

# PRAYER VIGIL

International Day of Prayer  
for the Persecuted Church

Saturday 15 November

You're warmly invited to join us in prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters on Saturday 15 November for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP).

This year, we're hosting a 12-hour prayer vigil, in-person, at our office in Witney, Oxfordshire. There will be eight different themes to help shape and direct your prayers throughout the day, including the World Watch List Top 10, Persecuted Women and *Arise Africa*. You can come for the whole 12 hours, or drop in and out as you wish.

\*Names changed for security reasons

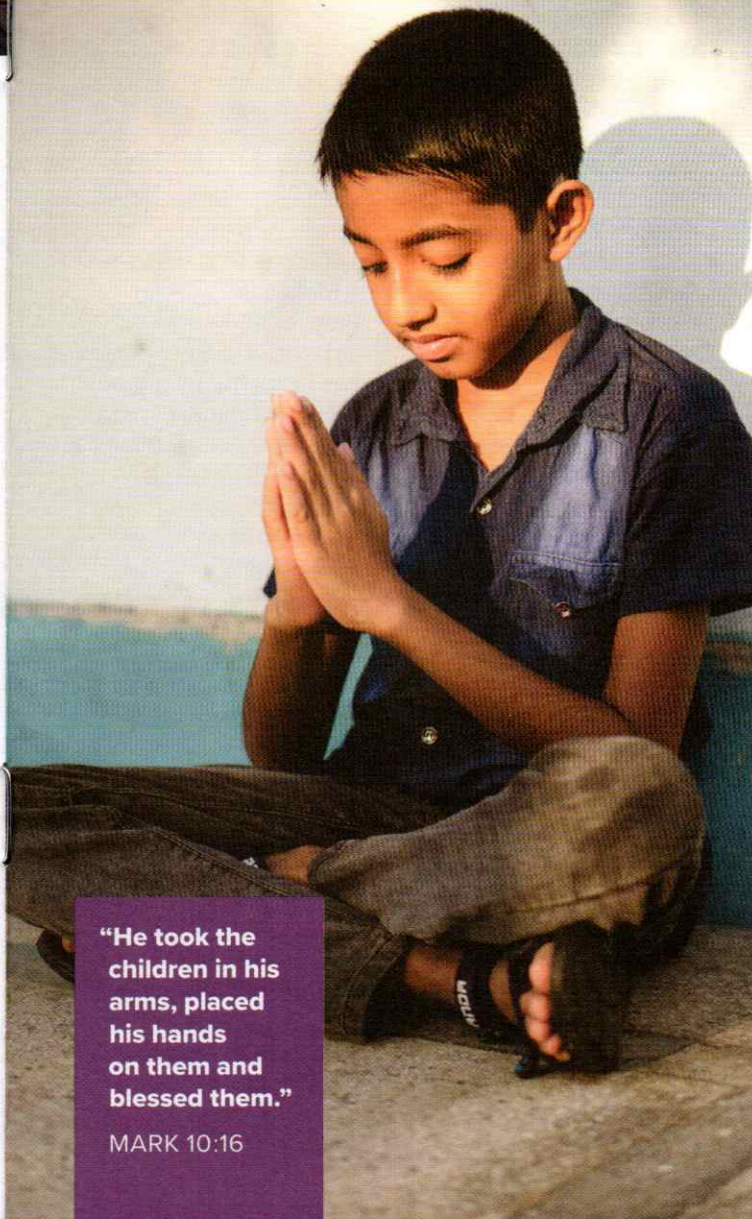
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# Open Doors

PRAYER DIARY | November/December 2025



**“He took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”**

MARK 10:16

# NOVEMBER

## Persecuted children

### Saturday 1 November

Across the world, children pay a high price when they or their families leave their community or tribal religion to follow Jesus. Pray that the faith of these young believers remains unshaken, and that they rise to become faithful shepherds of God's church.

### Sunday 2 November

#### – Bangladesh

Robin\* (11) and his mother Moly\* have been rejected by their family and community since Moly's husband divorced her because of her faith (see Magazine p6). Robin asks for prayer that his classmates will stop mocking him and that he can make new friends.

