

# OpenDoors **PRAYER CALENDAR**

November–December 2023



# NOVEMBER

## 1 Saudi Arabia

The idea of servant leadership is foreign in Saudi culture and often viewed as a weakness. Pray for church leaders to model biblical leadership and for their attitudes to change when they see the power of servant leadership.

## 2 Nigeria

Violent persecution is especially devastating for young people and puts their future in jeopardy. Pray that the youth affected by persecution in Nigeria would hold firm to their faith and find communities who can encourage their walk with Christ.

## 3 Colombia

Praise God that children at risk of violent persecution are being cared for and nourished in faith at Open Doors' Children's Centre in Colombia. Pray they will continue to grow in faith and be a light in their generation.

## 4 Burkina Faso

Around 5.2 million Christians live in Burkina Faso, 23% of the population. They have contributed to stabilising the country and leading it to independence. Thank the Lord for the presence of the Church in Burkina Faso and for the great contribution they've made.

## 5 Mali

Naomi\* is a Christian in Mali who hasn't been hardened by the violence. "I have to show love even to the worst of my enemies," she says. Praise the Lord for her godly love for her neighbours.

## 6 Cameroon

Boko Haram persistently attacks civilians in the far North region. Pray for more action from authorities to deal with the resulting security challenges.

## 7 Sudan

In Sudan, Christian women who convert from Islam are often forced into marriages and suffer domestic violence. Lift up Christians from a Muslim background and pray that they will know their worth as a child of God.

## 8 Brunei

Young people need safe spaces to meet and share with their mentors. Pray that God would open doors for them to have a place where they can come together to develop their faith and discover God's Word freely.

## 9 Eritrea

Believers are closely monitored, imprisoned, and stigmatised. Pray that attitudes towards them will change and that courageous Christians can speak about why they continue to stand, even when it's tough.

## 10 Central Asia

Praise God that help is being extended to Christian converts from Islam and Muslim refugees who are now able to hear the Gospel. Many have given their lives to Jesus and want to be baptised. Thank God for hope in extremely difficult times.

## 11 Vietnam

Continue to pray for those believers who have been imprisoned on false charges and tortured. Pray that God would give them the strength to endure their imprisonment and that He will be with their families back home.

## 12 China

Lift up the Open Doors partners who continue to work in mainland China. Thank God for their service and pray that their work will help to build the Kingdom of God in that region.

## 13 Malaysia

Continue to pray for young people in Malaysia who are vulnerable to sexual abuse. Pray that the government will take steps to protect young people from this danger.

## 14 Laos

Pray that amid the continued difficulty of obtaining permission for major church events, God will grant Christians in Laos opportunities to come together to worship Him and fellowship.

## 15 Egypt

Egypt is predominantly Muslim, but there are many Christian converts even though

life can be hard for new believers. Pray that these new followers of Jesus Christ will be salt and light in their communities.

## 16 Iraq

Many members of the Iraqi Church have left the country in search of a better life elsewhere. Pray for those who remain in Iraq to maintain fellowship with one another in order to sustain the Church and, in time, for the Church to grow.

## 17 Syria

Pray for families in Syria who lost their homes in the earthquake in February. Through your support, many families still benefit from rent support. Pray that this will continue for as long as they need it.

## 18 Israel and Palestine

Last month, Hamas attacked southern Israel. Pray that God will mightily intervene in the ongoing situation between Israel and



Pray that believers in Egypt will be salt and light in their communities.

(Israel and Palestine continues)

Palestine to establish lasting peace. Pray also for the Church to be the light amid dark times – showing others the love of Christ.

## 19 Central Asia

Thank God for Open Doors children's workers supporting persecuted children in Central Asia. They often hear difficult stories from the children. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom, strength and love to continue their work.

## 20 Yemen

There is a thriving Bible distribution programme in Yemen. Pray that it continues to bear fruit and that more people will have access to the life-changing power of God's Word.

## 21 Brunei

A worrying trend shows divorce cases have risen dramatically in the last year in Brunei. Pray for marriages in this nation and that people will be led to Christ through witnessing Jesus' love modelled in Christian marriages.

## 22 Maldives

There are no churches in the Maldives, so Christians, many of whom are expats, gather in their homes to worship God. Pray for unity among the expat house churches.

## 23 Indonesia

Praise God for the passion of Christians from Muslim backgrounds in Indonesia! They courageously share the Gospel with their loved ones and neighbours. More and more people are getting saved.

## 24 Bangladesh

Thank God for the various programmes delivered by Open Doors' partners in Bangladesh every year. Pray for God to

transform and strengthen young believers through these programmes.

## 25 Vietnam

In remote villages, which are particularly hostile to Christianity, if Christians don't renounce their faith, their access to water is cut off. Pray for perseverance for these believers.

## 26 Laos

In Laos, believers who disobey the local authorities' ban on Christian gatherings and evangelising face eviction from their villages. Pray for God to soften authorities' hearts and more tolerance towards Christians.

## 27 China

Christians can be subject to strict monitoring and surveillance. Pray that God will lift any paranoia and that brothers and sisters will remain deeply connected to Jesus amid these challenges.

## 28 Nepal

Pray for the persecuted believers in Nepal, who tend to be extremely poor. Pray for financial provision and that God will provide for their needs.

## 29 Myanmar

Myanmar is still a country in conflict. Pray that God will protect Christian children in conflict zones and help them heal from trauma.

## 30 North Korea

Few people want to adopt the role of leadership in secret churches, causing leaders of these churches to worry about the future of the churches. Pray that God will raise up courageous leaders.

\*Names changed for security purposes.

