

Wednesday 1 | Morocco – Pray that Christians will be given opportunity and ingenuity as they seek to share their faith despite the dangers.

Thursday 2 | Central Asia – Goelia\* came to faith and started attending church secretly. Recently, her husband found out about her conversion, and ever since, he has been constantly beating her and demanding that she renounce her faith in Jesus. Their two children have moved in with another Christian family because the husband is trying to take them away from her. The situation was so critical that she urgently needed to be transferred to a safe house. Let us pray for Goelia and her children that they would be kept safe.

Friday 3 | Laos – Pray for Christians and church leaders who are heavily monitored by the communist government. Ask God to give them wisdom and courage.

Saturday 4 | Türkiye – Although conversion from Islam to Christianity is not legally forbidden, anyone who is not a Muslim, or who converts to a different faith, is seen as a disloyal Turk. Pray that Christians will be seen as valued members of Turkish society, rather than a threat.

Sunday 5 | North Korea – Sun-Ae<sup>\*</sup>, a woman in an Open Doors safe house, requests prayer for her sisters in North Korea. She hasn't heard from them in months. Pray for peace and protection. Monday 6 I Indonesia – Though Christians worship freely in some parts of Indonesia, in others, believers can be forced into the shadows. Ask God to protect these secret communities of Christians.

**Tuesday 7 | Colombia –** Church leaders continue to be harassed, extorted and murdered due to the violence around control of territories between armed guerillas, drug gangs and other armed groups. Ask God to protect church leaders and help them to serve Him, despite the danger.

Wednesday 8 | Nigeria – In Nigeria, a Christian dies every two hours, on average. Pray that God would "protect the paths of justice and guard the way of those who are loyal to Him" (Prov. 2:8).

Thursday 9 I Turkmenistan – Christians who come from a Muslim background bear the brunt of persecution, not just from the authorities, but from their family, friends and the local community. Men can experience beatings, threats, disinheritance and boycotting of businesses, while women can face house arrest, forced marriage, verbal abuse, threats, social rejection and sexual assault. Pray that God would protect and sustain Christian converts from Islam.

**Friday 10 | Qatar –** Most Christians in Qatar are expatriate believers. They tend to be migrant workers and enjoy a degree of religious freedom. Praise God that expatriate Christians in Qatar can worship in relative freedom. Pray that they will be able to reach out to Qataris.

**Saturday 11 | Bhutan** – Pray for Christians from a Buddhist background. Ask God to protect them from pressure, discrimination and persecution.



Sunday 12 | Bangladesh – In Bangladesh, converts to Christianity from various religious backgrounds face the most severe restrictions, discrimination and attacks. Pray for healing for Christians who have been attacked or physically abused for their faith.

Monday 13 | Central Asia – Saria\* accepted Christ about a year ago, although no one in her family knew. Afraid of the consequences, she kept her faith secret. She was recently baptized and shared this with her unbelieving husband, family, and friends. Her husband and children started to haunt and pressure her, by demanding to renounce her faith in Jesus. They threw away her Bible and Christian books in the trash and burned them. The pastor, who baptized her, has lost contact with her. Please pray for Saria's safety in this very difficult situation. Pray for contact again, so that the local church can help and support her.

**Tuesday 14 | Laos –** In southern Laos, police tried to stop construction on a building for a growing house church. Pray for church leaders' wisdom as they navigate opposition.

Wednesday 15 | Myanmar – Pray with Cho\*, an Open Doors partner who often travels 10 to 12 hours to serve believers. Pray for protection and perseverance. "Your prayers are our protection," Cho says. "Prayers back us up and push us during the journey." Pray that Brother Cho will remain resilient and full of faith.

Thursday 16 | Nicaragua – Hostility toward Christians in Nicaragua continues to intensify, with those who speak out against President Ortega and his government viewed as destabilizing agents. Ask God to soften the hearts of President Ortega and his government and cause them to stop targeting Christians.