### Monday 3 November

#### – Bangladesh

Robin asks for prayer for his mother's health, and that she will continue to trust Jesus. Pray also that the Lord will change the heart of Moly's husband and bring him back to Jesus.

### Tuesday 4 November

#### – Indonesia

Two children were injured and around 30 traumatised when a gang armed with sticks disrupted a service at a Christian prayer house

in Padang. Ask God to heal the injured, comfort the traumatised, and restore peace and courage to the congregation.

### Wednesday 5 November

#### – Malaysia

The verdict is due today in the case of Pastor Raymond Koh, who's been missing since his abduction in 2017. Pray for God's justice to prevail and for closure for Raymond's wife Susanna and her children.

### Thursday 6 November

#### – Malaysia

Pray for Kelly, a young girl whose pursuit of God has brought opposition from her family. They have restricted her involvement in Christian activities. Ask God to provide ways for her to grow in her new identity in Christ.

### Friday 7 November

#### – Philippines

Open Doors partners run a children's storytelling programme which offers a rare safe space for children from Muslim backgrounds to sing, do crafts and learn Bible stories. Pray for wisdom, courage and protection for those running and attending the programme.

### Saturday 8 November

#### – Philippines

Inaya (11) is one of the children who has been

helped by the storytelling programme. "I'm scared, but I feel brave too, like there's a light shining in me." Pray that she will continue to grow in her faith, despite pressures.

### Sunday 9 November

Pray for Open Doors partners providing spiritual care and trauma support to children scarred by rejection and fear. Ask God's Spirit to comfort, heal and restore all who suffer.

## Asia

### Monday 10 November

#### – Bangladesh

The power vacuum that followed the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has enabled radical Islamist groups to expand their influence. Christians and other minorities are particularly vulnerable. Ask God to restore peace and stability and to strengthen the church to stand firm.

### Tuesday 11 November

#### – Indonesia

Give thanks that audio Bibles distributed by Open Doors partners are helping illiterate believers to learn God's Word. Many are now telling their friends about Jesus! Pray for continued growth in their faith and witness.

### Wednesday 12 November

#### – Indonesia

David has started a fishery to support believers from Muslim backgrounds who struggle to find work because they follow Jesus. It's his first time running a business - pray for God's wisdom and opportunities.

### Thursday 13 November

#### – Pakistan

Christians often face discrimination at work. Many are only offered dirty or dangerous jobs, no matter their skills. One father, a street sweeper, works double shifts to keep his daughter in school. Pray for strength, dignity and hope for families like theirs.

### Friday 14 November

#### – Pakistan

Christians in Jaranwala continue to be threatened by extremists groups. The new trend is not to attack buildings, but to violate and threaten people's security and freedoms. Ask God to protect our family, and strengthen them to respond with His love.

### Saturday 15 November

On the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, pray that many supporters will join today's prayer vigil (see p16) and ask God to work through our prayers to strengthen persecuted believers around the world.

## Update: living with hope in Afghanistan

**KHADA IS SEEING THE ANSWERS TO YOUR PRAYERS**

Re-enactment image

It's been four years since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, and secret Christians have been forced even further underground. But the Afghan church is alive and, thanks to your prayers, believers like Khada\* – whose story we shared in July last year – are still living in hope and seeing God's Kingdom break through.

"For me, [it's been] a year of bitter experiences under difficult conditions,

where women were not allowed to work outside the home, girls were not permitted to attend school, and universities were closed to females," Khada shares. "Yet at the same time, I tasted the sweetness of God's presence in my heart. I learned that God is not just a distant observer. He is a constant companion. In nights full of tears, He was with me; and in dark days, He lit up hope in my heart."

Even in the midst of doubt and despair, Afghans are still meeting Jesus.

"When people's prayers in their former religion go unanswered, they search for a light that leads to Jesus Christ," Khada says. "I have witnessed sceptics become beacons of faith after experiencing the love and protection of the Holy Spirit."

