

OpenDoors **PRAYER CALENDAR**

August–October 2023



Take action by supporting violently persecuted believers

As believers, we share the same faith in Jesus Christ, where differences in language, ethnicity, or borders are broken. Although we share the same faith, our lives and freedoms are different. In countries on the Open Doors World Watch List, believers face violent persecution where they're beaten, tortured in prison and even murdered for believing in Christ and sharing the Gospel.

As one body, we're responsible for one another and called to stand with one another when we face trials. We're reminded in Hebrews 13:3 (ESV): *“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.”*

Scan here:



AUGUST

1 Central Asia

Pray for continued safety and courage for believers, pastors and leaders of home groups in Central Asia, who face regular threats from the authorities.

2 Central Asia

The government has started recruiting believers to spy on secret believers. It has caused doubt and mistrust. Pray that this new challenge would pull believers closer to God rather than drive them away.

3 Central Asia

Pray urgently for more wells in Central Asia. Christians are marginalised and have little access to basic amenities. More wells will save lives.

4 Arabian Peninsula

God is building His Church in the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. Pray for the Lord to raise up mature leaders who will love and lead like Jesus.

5 Work among Christian women from a Muslim background

Pray that the training, media and counselling on female-specific topics among Christian women from a Muslim background will be a blessing and a fortifying resource for Christian women.

6 North Africa

Aizah* suffered rejection and injustice when she became a Christian in a predominantly Muslim region in North Africa. Thank God for her selfless service to other women who experience similar struggles for their faith.

7 North Africa

Despite her personal challenges, Aizah* still confronts oppression when she sees it. Pray that her courage will be contagious and that more people will be bold and stand up against injustices.

8 Sub-Saharan Africa

More Christians are killed in sub-Saharan Africa than anywhere else. Families, friends, and churches have been left devastated. Pray that God comforts the broken-hearted and restores their joy.

9 National Women's Day

On National Women's Day, pray with us for women in our country and beyond who face violence. Pray that they will know God's peace, comfort, and healing presence.

10 Egypt

Rania* in Egypt describes the miraculous healing of her son, who said: "I saw the Christ looking at me. He called me, saying: 'Child arise.'" Pray for more supernatural encounters so that more will come to know Christ.

11 Traumatised Women

Praise God that Open Doors seminars are helping women to overcome long-established trauma. Pray for more breakthrough in the health and healing of Christian converts.

12 Azerbaijan

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

13 Iran

Sahar converted from Islam to Christianity. Praise God for Sahar's transformation



Sahar endured intense persecution behind closed doors in Iran. Pray that many will come to know Christ through her witness.

(Iran continues)

through the Gospel. Thank God for the sense of belonging and acceptance Sahar now has as a child of God.

14 Iran

Sahar seeks to serve and disciple other women. Pray that Christian converts will be drawn to Sahar, and that through her witness, many more women will come to know Christ.

15 Iran

Life for converts in Iran is not plain sailing. Sahar faced divorce and losing her children. Pray that her husband's heart softens toward her and her Christian faith. Pray for abundant love within their family.

16 Turkmenistan

As Turkmenistan's economic situation worsens, many people can't afford food and medical care. Pray that President Berdimuhamedow would implement policies that will benefit the people.

17 Bangladesh

Pray against corruption and blatant disregard for people's rights in the country including workers' rights. Pray that God will raise leaders that genuinely care for the people.

18 Bangladesh

Pray for a change in the hearts and minds of the non-Christian teachers and students to accept Christian students so that all children enjoy equal rights and facilities at school.

19 Brunei

In school or university young people face aggression from both peers and professors for their faith. Pray for Christian youth in Brunei to stand strong in their faith and be a light to others.

20 Brunei

According to a Borneo Bulletin article, there is an increase in sexual abuse of young women among family members. Pray for traumatised victims suffering psychologically and physically from such trauma.

21 Indonesia

Praise the Lord for His provision of a new Open Doors base in Sumatra. Pray blessings over the new employees and that this new base spreads God's love in the region.

22 Indonesia

"My heart was filled with peace afterwards." Thank God for Nara's newfound faith in Christ. Support her in prayer as she continues her journey of discipleship.

23 Syria and Turkey

Many people lost relatives, homes, and livelihoods in the Syria and Turkey earthquakes in February. Pray for God's providence and guidance as they rebuild their lives.

