

# OpenDoors

PRAYER DIARY | March/April 2026



## WORLD WATCH LIST CHILDREN'S PACK 2026

Do you want to introduce the children in your life to the impossible faith of their persecuted family?

The *Prayer Passport and Activity Map* is a great way to help children explore the world and pray for the persecuted church. Crammed with information and activities, this family-friendly resource is perfect for families, Sunday schools and children's ministries.

Order a copy today at  
[opendoorsuk.org/wwl](https://opendoorsuk.org/wwl)

"We are using the World Watch material as a family to pray for people around the world and my children love it, as do we! Thank you!"  
BETHAN, NEATH



\*Names changed for security reasons

 **OpenDoors**

Open Doors, PO Box 6, Witney,  
OX29 6WG

T 01993 460015

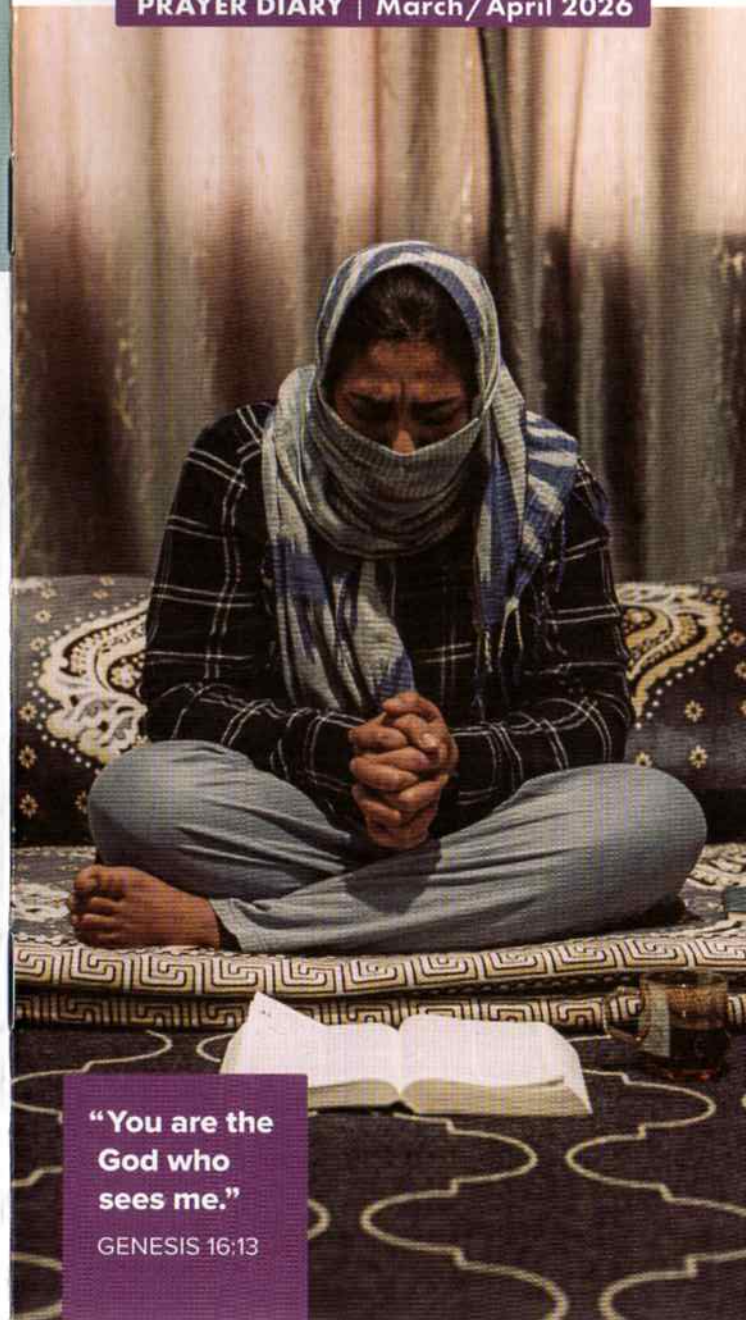
E [contact@opendoorsuk.org](mailto:contact@opendoorsuk.org)

FIND US ON:

[opendoorsuk.org](https://opendoorsuk.org)



Open Doors UK & I is a registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1125684, Scotland No. SC043710, Republic of Ireland No. 20140984 © Open Doors 2026



"You are the  
God who  
sees me."