**"Whenever you pray for us, a new flame of hope is kindled."**

### **"FAITH FINDS ITS WAY IN"**

Despite extreme oppression from the Taliban, Khada and other believers are continuing to courageously share their faith with others. "I met Maryam\* a few months ago. After I shared my story with her, she began to open up about her own life. Maryam has several children. Her husband was killed in a war. He had been a cruel man who oppressed many people, and because of that, Maryam suffered deeply. After his death, she often wondered if

God would forgive her, since she had been the wife of a cruel man.

"After she shared this, I prayed for her. I spoke about God's forgiveness. When she heard this, Maryam wept deeply, hugged me tightly and said, 'When I heard that God could forgive me, I felt free.' Today, Maryam is a strong believer. Faith finds its way in, even in the darkest times."

Your prayers continue to play a vital role in the survival and growth of the Afghan church. Khada says that believers know they're not alone: "Whenever you pray for us, know that a new flame of hope is kindled in our hearts. In a world that often forgets us, just knowing that someone, somewhere, is praying with a bright heart for us means that we are seen. And to us, that means everything."

### **PLEASE PRAY**

"We truly need your prayers," Khada says. "Please remember us in the following areas: the reopening of schools for our daughters and safety of our children; the breaking down of fear and oppression; the return of hope to our hearts."

## Asia

### Sunday 16 November

#### – China

House churches across various regions are facing increased pressure, with church leaders and ministry workers being interrogated or detained. Pray for courage amidst adversity.

### Monday 17 November

#### – China

“Due to the recent crackdown, our church ministry has come to a standstill,” shares Jason\*, a local partner. “The number of full-time ministry workers has dropped from six to just one.” Ask God to raise up more believers to engage boldly in this spiritual battle.

### Tuesday 18 November

#### – Vietnam

Pray for Open Doors partners providing training and activities in November, to strengthen persecuted Christians. Pray for trainers as they teach and for believers to gain a deeper understanding of Jesus.

### Wednesday 19 November

#### – Laos

Lao farmers begin harvesting their rice around now. Pray especially for Christian farmers in areas where there is strong community hostility, which sometimes leads to destruction of their crops, causing financial hardship.

### Thursday 20 November

#### – Myanmar

Pray for the safety of Open Doors partners and volunteers as they travel to meet and train believers. Ask for God’s protection as they pass through checkpoints and face scrutiny from local authorities.

### Friday 21 November

#### – Myanmar

With elections due in December, tighter security and restrictions will make church gatherings even harder. Pray that Christians will remain rooted in Jesus, and that their faith will not waver.

### Saturday 22 November

#### – Bhutan

Pray for a pastor whose previously resolved legal case has resurfaced. Local authorities and community opposition have disrupted church gatherings. Pray for strength, wisdom and justice as his church faces increasing pressure.

### Sunday 23 November

#### – Sri Lanka

After Anusha’s\* husband passed away, her community blamed her for his death and her relatives cut off all support. Thanks to you, local partners have helped her with her brick-making business. Pray that this will succeed, despite ongoing threats and pressure.

## Arise Africa

### Monday 24 November

#### – Cameroon

In August, five Christian children were kidnapped by Boko Haram: Clarisse (19), Wadawa (13), Lamara (10), and siblings Sarah (12) and Daniel (7). Pray for their release, and for God’s comfort and peace for their families.

### Tuesday 25 November

#### – Cameroon

In September, Boko Haram launched an attack on several villages, killing five Christians. Churches were burnt, and three children remain missing following the attack. Ask the Lord to establish His justice and peace in the Far North of Cameroon.

### Wednesday 26 November

#### – Burkina Faso

In March, churches were destroyed by followers of African traditional religions after Christians refused to observe a feast day for ancestral spirits. Now the case has been taken to court. Pray that the Lord will strengthen believers and that His justice will prevail.

### Thursday 27 November

#### – Togo

In northern Togo, cross-border attacks from Burkina Faso have increased. Christians are not currently the primary targets, but they

are deeply affected by the instability. Pray for the growing insecurity in northern Togo, and that the church will stand firm.

