

Open Doors

Prayer Calendar

February 2010



China



1. Pray for the distribution of materials in the sensitive border areas of western China. Due to ongoing crackdowns on occasional ethnic unrest, all activities in the area are closely monitored. Pray especially for the Christians, and particularly for those from a Muslim Background who are cut off from fellowship with other believers that they will not lose heart, but experience the presence and encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

Bhutan

2. Because of illiteracy, many female believers in the rural districts of Bhutan are limited in their involvement in church ministry. Although they bring their Bibles to the worship services, they cannot read the Word of God. Please pray for them to have the opportunity to acquire literacy skills.
3. Some women experience pressure from their non-Christian husbands who sometimes prohibit them to attend church gatherings and other activities. Uphold them in prayer and ask the Lord to open doors for them to share their faith with their unbelieving husbands.

Indonesia

4. Dani* and his wife Tia* are Believers from a Muslim Background. They are pressured by family members and neighbours to forsake their faith. Once, a relative threatened to kill Dani and his son, therefore, pray for God's constant protection and grace for this family.

[*Alias]

Laos

5. A house church was demolished in an undisclosed village in Laos last year. The believers were threatened and received insults from the local authorities; so pray especially for the pastor of this house church to find strength and peace in God during this difficult time for him and his church.

Maldives

6. Many Maldivians have lost their jobs because of a sharp decline in the number of tourists visiting the country. Desperation often drives people to seek God with all their heart, therefore, especially pray that they will find Him.

7. God's workers in Maldives sacrifice many things in obedience to His calling. Pray for them to persevere in their commitment and for the Lord to bless the work of their hands. Also, pray for them to quickly learn the language and for His favour to accompany them in their dealings with the Maldivians.

Myanmar

8. It is difficult for believers to obtain medical help because of their faith in Christ. Doctors are often reluctant to give prescriptions and render their services to Christians for fear that they might face repercussions from the government. Please pray for these Christians to get the medical attention they need.

Nepal

9. Nepal is known for its religious homogeneity, especially between Hindu and Buddhist communities. Let us pray for this to be an opportunity for Christians, a minority group in Nepal, to showcase their faith both in words and actions.

Southern Philippines

10. We support a couple from a Muslim Background who minister to a Muslim tribe, known to be very hostile towards Christians. Ask the Lord to protect them and to bless the work of their hands. Also ask for provision for their family and ministry needs.
11. Jonah*, a 65-year-old pastor, was confronted thrice by Muslim religious leaders. Despite threats on his life, he decided to stay in the area and continue his ministry. Please remember to pray for him and his family's safety. Pray that his distraught church members will experience God's peace and protection. [*Alias]

Vietnam

12. Sheer excitement covered the faces of the Vietnamese children as they received their copies of the Vietnamese Illustrated Children's Bible from us. "I saw one girl cover the Bible with her jacket under the rain as she went home," reported one church worker. Pray for the Lord to continue revealing Himself to the Vietnamese children through the Bibles they received.
13. Church workers testified of parents becoming more open to the Gospel, because of the transformation they saw in their children's behaviour after attending one of the children's camps that Open Doors supported. Praise God for what He is doing.

Ethiopia

14. During July 2009, Muslims attacked some church leaders in Weyo village, Oromia State in Ethiopia. Two of the church leaders, one known only as Daniel, have sustained wounds and bone fractures as a result of the attacks. Daniel's only means of income is through his subsistence farming and in order to cover his medical expenses, he had to put his farm out to lease. Please pray for Daniel's recovery as he continues to visit the doctor in Addis Ababa. Also pray for Daniel's wife who is generating a meagre income by selling small items. Pray for God's provision and for His protection on their lives.
15. Among those attacked by Muslims in July 2009, was a six-month pregnant woman who tried

to protect her husband. She survived the attack, but sadly their baby did not; so please pray for this couple as they mourn the loss of their unborn child. Since the attack, the husband has recovered to some extent, but his wife is still traumatised. Pray that God will give her strength and consolation and that they will trust God in everything.

Cameroon

16. Coulibaly, Miriam's husband is a Muslim who wants to divorce her if she refuses to renounce her Christian faith and become a Muslim. Pray for Miriam to be sensitive to God's guidance as she contemplates her options and for God's intervention in this tense situation.

Kyrgyzstan

17. A proposed new law on religious education is being discussed in Kyrgyzstan. If it is adopted in its current form, it would impose many restrictions and control religious education and training. Christian leaders are concerned that religious freedom in their country will be further limited. Please pray that the present measure of freedom in Kyrgyzstan may continue.

North Caucasus

18. The people of Russia's North Caucasus region experience a lot of violence. A week does not go by in Ingushetia without civilians being killed and maimed in terror attacks and assassinations. The churches in this region are generally quite small and vulnerable. Please pray for Christians in this volatile area that they may experience God's protection and encouragement, so that they will be strengthened to share the Gospel with many who have never had the opportunity to hear it. Pray that God will reveal Himself to many Muslims in this region, either directly through dreams and visions, or through Christian radio and television programmes, Scriptures and Christian literature.

Central Asia

19. Please pray for the people who are involved in the production and distribution of Scriptures and Christian materials. Ismail* and his wife were busy preparing audio/video materials for the church, but the police interrogated them and asked them to sign a paper saying that they would stop visiting Christians and spreading the Gospel. When they refused to do so, their case was sent to the prosecutor's office. The family was threatened with physical violence, so please pray for their protection. [*Alias]

Uzbekistan

20. During the past few months many raids on Christian homes have taken place. Christian materials have been confiscated and Christians were given large fines. The TV programme "In the Clutches of Ignorance" which sheds a very negative light on Christians, was broadcast frequently. However, the number of Christians is starting to grow and people are reaching out again. One of the pastors in the country pleads, "Please pray for our country to stand strong through the storm."



Arabian Peninsula

21. Family ties are very strong and important among Arabs, which means seekers and new believers are expelled or pressured to return to Islam due to these tight relationships. Pray that God will use these family relations for the benefit of spreading the Gospel and that He will draw many families to Himself.

Mauritania

22. Praise the Lord for the faithfulness of the often young believers. Believers sometimes are summoned by the police and questioned about their activities, so pray for wisdom and that the Lord will keep the believers and their families safe.

Israel and Palestinian areas

23. The 11th Lech L'cha discipleship training is taking place up until the end of March. A group of young Israeli believers recently finished their military service, and they are taking a three months period of retreat to study the Bible and to seek God's will for their future. Please remember them in your prayers and the staff members who are taking care of them.

Morocco

24. Pray for believers in Morocco who have come to faith through radio and television. Ask that the Lord will bring them into contact with other believers and that they may receive their own copy of the Bible or New Testament.

Iraq

25. Please pray for protection of the growing churches. Pray for the new believers from a non-Christian background; especially when opposition increases. Pray that the Church will stand strong and that the relatively young churches will grow firm in unity, fellowship and true Christian love for one another.



Lebanon

26. Pray for the many refugees and displaced people in this country and for the role that the churches play. Ask God that the message of the Gospel will continue to be relevant and made practical.

Syria

27. Pray for believers whose hearts have been filled with a deep love for the non-Christians. Recently a Church leader said: "I just cannot stop loving the 'others'. My heart is filled with love for them. I'll keep testifying to them wherever I go." Remember these loving believers.

India

28. Pray for the youth of Orissa who were badly affected during the violence against the Christians in Orissa in August 2008. Please pray that they may find strength and encouragement in their spiritual life and learn to respond to such situations in a Christlike manner.