24 Syria and Turkey

Pray for renewed strength and wisdom for church leaders and Open Doors' local partners who continue to serve people months after the earthquakes.

25 Arabian Peninsula

Nadia* a convert in the Arabian Peninsula asks for prayer to become stronger in her walk, and for clarity on where God wants to take her. Pray for strength and direction for Nadia.

26 Arabian Peninsula

"Even though it can be difficult, walking with the Lord is worth everything." Thank God for Nadia's* faith as she seeks to encourage other young believers in the Arabian Peninsula.

27 Arabian Peninsula

The Arabian Peninsula Church has grown wonderfully. Thank God for the new believers and for Christians who use the media and discourse to spread the Word of God.

28 Gulf countries

While social media can help spread the Word of God, it can also be a source of misinformation. Pray that seekers and believers in the region can discern truth from lies.

29 Gulf countries

Earlier this year, several believers from a Muslim Background were imprisoned in one of the Gulf countries. Pray for comfort, protection and strength for them in prison.

30 Sub-Saharan Africa

Habiba* was forcibly married off at the age of 13. She is haunted by the memories. Pray for healing, restoration, and enduring faith for Habiba and other victims of violence in sub-Saharan Africa.

31 Sub-Saharan Africa

The Church in sub-Saharan Africa has the world's largest number of youths under the age of 25. They face an unprecedented onslaught. Pray that God fills them with hope and that their faith and future remain secure in Him.

*Names changed for security purposes.

SEPTEMBER

1 Women from a Muslim background

In an Islamic society, it's common for women from a Muslim background to feel inferior to men. Pray for the renewing of their minds and confidence in their status as daughters of God.

2 Open Doors Restorations programme

An Open Doors programme called "Restorations" teaches the Biblical view on women. Accepting a new viewpoint is a long, difficult process for women. Pray for perseverance in these sessions.

3 Women in Muslim countries

Azizah* says: "Despite what you hear from the Word, you hear the whole day other messages that still make you feel worthless. That creates a great inner conflict." Pray for more edifying messages to be spoken over women in Muslim countries.

4 Women in closed countries

In closed countries, belief systems about women's role and status are handed down from generation to generation. Pray that courageous Christian women will teach women about how God sees them.

5 Women in closed countries

"Before believing in Christ, and during the first few years of my faith, I had low self-confidence, and I couldn't give my opinion



Pray that persecuted women and men will come to know their identity in Christ.

(Women in closed countries continues)

with courage. I now know my identity in God," says Azizah. Pray many more women will come to know their identity in Christ.

6 Secret believers

Pray that secret believers in Muslim countries will find each other and support each other with Bible groups, fellowship and discipleship.

7 Persecuted Christians

Pray for believers that have been estranged from their families because of their belief in Jesus to be reconciled with them.

8 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Pray that DRC's government will take action to protect people's freedom to gather to worship.

9 Burkina Faso

Give thanks that earlier this year security forces rescued 66 women and children abducted by jihadists in January. Ask God to heal those traumatised by their abduction.

10 Iran

Shockingly, some prisoners in Iran have been issued with death sentences without a valid reason, or even a proper trial. Pray that justice will prevail, and they will be saved from death row.

11 Iran

Pray that imprisoned believers in Iran will be spared torture and will soon be set free.

12 Iran

Pray that Iranian authorities will stop the persecution of Christian converts and adherents to other faiths in line with their obligations under international law.

13 Central Asia

Youth work is heavily restricted in many countries, with some countries prohibiting Christians from engaging in any religious work among youths and minors. Pray for opportunities for young people to encounter God's love.

14 Central Asia

Hakim* and his family left their homeland because of intense persecution but returned because of their passion to minister to the people there. He leads a network of underground house churches. Pray for his and his family's safety.

15 Malaysia

More than 10% of indigenous youngsters in Malaysia have dropped out of school. Pray that God would change views regarding education in the villages and inspire young people to pursue their education.

16 Malaysia

Due to low literacy rates, Open Doors local partners have initiated a reading programme for indigenous children. Praise God for allowing children to learn to read and engage with the Bible.

17 Lebanon

Lebanon has been plundered by poor leadership. Pray that leaders will find Jesus, who is gentle, humble and refreshes their lives.

18 Lebanon

God's Word is spreading through Lebanon. Praise God for the opportunities to share Christ through TV, radio and the Church and for the amazing people working to present topical programmes that bless the viewers.



