostility. Pray for endurance for believers, pastors and church leaders.

29 North Korea

Thank you for praying and supporting our radio ministry, which broadcasted even during the strict lockdown. Pray for protection for North Korean believers who secretly listen to the radio programme and that it spreads God's Word.

30 Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's economic crisis even affects church attendance. "Many believers are finding it extremely difficult to attend church due to a lack of fuel and public transportation," said Sunil*. Pray for a revival of this country's economy and believers affected by it.

31 Malaysia

According to reports, Malaysians arrested for insulting Islam have increased. Authorities appear to be focused on locating and charging individuals who, directly or indirectly, insult Islam in public. Pray for God's intervention in this situation.

*Names changed for security purposes.

Provide displaced and refugee believers with aid and shelter

The story behind why each individual flees is unique, typically a consequence of conflict, natural disaster, persecution and a host of other factors. But in many areas, the displacement of Christians from their homes or communities is a deliberate strategy of religious persecution. It's intentional and can be part of a wider strategy to completely eradicate Christianity from a village, region or country.

Displacement breaks individuals and families away from social and community networks, which is one of the greatest threats to the resilience of Christians and their sense of identity. So when you support a displaced Christian or help them find refuge in another place, you help restore their communities, families and the Church so they can be resilient.

"I thank every brother and sister who contributed to getting us to one place and united us to live in a house together. We thank God for your standing with us and getting me to safety," said Adam.*

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Representative image used.





1 Arise Africa campaign

Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing record numbers of violence. The presence of jihadist groups in more countries caused this. Pray that our multi-year Arise Africa campaign will strengthen the Church in this region and raise awareness of their situation.

2 Nigeria

Nigeria tops the World Watch List for violence with unimaginable violence and brutality. Pray that God will stop these evil attacks and change the militants' hearts to the love of Jesus.

3 Nigeria

Pray for healing for the many believers who are traumatised by violent persecution. Ask God to protect Christians and help the president and state governors find lasting solutions for Nigeria's deepening security crisis.

4 Persecution Sunday

Pray for our speakers and volunteers, who will speak about our persecuted family in churches across the country. Pray that more people will be touched by the testimonies and join in prayer for our family of faith.

5 Burkina Faso

Pray that Islamic extremist groups' plans and influence will be foiled. Pray for healing, comfort and restoration for those displaced by their attacks.

6 Burkina Faso

Pray for strength for Christians in the face of

opposition and that they will be beacons of light in their families and communities.

7 Central African Republic

We cry out for peace in this troubled nation. Pray for divine assistance for the government to combat insecurity and for leaders of militant groups to seek a more peaceful way of living.

8 Central African Republic

Pray for provision in the needs of all those believers displaced and facing persecution. May God protect them from harm, particularly church leaders, as they face increasing dangers.

9 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

We long to see an end to the violence and lawlessness affecting Christians in eastern DRC. Pray for God to undertake for the country and to help authorities bring lasting peace.

10 Democratic Republic of the Congo

Pray for wisdom and courage for church leaders as they minister to the traumatised and displaced and teach their people to face persecution. May God bring His healing to all those who have suffered.

11 Niger

Pray for God to draw close to those Christians who live in danger of persecution every day. May they have the strength to cling to God under pressure, and may He soften their persecutors' hearts.

12 Niger

Pray that the government will work to make the legal system fair for all and stop the evil practices of abduction and forced marriages. Pray for safe spaces for Christian gatherings, worship and encouragement.

13 Mali

Pray for a breaking of the power of violent extremist groups who are destroying Mali and that Christians can return to their homes and live in peace.

14 Mali

Pray for new believers who feel alone and vulnerable to feel the Lord's powerful presence today and forge strong connections with other Christians to sustain and strengthen their faith.

15 Uganda

Pray for protection for believers, especially converts who face expulsion, physical attacks and even death for owning Christian materials or discussing their faith with family and friends.

16 Youth Day

Today Open Doors remembers Christian youth in sub-Saharan Africa. If their potential is harnessed, they can be a Gospel force in the future. Pray that our work among them will glorify Christ and help them remain present, resilient and relevant for the Gospel.

17 Kenya

Christians near the northeastern border with Somalia face significant persecution from the strong Muslim presence and have to close their churches due to cross-border attacks by al-Shabaab. Pray for God to undertake for them.

18 Cameroon

Pray that the Lord's presence will bring comfort, peace and healing to all those affected by persecution in Cameroon. Pray for daily grace and hope and that their physical, emotional and spiritual needs will be met.

19 Cameroon

Pray for an end to the influence of Boko Haram and a resolution to the Anglophone crisis. May the government take the country's rising insecurity seriously and do more to address it.

20 World Refugee Day

Unrest, war and persecution have forced many believers in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere to flee from their countries. On World Refugee Day, pray for their survival and sustenance abroad.

21 Eritrea

Pray for Eritrean Christians who are imprisoned for their faith. May they know God's presence, and may He sustain them and their families spiritually, physically and emotionally.

22 Eritrea

Praise the Lord for those who have witnessed imprisoned believers and their families' courage and found Jesus. Pray that they can safely meet with and encourage other Christians.