### Friday 28 November

#### – Togo

Because of these attacks, thousands of Christians have fled high-risk areas, but Togo currently does not have formal displacement camps. Pray that the Togolese government will work to protect vulnerable communities close to the border.

### Saturday 29 November

#### – Togo

Open Doors partners supported Thessakpe\* (28) with his tapestry business after he and his family were displaced. “I didn’t find any help until I found brothers and sisters in Christ who helped me,” he says. “That’s why I thank them so much.” Pray that his business will flourish.

### Sunday 30 November

#### – Uganda

Pastor Bruce\* leads a small church of about 80 believers. The church is located in a Muslim-majority community where Christians face discrimination. As a result, the church is forced to buy water or fetch it from unsafe streams. Pray that God will provide clean water for His people.



## "GOD IS MAKING ME STRONG"

WITH YOUR HELP, GODWIN IS MOVING ON FROM A BITTER EXPERIENCE TO A SWEETER FUTURE

After his father was killed, 15-year-old Godwin in Nigeria couldn't stop crying and struggled to eat. But then he made a transformational visit to the trauma centre run by Open Doors local partners.

It's more than two years since Fulani militants attacked Godwin's village in Nigeria's Benue State. Whilst he and the rest of the family fled to another village, his father returned home to get some food. As he did, a lady asked for help. He grabbed a motorbike, enabling her to escape – but when he returned to his own motorbike, it did not start. As the militants encroached, Godwin's father was defenceless.

Four days later, the family heard of his death. "We didn't believe it, though," Godwin recalls. "We didn't cry. We said our father is not dead. If he were, we'd have known. Then we realised he was really dead. We cried."

And the tears didn't stop. "My mother was very hurt. Every morning and night, she cried. All of us cried. People tried to comfort us, telling us to accept what happened, but we refused to stop crying because our dad's death pained us."

The family moved into their uncle's home, only for him to turn nasty when the mother resisted his advances. "He added to our wounds," Godwin continues. "It made me cry

every day. I never forget my dad. I was not able to eat food. Whenever I ate, it tasted bitter."

**"I am thankful, because I have received healing."**

Hope emerged when Godwin and his siblings were invited to the trauma centre, which your support sustains. "I was strengthened," he says. "I now have the appetite to eat food. I am thankful to God because of how He is making me strong.

"I learnt about forgiveness and I have been able to forgive those who killed my dad. That is why I am thankful, because I have received healing."

As he and his family look ahead to a sweeter future, Godwin asks for your prayers. "I want you to pray for us because we have lost our dad. Other people have a father who can protect them if someone tries to hurt them. The person that will protect us, God has already called him to glory. We don't have anyone but God."

### PLEASE PRAY

- Praise God for healing Godwin and his family, and pray for this to continue
- For provision and protection for the family
- That the family's life and testimony will draw others to Jesus.

# DECEMBER

## Children and youth

### Monday 1 December – China

Some house churches running children/youth ministry are facing crackdowns and school students have been warned not to attend religious activities. Pray for guidance for parents and ministry workers. Ask God to raise up more young people to be future church leaders.

### Tuesday 2 December – Malaysia

A young Christian teenager is under pressure from his family, who have converted to Islam. He now lives with other relatives as his parents neglected him. Ask God to strengthen his heart and provide him with the right support.

### Wednesday 3 December – Nicaragua

Manuela\* and Alaia\* were forced to flee their hometown after their father, a pastor, was imprisoned and their mother threatened. Pray for emotional and spiritual strength as they adjust to life far from home.

### Thursday 4 December – Pakistan

Young Christian girls are often kidnapped, forcibly

converted and married against their will. Families rarely find justice. Pray for rescue and healing for these girls and their families. Pray for lawyers who support them.

### Friday 5 December – Pakistan

Many Christian teenagers are bullied or pressured to convert. Some hide their faith to stay safe, but others quietly stand firm. Pray that young believers will be rooted in Christ and surrounded by people who build them up.

### Saturday 6 December – Iraq

The Journey of Hope programme helps traumatised children to express their emotions, hopes and fears through writing stories. Pray for wisdom for the team working with these children and for the children to learn to deal with their feelings in healthy ways.

