



PRAYER CALENDAR

May 2026



“Wake up! Strengthen what remains
and is about to die.”

REVELATION 3:2



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Open Doors Southern Africa

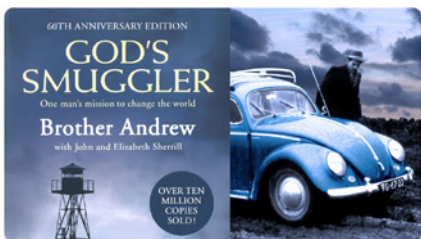
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7 Days

Time of Lament - Persecuted Christians...



9 Days

Arise Africa Devotional

MAY

MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA

Friday, 1 May

In Syria, violence continues to erupt in waves, and often Christians are caught in the crossfire, even targeted. Pray for much-needed peace and stability and for solutions to resolve tensions.

Saturday, 2 May

The new President of Syria, Ahmed al-Sharaa, has promised reforms that would offer greater inclusivity and reconciliation. Pray for him for both wisdom and strength to deliver on this promise.

Sunday, 3 May

Elias*, a Syrian brother (pictured with his family on the cover), lost seven family members in last year's church bombing in Damascus. He

shares: "We ask you to pray that we can resist every enemy, seen or unseen, and every thought that keeps us from glorifying God."

Monday, 4 May

There is real fear of increased Islamic radicalisation in parts of Syrian society. Pray that the Lord would cast out all fear, and that God would draw potential extremists to Him instead.

Tuesday, 5 May

Elias' wife Hanan* asks: "Pray for us to feel safe, to see our children growing up, and to be happy here. We need to live a beautiful life, not a life of fear."

Wednesday, 6 May

Christian leaders don't seek to be shielded as a religious minority, but hope to stand as equal participants in their country's future. Ask God to turn this hope into a reality.

"Pray for us to feel safe, to see our children growing up, and to be happy here."

– CHURCH BOMBING SURVIVOR HANAN, SYRIA

Yemeni church planter Zaid.



Thursday, 7 May

Dozens of Christians in Syria recently started or expanded their small businesses with a microloan from Open Doors' local partner. Pray their businesses will flourish and grow their community.

YEMEN

Friday, 8 May

In the wake of a government crackdown on Yemeni Christians, many believers were detained, arrested and even imprisoned. Pray for strength for those facing interrogations, imprisonment or family pressures for their faith.

Saturday, 9 May

Pray with Zaid*, a Christian university student in Yemen. He has started a local church and has a vision to plant 40 000 house churches nationwide. Pray for wisdom and protection as he sets out to "live like Paul," he says.

Sunday, 10 May

Pray for Christian mothers in Yemen and throughout the world who take great risks to raise their children to know Jesus and follow Him. Pray they will find favor with their family and community.

Monday, 11 May

Pray for wisdom, insight and discernment for church leaders in Yemen. People sometimes act like they are Christians, looking to blackmail or extort the church for money. Ask God to pour out His Holy Spirit over their churches and ministries.

Tuesday, 12 May

An underground church network in Yemen asks: "Pray for our social media ministry and for the team working hard to make this all happen. Pray for strength, protection, wisdom and creativity."

Wednesday, 13 May

Another network in Yemen shares: "Pray for unity in the church that the Lord would bind our hearts in sincere love with fellow believers. Ask God to grant our church wisdom and courage to work together."

Thursday, 14 May

Today is Leah Sharibu's 22nd birthday. Since Islamist militants kidnapped her with 100-plus other schoolgirls in Nigeria, we've been praying for her return. When the other girls were released, Leah was held back because she refused to deny Christ. Pray with her family today.

Friday, 15 May

Pray for encouragement and hope for Yemeni believers who have chosen to remain in their land amid intense scrutiny and persecution. Pray they will clearly see the hand of the Lord at work in their lives.

IRAQ

Saturday, 16 May

In Iraq, choosing to follow Jesus can mean losing your job and facing long-term unemployment. Ask God to open doors for jobs in safe workplaces.

Sunday, 17 May

Iraqi pastors who work with converts face great risk for their ministry. One pastor shared: “Please pray for my family and me, that God will strengthen our faith to persevere.”

Monday, 18 May

Pray for Luay, 41, who received a microloan from Open Doors’ local partner. With it, he purchased new appliances for his shop. He asks us to pray that God will grow his business so he can employ more people.

Tuesday, 19 May

Pray that the church of converts from a Muslim background will continue to grow in Iraq – both in places where a secret church is already there and where Christians have no others to meet with and grow.

Wednesday, 20 May

Praise God for the blessing of rain this winter in Iraq after so many dry seasons. For many Iraqi people, including generations of Christians, farming is their livelihood.

Thursday, 21 May

Pray with an Iraqi church leader for Christian youth. “Young people are distracted by things that pull them away from faith,” he says. “Ask the Lord to guide them back to the truth.”

Friday, 22 May

Another church leader, Ayat*, faces health challenges and asked us to pray for healing. “Please also

pray that the Lord would strengthen me, renew my strength and give me grace to continue serving Christ.”

IRAN

Saturday, 23 May

Pray with the underground Church in Iran as they respond to the ongoing grief and confusion after more than an estimated 38 000 people were killed nationwide in this year’s deadly protests.

Sunday, 24 May

Ziba*, an Iranian Christian, shares: “We want to bring truth and hope to our nation ... Please pray that God shows us how to love our community with the hope of Jesus.”

Monday, 25 May

Pray by name today for Ghazal Marzban, a Christian convert in Iran. She is one of a rising number of religious minorities who have been rearrested. Ask God to be ever-close to our sister.

Tuesday, 26 May

Pray with Maryam*, a Christian woman serving the underground Church in Iran. “Please pray for our people. What they have seen with their own eyes and heard with their own ears has deeply affected them.”

**"Pray for me
and my family,
that God will
strengthen our
faith to persevere."**

– IRAQI PASTOR



Wednesday, 27 May

Pray for those who serve Christians inside Iran – also affected by what they hear and carry. Ask the Lord to protect them and give them discernment and wisdom to know how to pray and comfort leaders.

Thursday, 28 May

Iranian Christian Majid* asks for prayer for his parents and brother. His brother was kept in prison and beaten during the protests. Pray for healing and resilience.

Friday, 29 May

Pray with 20-something Setareh*, who leads small discipleship groups in

Iran. “Pray that God brings a partner into my life – someone who shares His vision and calling.”

Saturday, 30 May

Pray for Iranians, especially young people, who are seeking purpose and direction. Ask God to place people in their paths to guide them to Him.

Sunday, 31 May

Pray with Iranian Christians imprisoned for their faith. *Heavenly Father, as we remember our family in prison (Hebrews 13:3), flood their cells with Your presence.*

**Names changed for security reasons.*



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