23 Ethiopia

Pray with us for justice for those who have come to know Jesus and have been persecuted for it. Pray for the protection of their rights and the conversion of their families and neighbours.



24 Ethiopia

Pray that believers in hostile situations will know the Holy Spirit's presence and hold on to their joy. Pray that they will be equipped to bravely take the Gospel to dangerous places.

25 Sudan

We uplift Sudan and pray for stability in the region. Pray that a government will be established that respects equality and religious freedom.

26 Sudan

Pray for a resilient Church in Sudan that will stand strong amid persecution. Pray for the protection of Open Doors partners who strive to make this happen and that the Sudanese government will create a fairer, safer society.

27 Somalia

Pray that God will change the hearts of extremists to end the violence and bring peace to this country. Ask Him to

eliminate fear, intimidation and violence supernaturally.

28 Somalia

Pray that God will protect secret believers and those whose faith has been discovered. May He heal those who have suffered physical and emotional harm because they follow Jesus.

29 Open Doors partners and workers

Pray for Open Doors partners and workers in sub-Saharan Africa as they act as God's hands and feet when persecution strikes. Pray for wisdom and protection for them as they come alongside persecuted believers.

30 Sub-Saharan African governments

Pray for governments in the region, who in some cases also persecute believers. Pray for them to accept believers and allow religious freedom. Pray for wisdom to curb Islamic extremism in the region, which affects believers and citizens.

*Name changed for security purposes.

JULY

1 China

Our workers and partners regularly conduct discipleship training in Buddhist areas. Pray for provision and protection over them as they support the Body of Christ in China.

2 Brunei

Islamic education is required of all Bruneians wishing to complete their primary and secondary education. Pray for Brunei's Christian youth to endure external pressure.

3 Guru Purnima

This day Hindus honour enlightened Hindu spiritual masters known as gurus. Pray that Hindus will become enlightened with the truth of the Gospel.

4 Mexico

Drugs and corruption plague Mexico. Pray that those in power will remain faithful to their values and service to the nation, and not let drug trafficking and violence take over.

5 Indonesia

We continue to receive requests for thousands more Bibles. Pray for the costs of producing and distributing Bibles. May believers be blessed as they read God's Word in their native language.

6 Turkey

Pray that Christians will be able to meet freely in church buildings. Pray that God will move in Turkey to bring about a change in people's attitudes towards Christians.

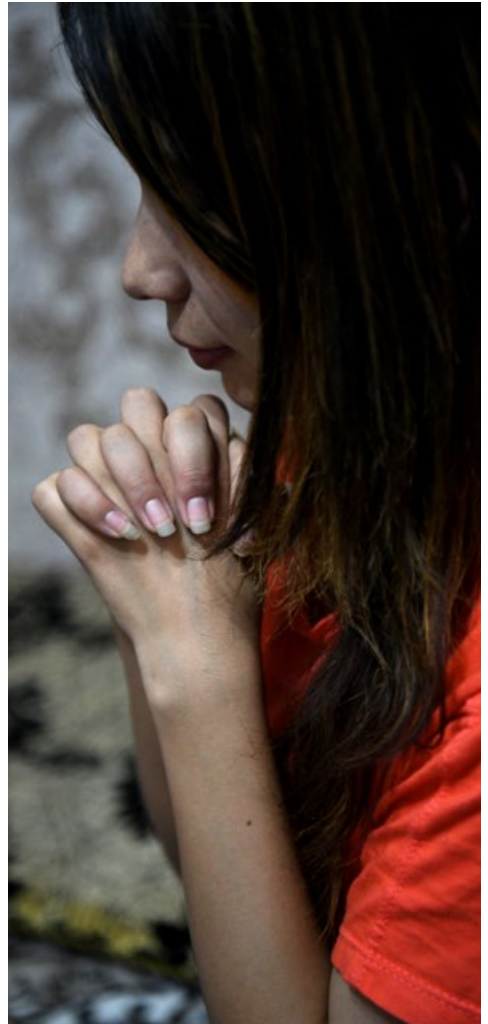
7 Southern Philippines

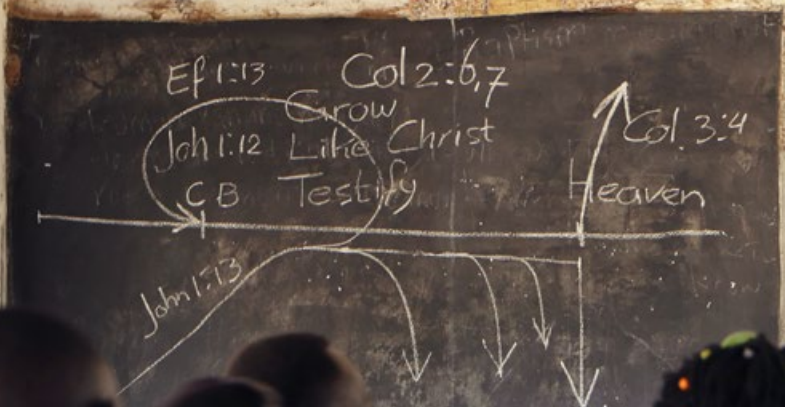
After one of our partners, Eli*, lost his wife to cancer, he found Open Doors' livelihood

assistance helpful for him and his three children. Praise the Lord for providing for believers in their time of need. Pray that this assistance will reach many more believers.