### Sunday 7 December – Syria

Many young Syrian Christians are active on social media to support others in their Christian life. Ask God to use this online ministry to help young people grow in their faith and witness.

### Monday 8 December – Palestinian Territories

Thank God that His Spirit is at work among young Christians in the West Bank. Many show a deep desire to know Jesus and share the gospel. Pray that the light of Christ continues to spread.

## Broken families

### Tuesday 9 December – Vietnam

Tham\*, whose parents have died, was thrown out of her sister and brother-in-law's home for her faith. She's living with another believer and working on a farm. Pray for reconciliation and strong faith.

### Wednesday 10 December – Indonesia

Khris (8) died shortly after being beaten for his faith by children at school, but the police claim it's due to appendicitis that the parents left untreated. "Friends and even family are pulling away," says his father, as investigations continue. Pray for justice, and support for the family.

### Thursday 11 December – Nigeria

Joshua's wife left him after he lost his sight in an attack by Islamist extremists. Other family members keep their distance. He attended the

trauma centre, helping him to heal. "I'm a new person," he says. Pray for restored relationships and new friendships.

## Prisoners

### Friday 12 December – Iran

In the month after the ceasefire with Israel, more believers were arrested (at least 54) compared to the six months beforehand (40). Pray for release, healing and strength.

### Saturday 13 December – Eritrea

Open Doors and other charities have launched a campaign calling for the release of seven pastors imprisoned for 21 years. Pray for favour and breakthrough.

### Sunday 14 December – Chad

Praise God for the release of eight young Christians arrested during an evangelistic campaign. Pray for their recovery, and that good will come from the incident.

### Monday 15 December – Kyrgyzstan

Pastor Pavel (65) has been imprisoned for three years, after which he faces deportation. His church has been banned for being 'extremist'. Pray that the sentence and ban will be overturned.



## A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS – BUT STILL CELEBRATING

**“WE NEED TO BE BRAVE” SHARE TWO SISTERS  
WHOSE FAMILY WAS ROCKED BY PERSECUTION.**

Growing up in Nicaragua, Manuela\* and Alaia\* have fond memories of Christmas – visiting family, going to church and distributing gifts. Today, Christmas looks very different. Their celebrations bring joy – but also a longing to return home.

Manuela remembers the day everything changed. Her father received a call: “He said to the person on the phone that he’d be there in a few minutes,” she recalls. “My dad and I went a bit down the road, then I said goodbye and went with my grandpa.” As the hours passed with

no word from their father, the girls’ mother sat them down. “Remember when I said that something could happen to your dad or me because of preaching about Jesus? That day has come. Your dad has been arrested.” His evangelistic activities were deemed a threat to the regime.

Nine months of agonising silence followed, with the family not even knowing if he were alive. What helped sustain the girls was persecution survival training their parents had received from Open Doors partners. “I learned that persecution teaches you to not cling to earthly

things,” says Alaia. “One day, we’ll die and won’t take anything with us. The best thing we can do is live – and even die – for Christ.”

Eventually, their father was released – but with a new sentence: exile. Then the family were given a warning. “They’re watching you,” their father said in a call. “They’re going to arrest you, to silence me. You must leave the country – now!” They fled, leaving behind home, friends, church and grandparents. Despite not having exit documents, they miraculously crossed the border.

**“The best thing we can do is live for Christ.”**

After a few days, their father was finally able to join them. “I hugged him so tightly,” shares Manuela. “It was beautiful, but also very hard,” says Alaia. “We were together again, but not home.”

The family have settled in a new country. The father preaches and works in construction, whilst the mother works as a nanny. The girls are at school, building new friendships.

“We’re still adjusting – it’s not easy,” admits Alaia. “I think it’s something we had to go through to learn that we need to be brave,” says Manuela.



Alaia and Manuela praying with their little brother

“It’s about Jesus,” says Manuela of Christmas. “We celebrate that He was born. It doesn’t matter if you decorate your house or the date you celebrate. It matters that you remember His birth.” That’s what the family will do again this year. “Our parents encourage us to sit at the table, even if it’s just us, and thank God for everything, surrendering our hearts to Him.”