GENESIS 16:13

## MARCH

### Sunday 1 March

In many countries, Christian women face persecution for both their faith and gender. Their suffering is often hidden or ignored. Pray that through Open Doors' *See. Change.* campaign, more women will be seen, valued and empowered to reach their God-given potential.

### Monday 2 March

#### – Afghanistan

Pray for the many women in Afghanistan whose husbands were killed for their faith. "My husband's death has left a deep wound in my heart," says Khada\*, "but faith brings meaning and peace. Please pray for the breaking down of fear and oppression, and for comfort and peace for our minds and souls."

### Tuesday 3 March

#### – Afghanistan

Ariana\* fled Afghanistan after a grenade attack on her house killed her brother-in-law. She risks deportation if her faith is discovered - yet she boldly shares Jesus' love with other refugee women. Pray for God's protection and blessing on her ministry.

### Wednesday 4 March

#### – Afghanistan

Ask the Lord to protect and provide for Afghan

women who've fled the country. "Pray that they not only survive, but that they would be like Esther, the heroic woman in the Bible who saved her people through her boldness and courage," says Ariana.

### Thursday 5 March

#### – Pakistan

Pray for the grieving wife of a pastor who was arrested on blasphemy charges. He was released on bail but died soon after of cardiac arrest. Pray for God's comfort and provision for her and her children.

### Friday 6 March

#### – Kyrgyzstan

Pray for several sisters who were beaten by their husbands and had to flee their homes with their children. Pray for a safe place to live and that they will find strength and hope in Christ.

### Saturday 7 March – Iraq

It takes courage for women to start a business in Iraq. Pray for mother-of-two Dina (39), who has opened her own shoe shop. Open Doors partners have given her a microloan to help grow her business. Ask the Lord to establish the work of her hands.

### Sunday 8 March

This International Women's Day, pray for Open Doors partners providing

practical and spiritual support to our sisters around the world. Pray that training will empower women to know their value in God's eyes and serve Him fruitfully in their church and community.

## Afghanistan

### Monday 9 March

Pray for Christians who continue to follow Jesus despite four years living under Taliban rule. Ask the Lord to 'strengthen them with all power according to God's glorious might so they may have great endurance and patience' (Colossians 1:11).

### Tuesday 10 March

Pray for change in the hearts of the Taliban leaders. Ask God to soften their stance towards Christians and other religious minorities, and open their eyes to the love of Christ.

### Wednesday 11 March

Afghan Christians must practise their faith in extreme secrecy, under constant threat from both the authorities and their own families. Pray that as they meet together, God would fill them with His peace and hope, driving out all fear and isolation.

### Thursday 12 March

Millions of Afghans have been deported from

neighbouring countries. The believers among them face heightened risks as they could be imprisoned or killed if their faith in Jesus is discovered. Pray for God's protection and provision, and for our partners supporting refugees.

### Friday 13 March

Pray for the completion of the Pashto Bible translation. Pray that this version will speak powerfully to Pashto-speaking communities and enable them to grow in their faith.

### Saturday 14 March

Pray for a miraculous move of the Holy Spirit across Afghanistan. "Pray that God touches the heart of every person in Afghanistan, so that they may come to faith and know Him," asks Ariana.

### Sunday 15 March – Mothering Sunday

Sister Cho\* is a North Korean refugee receiving pastoral and practical care outside the country. She carries deep sorrow for her mother, whom she hasn't seen in 20 years. Every Mother's Day she prays for her, not knowing if she is still alive. Ask God to comfort Sister Cho, protect her from danger, and one day reunite her with her mother.



## Your prayers bring joy and hope to children around the world

Thank you for praying for persecuted children over the Christmas period. Here are just two stories of how your prayers are bringing hope to families torn apart by persecution.

### NIGERIA

At the end of 2025, Nigeria saw a spike of extremist violence, especially against schools and churches. One example was the kidnapping of over 250 children and staff from St Mary's school in Agwara Local Government Area on 21 November – one of the largest ever mass abductions in the country.