8 Afghanistan

Sitara* no longer feels like a slave after fleeing to another country. Pray that the Lord will provide for her and the many Afghan refugees who have fled the country for their safety.





Educate and disciple believers through Biblical training

As a child needs nourishment and nurturing to grow, we as believers need Biblical training to grow in our faith. New and persecuted believers need encouragement and tools for their journey of faith. Biblical training and discipleship programmes are a means to nourish and nurture the growth of new and persecuted believers, which equips them with the tools to stand firm in times of persecution while motivating them to share the Gospel with others.

When Pastor Salim* left Islam and became a Christian, he found himself sharing the Gospel with others even before he had been properly discipled. He had a desire to reach out to the people in his area as well as disciple converts. So Open Doors supported Pastor Salim and his church with apologetics and persecution preparedness training.

"You've equipped us and empowered us through trainings. Thanks to your apologetics training, all our members, even the children, can answer a Muslim when questioned about the faith," shared Pastor Salim.

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9 Vietnam

The literacy classes foster goodwill among believers and villagers and can sometimes be used as an evangelistic tool, drawing neighbours to the love of Christ. Pray that more people will come to know Christ and His love through these classes.

10 Laos

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance over believers shunned by their families and spiritual strength. May the Lord give them a faith community to help them grow in their walk with God.

11 Nigeria

Pray that God will intervene in the hearts of the perpetrators of violence and persecution to recognise their sins and repent. Pray for continued protection for believers.

12 Saudi Arabia

Saudi women have long been oppressed and treated as inferior to men. Pray that Saudi believers will understand the truth of how males and females were created by God.

13 Tunisia

Ali* is a believer in Tunisia who feels alone in his faith. Please pray that he will find other believers to encourage him and with whom he can share fellowship.

14 Maldives

The Maldives government started monitoring the extremist influence in prisons. Research shows that prisons are the perfect breeding place for terrorists. Pray for the government to address this situation before it escalates and for God's truth to reach inmates in prison.

15 Ethiopia

When people become believers, pressure comes quickly. They need hope, Biblical knowledge and support to withstand the pressure. Pray that we can reach all those new believers in partnership with the local Church.

16 India

Pray for the tribal belt regions where Ghar Wapsi (forceful reconversion to Hinduism) is underway. Pray for strength for believers and a more accepting society.

17 Central Asia

Thank God for His divine intervention in the life of Yunus*, who was assisted by a security officer to cross the border. Pray that God will continue to work in miraculous ways for our family of faith in this region.

18 Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan's few Christians are often marginalised for their faith. Pray that God will make a way for those who have lost their jobs to make ends meet.

19 Israel and Palestine

Pray for peace in the Holy Land and international cooperation to achieve justice and equality for everyone. Pray for the Holy Land's Christian minority and Messianic Jews to live their daily lives in serenity, despite their difficulties.

20 Oman

In many smaller villages in Oman, people have never met a Christian. Pray that those people will encounter Christ in dreams and visions and meet believers when they visit larger towns.

21 China

For years local authorities have pressured Jason and his family due to their faith. They were detained, interrogated and warned against taking part in religious activities. But God has made a way for them to continue their outreach. Pray for their safety.

22 Brunei

Pray for Bruneian church elders and leaders. Ask God to fill them with knowledge and spiritual wisdom to lead their churches well and fulfil God's purpose in Brunei.

23 Eritrea

There are approximately 1 000 Christians indefinitely detained in Eritrean prisons without charges. Pray for their swift release.

24 Morocco

Families and the society in Morocco pressure Christians to renounce their faith, particularly if they come from a Muslim background. Pray that those Christians will hold tight to God's truths and will grow stronger in their faith.

25 Lebanon

The Gospel has spread in Lebanon despite hardships. Praise God for television, radio and church opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for a blessing over those who faithfully work to present topical programmes on the Bible.

26 Nepal

Christians in Nepal face expulsion from their homes and estrangement from their

families. Pray for financial assistance for those whose families stop supporting them.

27 Turkmenistan

Travel between Turkey and Turkmenistan is restricted. Turkmen citizens in Turkey regard this as an attempt to curb Turkmen human-rights activists in the country. Pray for the tensions between Turkey and Turkmenistan to subside.

28 Indonesia

Persecution is common, yet people are seldom aware of it. Pray that the Indonesian Church will be more conscious of persecution and ready to support victims when it happens.

29 Syria

Syria is a war-torn country with few resources. Pray that after years of lacking, followers of Jesus will seek Him in their situation and thrive in the country.

30 Iraq

Secret believers in remote places desperately need fellowship with other believers to feel supported. Pray that they will feel God's presence even more keenly when they feel isolated.


31 Middle East

Thank God that many Syrian and Iraqi churches have become Centres of Hope. These centres help Christians to start over. Praise God for this provision and pray for continued provision for these centres to meet the needs of Christians.

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



OpenDoors

Persecuted  **But never alone.**