### PLEASE PRAY

- That the family can return to Nicaragua
- For emotional and spiritual strength for Manuela and Alaia
- That the faith of Christian children from Nicaragua will grow stronger.

## Refugees

### Tuesday 16 December – Afghanistan

Christians are among a wave of Afghans deported back to their homeland by the authorities in Tajikistan, putting them in danger of imprisonment and even execution. Pray for protection and resilience.

### Wednesday 17 December – North Korea

Neighbouring countries to North Korea typically do not recognise defectors as refugees, leading to risk of capture, repatriation and severe punishment. Pray for the crucial but risky work of Open Doors safe houses.

### Thursday 18 December – Latin America

In places like Mexico and Nicaragua, church leaders are being forced to flee their countries due to government opposition and threats from criminal gangs. Pray for guidance, comfort and provision.

## Eyewitness

### Friday 19 December – Cameroon

Pastors Mamoud and Hamza fled their town, but return weekly to care for those unable to flee. “The Spirit of God drives me to go back,” says Mamoud. “Even if there’s one Christian left, I’ll still go.” Pray for protection.

### Saturday 20 December – India

“Since knowing Jesus, I’ve felt eternal peace, joy and strength to endure any trial,” says Lalit\* after his home was attacked. “Pray that people in my village come to know God.”

### Sunday 21 December – Afghanistan

“I’ve witnessed many people becoming disillusioned with Islam due to strict religious laws,” says Aisha\*. “When they read the Bible, they find beauty and truth. That’s why they turn to Christ.” Pray for more encounters.

### Monday 22 December – Indonesia

Abdul\* dreamt about Jesus, leading to his salvation, but he’s been forced into hiding. “I’ve seen Jesus. I cannot go back.” Pray for Open Doors partners as they pastor him.

### Tuesday 23 December – Cuba

“I heard the testimonies of ten leaders,” says a partner. “It was inspiring and heartbreaking – a passionate, living faith alongside poverty, fear and repression.” Pray for hope, courage and provision.

## Christmas

### Christmas Eve It’s a year since Christians were amongst

dozens killed in Christmas attacks in Nigeria and DR Congo. Pray for affected believers to feel the enfolding comfort of Emmanuel, ‘God with us’, and pray for the protection of gatherings worldwide over Christmas.

### Christmas Day “Christmas is a very bright holiday for me,” says Mina\* from Central Asia, who’s faced persecution at school. Pray that Christmas joy will shine brightly in the hearts of our persecuted family today.

### Boxing Day

“In worship, I find answers,” says Alicia\* (12) in Mexico, who’s faced rejection from her community. Pray that our persecuted family will encounter God through worship over Christmas.

## Eyewitness

### Saturday 27 December – Asia

“I was amazed by the teachings of Jesus,” says Joel\*, who first met Jesus in a dream. “Something inside me knew I wanted to follow Him.” His wife and father are hostile to his faith – pray for salvation.

### Sunday 28 December – North Korea

Despite their own hunger, secret believers set aside food for others.

“This is our duty of following Jesus: love your neighbours,” says one. Pray that people will encounter Jesus through them.

### Monday 29 December – Iran

Despite time in prison, Roya\* continues to serve Jesus in Iran: “It’s not an easy life, but the joy of walking with Jesus is worth everything.” She wants to reach ‘thirsty souls’ with the gospel – pray for breakthroughs.

### Tuesday 30 December – China

“Some of us have written farewell letters, prepared for prison,” says Kai\*. “We’ve chosen to follow Christ through any storm.” Pray for perseverance for church leaders.

## New Year

### Wednesday 31 December – New Year’s Eve

“We can stand firm, because we’re not alone,” says Hunyh\* from Vietnam. Give thanks for the faithful prayers and generosity of Open Doors supporters this year. Pray that more people in the UK and Ireland will be mobilised to support their persecuted family in the year ahead so that Open Doors can strengthen more persecuted Christians in 2026.