The event provoked worldwide attention as one of a series of attacks by 'bandits' on schools and churches at the time. Such attacks have been drawing eyes to the instability and fear which many Nigerian Christians endure.

While pressure mounted on the Nigerian government to act, parents and families waited with uncertainty for news.

In God's great mercy, 100 of the children and teachers were released on 9 December, followed by the remaining children on 22 December. The Nigerian government declared that 'not a single pupil is left in captivity', describing the release as 'a moment of triumph and relief'.

We rejoice with the families whose children were restored and thank the Lord for the increasing awareness of the security situation in Nigeria, especially for Christians.

### CENTRAL ASIA

Thousands of gifts were distributed to children over Christmas 2025. Local partners met with communities and hosted celebrations for the festive season (RIGHT), giving children a rare moment of joy amid their difficult circumstances. The bitter cold was no deterrent as they gathered to sing songs.

Your prayerful support enabled our partners to connect with families across Central Asia, bringing the Christmas message to children who live with the daily hardships of poverty and often feel isolated in their homes.

"For many of these children, this was the first time anyone had brought them gifts and a celebration," said one partner. "They rarely experience joy, love and attention – but today, thanks to you, they felt cared for and valued."

"If you hadn't made this possible, many children would never have heard the story of Christ's birth – a story that brings hope in a place where life is harsh and fragile," shared another. "Here,



we lose children almost every day, but we believe that the message of Christmas will bring light and hope to their hearts."

Thank you for your prayers. Your words of faith go to places that seem unreachable – but not for the Lord.

### PLEASE PRAY

- For the continued healing of those kidnapped in Nigeria after their traumatic experiences
- That God would work through partners in Central Asia to point communities to Jesus
- In praise of our God who hears the prayers of His people.

## Ramadan

### Monday 16 March

Tonight is the Night of Power which Muslims believe is a night of special holiness and revelation. Ask the Lord Jesus to reveal Himself in dreams and visions to many Muslims who are seeking God.

### Tuesday 17 March

Paul says in Colossians 4:3, "Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ." Pray for open doors to the message of Christ in the Muslim world this week.

### Wednesday 18 March

At the end of Ramadan in 2021, Sharifa in Sri Lanka was rejected by her family, reflecting how the festival can increase hostility against Christians. Ask God to strengthen Sharifa and other under-pressure believers.

### Thursday 19 March

Ramadan concludes this week with Eid ul-Fitr. Despite the risks, Farid\* in Philippines doesn't celebrate, but prays quietly. "God sees every small act of faith and it gives me hope," he says. Pray for courage and wisdom as secret believers navigate the pressure to conform.

## Iran

### Friday 20 March

As Nowruz (Persian New Year) is celebrated across Iran, pray for Iranian Christians forced to flee their homes and communities because of their faith. Ask the Lord to comfort them in isolation, heal their homesickness, and surround them with His loving presence.

### Saturday 21 March

Pray for Iranians arrested during January's protests and for their families who are under intense anxiety and pressure. Pray for the Christians among them, that ongoing unrest would not negatively affect their cases.

### Sunday 22 March

Pray for Christians imprisoned specifically for their faith. Ask the Lord to strengthen them in body and spirit and fill them with courage and peace, and to sustain their families with His provision and hope during this season of separation.

### Monday 23 March

Pray for families who have lost loved ones in the unrest, especially for children who have lost a father, mother or both. Ask the Lord to draw near to and comfort bereaved Christian families so that they can comfort

others with the comfort they have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:4).

### Tuesday 24 March

Iran's economic situation has been severely damaged by lack of access to the internet, and the prospect of further sanctions increases concern even more. Pray for Christians to be salt and light in this difficult situation.

### Wednesday 25 March

Many Iranians are struggling with feelings of despair, anger and bitterness - whether towards other countries or towards God. Pray that many will turn to God in the midst of their pain and find Him to be Healer, Counsellor and Saviour.

### Thursday 26 March

Praise God for the courage of the people of Iran, for the strength to rise up and for the realisation that freedom is their right. Pray that God's light would shine through the church in Iran, bringing true freedom to all those who are suffering.