Give to help persecuted believers own their own Bible

The Word of God remains a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It also gives us peace and comfort when we face life's difficulties. Sadly, not every believer has access to the Bible. There are persecuted believers who still don't own a Bible because it's not easily accessible in their countries because it's illegal or it's available but not in a language they can understand. So when believers receive Bibles, they rejoice upon being gifted their own Bible, and they treasure it like gold.

An Open Doors worker in Africa that helped to distribute Bibles among young people has seen firsthand how precious this Book is and how important it is to make it more accessible so believers can grow in their faith. That is why he's so thankful for your support in helping make Bibles available to believers. *"I thank you for your contribution to spread the Kingdom of God,"* he said.

Scan here:



19 Israel and Palestine

Pray that our projects in this region will follow a heavenly agenda and that it will change lives as the people we encounter deepen their relationships with the Lord.

20 Iraq

Secret believers in remote locations desperately need communion with other believers to know they are not alone. Pray that they would sense God's presence even more keenly when they feel isolated.

21 Libya

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

22 Libya

Pray for perseverance for believers who are struggling to live a normal life after they have become believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

23 Morocco

Laila* found faith in Jesus, but at the cost of losing her husband through divorce. Laila is struggling as a single mother to make ends meet. Pray for financial blessings in Laila's life.

24 Heritage Day

Unlike an earthly heritage that is temporary, our heritage in Christ promises eternal life. Today, as we remember our earthly heritage, let's praise God for our spiritual heritage and invest our lives in service to that heritage.

25 Sri Lanka

Many persecuted believers have been isolated by their communities, and

schoolchildren face persecution at school. Pray that God will strengthen persecuted Christians in Sri Lanka.

26 Yemen

Pray for divine connections between genuine people seeking Christ and Bible-believing online platforms that provide discipleship classes.

27 Jordan

Last year, several Christian men from a Muslim background were interrogated. One was beaten with a metal chair and suffered liver damage. Pray for healing for these men and endurance for Jordanian Christians amid persecution.

28 Palestinian territories

Pray for spiritual mothers and fathers to disciple the small group of Believers from a Muslim Background in the region and for the Holy Spirit to transform their family members' hearts towards them and their faith.

29 Middle East

Some women benefit from the Open Doors discipleship training for women, while others struggle to accept the Bible's teaching on women. Pray for wisdom for the women who teach these courses and those who attend.

30 Nigeria

Nine years after Boko Haram kidnapped over 270 Chibok schoolgirls, 96 remain captive. Continue praying for their safe return and that the girls and their families will not give up trusting in the Lord to deliver them.

*Names changed for security purposes.

OCTOBER

1 Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, Open Doors runs an Adult Literacy Centre to assist rural people in learning to read, write, and engage with the Bible. Praise God that many locals are discovering Christ in this way.

2 Bangladesh

Some Muslims have cautioned students not to attend the literacy classes saying they will “fall into trouble” if they do. Pray for an end to this intimidation and more acceptance of religious diversity.

3 China

China is leading efforts to redefine human rights, emphasising “stability” and “security” over value and dignity. It is a dangerous move toward global authoritarianism, with regimes asserting more power over their people. Pray their plans fail.

4 China

Last year laws about sharing religious content

online were introduced, forcing Christians to be cautious about what they post online. Pray that God will use the restrictions to deepen faith, inspire ingenuity and further spread the Gospel in China.

5 Colombia

Persecution of Christians in Colombia is worsening, owing largely to an upsurge in violence, including killings. Pray the words of Psalm 5:11 over believers: “Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.”

6 Colombia

More persecuted brothers and sisters in Colombia are starting their own companies thanks to workshops led by Open Doors partners. Pray for business ideas and profitable businesses.

7 Mexico

“In this world, we’ll have peace and love. United, always united holding hands, we’ll go out to the world singing to God.” Seventy-seven pastors sang these words at an event hosted by Open Doors partners to assist them in preparing their congregations for



(Mexico continues)

persecution. Pray God strengthens these pastors' ministries.

8 Mexico

"When you respond to persecution appropriately, you can win the community to Christ," says Pastor Lauro Núñez. When he refused to retaliate against his persecutors, they softened towards him. Pray that such testimonies will lead many to Jesus.

9 Nigeria

Nigeria's democracy faces challenges amid severe security challenges, most notably in Northern Nigeria. Pray for a strong government that prioritises the protection of people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or gender.

