

# PRAYER CALENDAR

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September 2024



“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”

ISAIAH 58:6

# SEPTEMBER

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

### Sunday, 1 September

Pray for African countries where Christians are targeted by extremists for their faith in Jesus. The violent situation continues to grow, increasing insecurity at an alarming rate. Our brothers and sisters are calling us to pray.

### Monday, 2 September

Throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Christians are victims of attacks on their lives and villages. Pray that God would raise up desperately needed qualified trauma care workers to work with survivors.

### Tuesday, 3 September

Pray with Mafulul, a Nigerian believer who lost his wife in an extremist attack. His experience at our trauma centre underscores the dire need for more trauma workers: *"In the few days that I have spent here, I am healing inside,"* he says.

### Wednesday, 4 September

After a brutal attack in Nigeria, Pastor Elisha learned to forgive his enemies in Open Doors trauma care. *"Honestly, when I forgave, I felt happy,"* he shared. *"I also started praying for their repentance."* Pray for our trauma centre.

### Thursday, 5 September

Pray that extremists will have encounters with Jesus. Pray for Saul-to-Paul experiences. *Lord, as Jesus commanded us to do, we pray for those who persecute* (Matt. 5:44).

### Friday, 6 September

Against a backdrop of fear and insecurity, Christian families often find it difficult to work their farms. Please pray for the Lord's provision. Pray for alternative, sustainable ways to provide for their families.

### Saturday, 7 September

Our family in the Democratic Republic of Congo are asking us to pray after a violent killing spree that claimed at least 80 Christians. Several were killed working in their fields. *"This is a persecution of a great level,"* a local DRC

*Praying women in IDP camp in Nigeria's Benue State.*



pastor shared. *“We ask all Christians to intercede.”*

### **Sunday, 8 September**

Pray with families who have lost loved ones to extremist violence. Pray for widowed mothers, specifically for encouragement and provision as they care for their children and home without their husbands.

### **Monday, 9 September**

By the end of 2022, a staggering 16.2 million Christians across sub-Saharan Africa had been forcibly displaced from their homes due to attacks and insecurity. Please pray for the Lord’s strength, provision and hope.

### **Tuesday, 10 September**

Often, Internally Displaced Persons camps are overcrowded, with poor hygiene conditions and little access to food. Pray the camps would be places of safety and unity. Ask God to protect His people from sickness.

### **Wednesday, 11 September**

Pray with our brother Jerome\* who lives with his family in an IDP camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They fled when extremists killed his son. *“The situation is very bad,”* he says. *“If life goes on like this...it’s hard to live.”*

### **Thursday, 12 September**

Pastor Barnabas (pictured on the cover) pastors thousands of Christians in one of northern Nigeria’s many IDP camps. He and his family were attacked by Fulani



militants. Pray for Barnabas’ ministry and perseverance.

### **Friday, 13 September**

Believers face danger every day in the camp – but Pastor Barnabas remains confident in God’s goodness and His provision. Ask God to answer his prayer for restoration.

### **Saturday, 14 September**

Abraham is chairman of a displacement camp in northern Nigeria. His family of five has been there for three years, ever since Fulani militants devastated their village. Ask the Holy Spirit to sustain Abraham as he leads with purpose.

### **Sunday, 15 September**

*“I do believe that we are displaced, but Jesus is not and will never be displaced from our lives. He is always with us,”* says Pastor Soré. His family fled their homes in Burkina Faso. He asks us to pray for all Burkinabe believers to stand firm.

### **Monday, 16 September**

Pray for the children in IDP camps. Pray they will grow in their faith. And pray that God would provide resources to

return to school. *God, we ask You to protect the innocence and dreams of persecution's youngest victims.*

### **Tuesday, 17 September**

Pray with Senou\* and Combar\*, two 13-year-old girls in Burkina Faso who fled with their families when extremists attacked their villages. Both had to drop out of school, but thanks to your support, they received the funds to return.

### **Wednesday, 18 September**

Pray that our persecuted family in IDP camps would be able to safely return to their homes and rebuild their lives and communities. Pray for protection from further attacks and an end to the violence.

### **Thursday, 19 September**

Pray for all those caring for the displaced ... that they would find the physical and emotional strength to continue this work.

### **Friday, 20 September**

Pray for Open Doors' local partners as they come alongside persecuted believers, even as they, too, face the same conditions and risks. Ask God to strengthen their faith and

emotional health, equipping and guiding them.

### **Saturday, 21 September**

Pray that national and local authorities in each region's IDP camps will be provoked and equipped to improve living conditions in the camps and provide food for those who are displaced.

### **Sunday, 22 September**

Praise God today for every church leader in Africa who has faithfully discipled the local church. Pastors ask us to pray for wisdom and perseverance and that their work will bear fruit.

### **Monday, 23 September**

Throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Christian women and girls face high risks of abduction during extremist raids. Pray that God would cover them with His wings (Psalm 91:4).

### **Tuesday, 24 September**

Christian boys in Africa can be targeted for killing by extremists. The recruitment of child soldiers – often forcibly – is a common issue. Boys can also be abducted for forced labour or trafficked. Ask the Lord to intervene.

*Woman inside Nigerian IDP camp.*





### **Wednesday, 25 September**

Pray for all those in captivity for their faith. Ask God to provide daily and that they would feel His peace: *“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 4:7).

### **Thursday, 26 September**

Pray for families awaiting the return of their captured loved ones. As they continue to trust God, pray they would be salt and light to their community.

### **Friday, 27 September**

Pray that Christian communities will proactively care for released captives, especially our sisters. Pray that each survivor will know they are seen by God and deeply loved.

### **Saturday, 28 September**

Pray that national government leaders and other global decision-makers would

recognise and address the worsening crisis of violence across sub-Saharan Africa. Pray for leaders’ compassion and conviction to respond urgently.

### **Sunday, 29 September**

Pray that God would snuff out the threat of Islamic extremism in sub-Saharan Africa. Pray Psalm 12:5’s promise: *“Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,”* says the LORD. *“I will protect them from those who malign them.”*

### **Monday, 30 September**

Pray that the worldwide Church would be ever-vigilant in prayer. God’s help is on the way – and the Church in Africa is rising to meet Him: *Father, awaken us! Just as our African family are so resilient and expectant in their faith, may we be as equally committed to praying with them.*



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