# DECEMBER

## 1 Persecuted Christians

As we enter the festive season, think of our persecuted family who face increased persecution during this time. Pray that God will protect them.

## 2 Persecuted Children

Pray for our current campaign for children of the persecuted Church. Pray that we will reach the R570 000 target by Christmas to support the most vulnerable believers, the little ones, in the world.

## 3 Nigeria

Pray for wisdom for the Church in helping young people in Nigeria grow in their faith amid the threat of violence against them.

## 4 Egypt

Many young Christians in Egypt suffer persecution and are discriminated against because of their faith. Pray for their protection and that they will remain steadfast in their faith.

## 5 Iraq

Bishop Mar Chimon Daniel explains the urgent situation of the next generation of Iraqis: "Our existence is threatened. Many of the young people only think of leaving Iraq." Pray for opportunities and hope for Christian youth in Iraq.

## 6 Sri Lanka

A Hindu extremist group known as Hindu Siva Sena frequently disrupts Christian events and forcefully shuts them down. Pray that they will repent from these actions.



Pray for wisdom for the Church in helping young people in Nigeria grow in their faith.

## 7 Syria

A few months ago, 72 young believers attended servant leadership training. Pray that this training will transform their hearts and that they will be mentored to take up leadership roles.

## 8 Yemen

Pray for stability in Yemen and provision and access to shared emergency aid for those living in poverty. Pray that God brings peace and reconciliation to this region.

## 9 Syria

Our local partners could support 5 038 families in Syria who were affected by the earthquake in February thanks to the support of Christians around the world. Praise God for their generosity and its impact.

## 10 Indonesia

Pray that God would lead legislators in Indonesia to create a policy that allows people from all religious backgrounds to enjoy the same freedoms.

## 11 Kyrgyzstan

Believers in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan are ostracised from their communities for their faith. Pray that they will stand firm in their faith and show God's love to the people who hate them.

## 12 Myanmar

Continue to pray for Myanmar and all those affected by the ongoing conflict. Pray for an end to the conflict and for God to be with those who have lost everything due to it.

## 13 Vietnam

By becoming Christians, converts in isolated areas lose their homes and harvests. Pray

that they will hold firm to Jesus despite pressure from their communities.

## 14 Saudi Arabia

Converts face persecution from their families and communities. Pray that God will break the stronghold culture of honour so that Christians are no longer publicly shamed for their faith.

## 15 Iran

Many of Iran's Persian-speaking churches have been forcibly closed. Pray that the state will loosen restrictions and allow more people to hear about Jesus in their native tongue.

## 16 Reconciliation Day

As South Africa commemorates this day, we remember those in our persecuted family who've been disowned by their families for their faith. Pray for their families to know Christ and for them to reconcile.

## 17 Iraq

The financial situation in Iraq is very unstable. Inflation is spiralling. Pray for provision for Iraqi families during this difficult period.

## 18 Sri Lanka

A preacher from a Gampaha District village cried while telling an Open Doors local partner about his hardships. Pray for believers who face persecution in their daily lives within their communities.

## 19 Brunei

There is a growing desire among Christian youth in Brunei to have a deeper relationship with the Lord. Pray for God to raise up mentors and leaders who can nurture this generation.

## 20 Myanmar

Myanmar is a Buddhist country, and sadly, some Buddhist extremists persecute Christians. Pray that all faiths can respect each other's differences and serve one another.

## 21 China

The state is threatened by anything that could disrupt "stability". For the government, this means political and cultural conformity. Pray that the government will see Christians as a positive influence in the country, not disrupters.

## 22 Central Asia

In Central Asia, underground church meetings are often disrupted by authorities and participants are fined. Pray that Christians will be able to meet freely and safely.

## 23 Saudi Arabia

Believers in Saudi Arabia are restricted in the ways they can meet and worship. Pray that when they do gather, their time together is rich in fellowship, worship and the presence of God.

## 24 Egypt

Pray that God will reveal Himself to radical Muslims and extremist groups. May God break their chains and open their eyes to the way, the truth and the life.

## 25 Christmas Day

As Christians worldwide commemorate Jesus' birth, think of our persecuted family who can't because it's dangerous. Pray that in their homes, they can honour Jesus' sacrifice for us.

## 26 Day of Goodwill

Let's remember our afflicted family while visiting loved ones today. Pray that God will transform their persecutors hearts to show them goodwill despite their differences in beliefs.

## 27 Malaysia

Pray that Malaysian Christians will be salt and light in their communities and among their family and friends. Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with those who still haven't heard the Good News.

## 28 Iraq

Praise God for Sermad's upholstery business that he started with a loan from a Centre of Hope. Thank God that he is now able to provide for his wife and two young children.

## 29 Brunei

There are few Christian churches in Brunei. Sadly, the Christian community struggles with disunity among the different denominations. Pray for wisdom for church leaders in fostering unity.

## 30 Indonesia

Pray that the lives of Christians in Indonesia will be a testimony to others. Pray for God's protection over them and for resilience in times of hardship.

## 31 Vietnam

Pray that God will protect Christians in Vietnam and use their testimony as a powerful witness among their neighbours.

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



# All they want this Christmas is a **gift of a safer childhood**

Children around the world are deprived of basic rights  
**just because they are Christian.**


Your Christmas gift can give urgent aid and a more secure future to a persecuted child:

Every **R180** could help give trauma counselling to a **persecuted Christian child**, offering hope and healing.

Every **R380** could support **one family** affected by violent persecution with much-needed emergency food and aid.

Every **R1 320** could give a month's education to **ten children** impacted by persecution, helping them have a brighter future.

Visit [www.opendoors.org.za](http://www.opendoors.org.za) for more info.

 **OpenDoors**