10 Nigeria

Nigeria has around 100 million Christians, half the population. The Church continues to grow despite persecution. Thank the Lord for His Church. Pray for wisdom to live Christ-honouring lives amid increased discrimination and attack.

11 Democratic Republic of Congo

Since 2014, the Allied Democratic Forces have carried out brutal attacks in eastern DRC. In recent years, these attacks have become more severe and more frequent. Pray for perpetrators to have a radical change of heart.

12 Democratic Republic of Congo

Ninety five percent of the DRC is Christian, yet Christians face regular persecution. Pray that churches will be protected from attack and will remain united.

13 Syria and Turkey

"People of the cross. You were our family, taking care of us." Praise God for the witness of generous Christians in Syria and Turkey, who

are helping people in practical ways.

14 Syria and Turkey

Pray for healing from the trauma and psychological effects of the earthquake. Pray that the Church continues to be a place of hope and relief in the community.

15 Vietnam

In Vietnam, believers can be imprisoned and tortured on false charges. Earlier this year Pastor Phuc died in prison. His family suspect he was beaten. Pray for God's continued comfort over his family as they grieve.

16 Malaysia

There is growing concern in Malaysia about the rise in sexual abuse, particularly directed toward young people. Pray that vulnerable people will be clothed in God's protection.

17 Laos

For "big" church activities, Christians must normally seek a permit from the local government, which is a laborious process. Pray for religious freedom laws to be relaxed so that Christians can celebrate big events.

18 Sri Lanka

Even though Pastor Indunil's church was attacked by Buddhist extremists last year, he praises God for the spiritual growth he has seen after the attack. Praise God for bringing good out of this situation.

19 Sri Lanka

Pastor Indunil's strength has encouraged other Christians to come out of hiding, making the Sri Lankan Church more visible than ever before. Pray that this church will be a beacon of hope in the region.

20 Sri Lanka

Pray that courageous Christians in the

Transform the lives of persecuted believers through socio-economic projects

Being a persecuted believer can be especially challenging in countries where they're not in the majority or where they live in areas where they're the only Christians.

That is why praying for and supporting persecuted believers is so vital. Every prayer and gift helps our family, and God has promised: *"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."* Hebrews 6:10 (ESV)

When believers are cut off from community resources or denied jobs, so they're unable to take care of their families, your support makes a difference. Or when they can't read the Bible because they're not able to read and write, your love is the biggest blessing.

Scan here:



Representative image used.

(Sri Lanka continues)

southern province of Sri Lanka will remain steadfast and continue to share the Gospel with others in their community.

21 Mexico

Pray for pastors in North Mexico, who live in the dangerous context of organised crime every day. Pray that God will protect them as they serve in these dangerous areas.

22 Colombia

Pray that visitors and volunteers' time with the children at the Children's Centre would be edifying for them and the children, and that God will encourage them in their spiritual walk.

23 Mali

It is dangerous to be a Christian in Mali, where believers are targeted by militant groups for their faith. Pray that these Christians will support each other in fellowship.

24 Mali

Mali has a small but active Christian presence. Thank the Lord for the presence of His Church in Mali. Pray for wisdom for pastors as they minister to and lead congregations amid ever-increasing complexities.

25 Mali

Mali faces several economic challenges because of high poverty levels with most people living in remote areas with issues such as a lack of access to water. Pray that the Lord will provide for His children.

26 Burkina Faso

In 2022, Burkina Faso experienced a military coup. It is practically hard to achieve stability amid political turmoil. Pray for wisdom for the government and better political conditions in which people can live safely and productively.

27 Burkina Faso

Fati* is one example of God being at work in the lives of violently persecuted believers. Fati and her family fled their village after a devastating attack by militants. Praise God for this young mother's unwavering faith.

28 Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso remains one of the world's least developed countries. For survival, about 80% of individuals engage in subsistence farming. Pray for adequate rain so that people can eat.

29 Sub-Saharan Africa

Jihadist groups are active in an increasing number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Pray for wisdom for leaders and governments to secure their nations and protect their people against their reign of terror.

30 Nicaragua

Nicaragua is ranked 50 on the World Watch List for the first time, owing to the government's growing hostility toward Christians. Pray for Christians to remain firm in their faith.

31 Nicaragua

The government has arrested several church leaders, seeking to silence opposition to President Daniel Ortega. Pray for the release of church leaders imprisoned for "crimes" against society and the government.

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



OpenDoors

Persecuted  But never alone.