Friday 17 | Iran – Mahnaz\* is an Iranian Christian woman who is currently a refugee in a neighbouring country. Last month, Mahnaz was given some financial support for a surgery she must undergo. Mahnaz shares, "My leg needs urgent surgery, I tried so much to find a job and save money for it, but no one was willing to hire a foreigner who cannot walk properly. The gift I received was a miracle! I am grateful to all the people who supported me. Please continue praying that God would heal me through this surgery." Saturday 18 | Uzbekistan – Baptist, Evangelical and Pentecostal groups are particularly prone to police raids, threats, arrests and fines; in fact, they are likely to be viewed as "extremists" by the government. Pray that Christians who have been victims of police raids will have the courage to continue to worship together.

Sunday 19 | Ethiopia – The most overt forms of persecution happen in areas dominated by Islam. In these regions, converts to Christianity can face social ostracism and church attacks by Islamic militants. Families and communities may pressure converts and use violence against them to recant and return to Islam. Pray for these converts from Islam to remain strong in their new faith.

Monday 20 | China – Jiang\*, Fei\* and Zhen\* were arrested last year, and our partners are unsure of their whereabouts. Recently, Jiang's wife posted an open letter online sharing how his arrest has devastated their family. Pray for the emotional state of Jiang's wife that she would know the Church is praying for her.

Tuesday 21 | Democratic Republic of Congo - On January 30, militants from the Islamic extremist group Allied Democratic Forces attacked a church, killing several, including the pastor, his wife and their children. Pray that God's Spirit will bind up the brokenhearted, those crushed in spirit, that He will be a comfort to the mourning. May He alone be their 'rock and refuge in whom they find protection. Their shield, and the power that saves them'. (Psalm 18:2)

Wednesday 22 | Nigeria – Pray for our family in Mangu Local Government Area (LGA) who suffered a nearly daily wave of jihadist violence at this time last year. Pray for the loved ones of the 300 Christians killed in the LGA attacks. Many remain in internal displacement camps.

Thursday 23 | The Gulf – Pray for the ministry in ALIVE literacy centres that helps people learn to read and write and spend time in God's Word. Pray for resilience for ALIVE teachers who are targeted and threatened to stay away from those working for area drug lords.

Friday 24 | Central Asia – Ahmad\* grew up in a Muslim family and two years ago gave his life to Christ. Praise God for Ahmad's courage to trust Jesus! Ahmad asks: "Pray that God would work through me to touch the hearts of my relatives, friends and neighbours."

Saturday 25 | Iran – Pray with four Iranian Christians who were arrested in a raid on a house-church gathering. Pray for safe and expedient release. One of the believers arrested is a refugee from Afghanistan. Pray that God would bring comfort in unexpected ways to this believer far from home.

Sunday 26 | Maldives – This island nation declares itself to be 100% Muslim. Anyone who leaves Islam must keep their faith secret. Pray that Christians in the Maldives will be encouraged, knowing they're part of a global, praying family. Pray also that this would be the year that secret believers can access the Bible in their own language.

Monday 27 | Bangladesh – Pray for strength for brother Rahman\*, an ex-Iman. Since trusting Christ, he has lost his job at the mosque and is struggling to survive. Pray fervently for food on their table.

Tuesday 28 | Tunisia – Pray that isolated converts will be connected to other believers and draw comfort from knowing they have a family in the church.

Wednesday 29 | Cuba – The church in Cuba is growing, despite the severe restrictions. Ask God to protect and strengthen church leaders in Cuba from harassment or pressure from the government.

Thursday 30 | Southeast Asia – Let us pray for God's protection over young Nina, who is in secondary school, who shares the gospel with her school friends. Praise God because her friends have even come to her for pravers even though she is from a different religion. Nina's father is one of our local partners. He trusts that Nina is led by the Holy Spirit. As a parent, he is also concerned for her safety. Please keep her in your prayers, as well as other Christian children like her who are boldly living out their faith.

Friday 31 | North Korea – In North Korea, the law is not for the people, but for the ruling Kim family. Pray for justice for North Koreans, especially secret Christians who must hide their faith. Pray that they would not lose hope in Jesus.

\*Names changed for security reasons.



## **Open***Doors*<sup>•</sup>

STRENGTHENING CHRISTIANS WHERE FAITH COSTS THE MOST

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