

"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

Luke 2:10

Sunday 1 | **Burkina Faso** – Twelve-year-old Aicha, pictured on the cover, is holding a paper angel in Burkina Faso. Already, she has suffered for following Jesus. Pray with her as she looks forward to Christmas. "The main message of Christmas is that Jesus is the Son of God," she says.

Monday 2 | **North Korea** – As winter approaches, pray that God will sustain the 50,000 to 70,000 North Korean Christians imprisoned in political prison camps. Winter brings freezing temperatures, forced labour in unheated factories and rations that are never enough.

Tuesday 3 | **Bhutan** – In Bhutan, many Christian communities are located near temples and monasteries. During the Christmas season, residents often complain about church music. Pray that house churches can celebrate Christmas without disruption.

Wednesday 4 | **Myanmar** – Pray for James, a young boy in the third grade who has been bullied at school by both classmates and teachers because he is a Christian. Ask God to be a strong tower for him and his mother (Proverbs 18:10).

Thursday 5 | **Mexico** – Pray for believers in Indigenous communities in Mexico who experience social exclusion, discrimination or pressure for choosing to follow Christ.

Friday 6 | **India** – Pray for Christians all over India as they prepare and look forward to celebrating the season. Last year, there were large-scale disruptions by extremists. Pray for protection and peace.

Saturday 7 | **Myanmar** – In Myanmar, churches must obtain permission from local authorities for Christmas celebrations. In many areas, that can be difficult. Pray for God's favour and protection.

Sunday 8 | **Iraq –** Pray with Iraqi families to know how to deal with the struggles they face. God, we pray with our brothers and sisters for Your strength to reflect the light of Christ this Christmas.

Monday 9 | **China** – In parts of China, some schools forbid students from celebrating Christmas, claiming it doesn't align with Chinese traditions. Pray that God will make a way for Christian students.

Tuesday 10 | **Southeast Asia –** Pray for Muslim background believers who are currently in court seeking to legally renounce Islam, wanting to be free from its legal bonds. In this country, leaving Islam is not easy; believers must go through lengthy legal processes just to change their religious status. Pray for wisdom, strength, and perseverance as they walk this difficult journey.

Wednesday 11 | **India** – Pray for the Christian community. Employers are increasingly denying time off on Sundays for many Christian workers and are even preventing them from taking leave for Christmas. Pray for the opportunity to celebrate with families and loved ones.

Thursday 12 | **Sri Lanka** – Pastor Vikum leads a church in a village that is a Buddhist stronghold. However, amid challenges and opposition, he manages to hold a Christmas program for believers and local children in the village. Pray that this year's program will be a blessing, opening doors for new believers to accept the gospel.

Friday 13 | **North Korea** – North Korean refugees have lost a vital lifeline. "There is no safe messaging app here," one refugee said. Pray that God will bring them encouragement in creative ways.

Saturday 14 | **Arise Africa Petition** – Today marks the first hand-in of the Arise Africa petition to governments and organizations worldwide. Pray that God would use this petition to move leaders to action and prayer.

Sunday 15 | **Mexico –** Our field team asks us to pray for wisdom and courage for pastors, leaders and advocacy teams as they accompany vulnerable communities and work to defend freedom of religion and belief.

Monday 16 | **Myanmar** – When villagers noticed that Daw Pyu Pyu, a woman in her 50s, regularly left her home every Sunday to attend church, they insulted and rejected her. Pray with her as she prays to be a faithful witness.

Tuesday 17 | **Bhutan** – Pray for unity among Christian communities and church leaders. Also, pray for the advancement of evangelism in the unreached areas of Bhutan.

Wednesday 18 | **India** – Every act of goodwill carried out by Christians during Christmas is often viewed with suspicion. Pray that as Christians show generosity, Christ's love will be clearly revealed.

Thursday 19 | **Central Asia** – Pray with young Zhenyah in Central Asia. She shared her gratitude for her Christmas gifts and a specific request: "I want to say to the people, "Thank you. Pray for me, that I will get good grades."

Friday 20 | **Colombia** – On World Children's Day, we remember Christian children and adolescents in Colombia who are growing up amid violence, armed conflict, displacement, and uncertainty. Pray that God would protect and strengthen those who face fear, instability, or pressure because of their faith and circumstances.

Saturday 21 | **North Korea** – Christian parents in North Korea can't share their faith with their children. Some wait years before their child can be trusted with the truth. Pray for discernment to know when to speak.

Sunday 22 | **Israel** – In Israel, hundreds of Messianic congregations will celebrate Christmas. Pray that more people will meet Jesus in powerful ways, recognizing Him as the Messiah.

Monday 23 | **Vietnam** – In rural Vietnam, Christians are often seen as traitors for their decision to leave the tribes' beliefs and follow Jesus. Pray for families who are facing threats to their lives and livelihood.

Tuesday 24 | **Nepal –** Extremists disrupted Pastor Padam's Christmas service in Nepal last year, assaulting him and his wife. Pray for these families as they look toward another service. Ask God to ease their minds and bring peace. Pastor Padam's ministry vision remains unchanged: "There are many places where the gospel has never been preached," he says. "My dream is to bring the message of Christ so that people can know the true God."

Wednesday 25 | **Iraq** – Pray that Christmas services in Iraq would bring renewed faith, comfort and unity to congregations, especially as churches organize celebrations and support vulnerable families.

Thursday 26 | **Mexico** – Mexico is both a place of origin and a pathway for many migrants seeking safety, opportunity or refuge. Pray for migrants and their families, especially those fleeing persecution.

Friday 27 | **Sri Lanka** – Serving the Lord in a Buddhist stronghold in Eastern Sri Lanka, Pastor Sumedha* works among indigenous families. Many have accepted the Lord through his ministry, but over the years, he has faced constant trouble from monks, villagers, and police officers.

Saturday 28 | **Latin America** – As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us pray that the true meaning of Christmas would shine brightly across Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia, and Venezuela. May people encounter Christ who brings forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, and eternal hope. Pray for believers living in contexts of violence, displacement, economic hardship, restrictions on religious freedom, or social pressure because of their faith.

Sunday 29 | **Iraq** – An Iraqi child shared her Christmas prayer: "I hope that all Christian children in Iraq can feel safe and can go to church without fear or worry," she says. Pray with her today.

Monday 30 | **Laos** – For Christians in Laos, Christmas is a deeply meaningful time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Today, as Advent begins, pray with families in underground churches who must worship in secret. Pray that Christmas is a time of deep encouragement.

*Names changed for security reasons.



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