## Arabian Peninsula

### Friday 27 March – Yemen

In an unprecedented crackdown, more than 50 Christians have been detained since the

beginning of the year. Pray for this to stop and for the believers' release.

### Saturday 28 March – Yemen

Those detained are likely to face harsh interrogation and even torture. Pray for protection, wisdom and favour with the authorities, and a tangible awareness of God's presence.

### Sunday 29 March – Yemen

Amid heightened fear, pray that God will give extraordinary power and bravery to believers, enabling them to persevere in their faith and witness.

### Monday 30 March – Saudi Arabia

Last year, many ministry workers were kicked out of the country. "This loss will definitely affect the local church," says a contact. "Fear and loss will only grow." Pray for more workers.

### Tuesday 31 March – Arabian Peninsula

"My family remains unaware of my faith until this day, a painful secret I carry to protect them and myself," says Saeid\*. Ask God to sustain and encourage secret believers like Saeid.

# Gratitude for God's goodness

Your support helps deepen Ngoc's trust in God

"God is good all the time," says Ngoc\*. The 63-year-old has been driven from home and left for dead by her husband because of her faith. But helped by you, her trust in God's goodness is undiminished.

Like others in her village in Vietnam, Ngoc (RIGHT) grew up practising ancestral worship and, with her husband Vu\*, they taught their eight children to do the same. But Ngoc was suffering, with Vu prone to violent outbursts against her, particularly after drinking alcohol.

Those attacks intensified when Ngoc revealed that she'd become a Christian, after she visited a local church in desperate search of peace and respite. "One night, he came home drunk and



tried to strangle me in my sleep," Ngoc recalls. "I pretended to be dead by holding my breath. He thought I was gone, so he stopped."

Ngoc's daughter Mien\* also became a Christian. After seeing her with a Bible, Vu tried to snatch it from her, but Mien held tightly to it. Ngoc's other children, however, sided with their father. "Even though my husband and sons opposed my faith, I felt peace," she

says. "I did not feel anything about their opposition anymore. I just know God has a good purpose for my life. He saved me, so I only trust in Him."

That trust held firm even as the village chief – who was concerned about the impact of her faith on the community – gave her an ultimatum: follow Jesus or leave the village. Ngoc chose to remain faithful.

## "I will trust in God forever."

Over the next few months, the local authorities reiterated their threats, until a 20-strong mob stormed Ngoc's house, insisting that she deny Jesus. "They grabbed my hands and dragged me out of the house," remembers Ngoc, who was expelled from the



community with nothing but the clothes on her back. Mien and her daughter joined her in solidarity. Together, they were humiliated and heartbroken.

The three of them moved to another village, where they are rebuilding their lives with your support. "Thank God for your help to Ngoc and the two girls, for providing them with food and clothes," says Pastor Nhan\*, a local partner. "They have a small house of their own."

"I will trust in God forever," Ngoc says. "He knows my heart and needs. He will give me the best things according to His will. Just like what I have experienced. I encourage others to trust in God until His second coming. He will save us, just as He saved me."

### PLEASE PRAY

- For the family's protection, particularly as Mien travels far for work
- That they will settle into their new home and grow in faith
- That the rest of their family will encounter Jesus.

# APRIL

## Easter

### Wednesday 1 April

As we turn to the cross this week, pray that persecuted believers will be able to 'rejoice inasmuch as [they] participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that [they] may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed' (1 Peter 4:13).

### Maudy Thursday - 2 April

Pray for protection as believers meet to worship over the Easter weekend. Pray that the plans of the enemy to interrupt these precious gatherings will be foiled and Christians would know the 'perfect peace' that comes from trusting in Jesus (Isaiah 26:3).

### Good Friday - 3 April

"Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (John 13:1). As persecuted Christians gather to remember the death of Jesus, pray that His love will comfort them in their suffering. Pray that this would help them love their persecutors.

### Holy Saturday - 4 April

As the disciples fearfully hid after Jesus' death, many believers must keep their faith secret, yearning for Christ's return. Pray that they would know peace in their circumstances and hope for the new creation.

### Easter Sunday - 5 April

"He is not here; he has risen!" said the angels to the women who followed Jesus (Luke 24:6). Praise God for eternal life in the Lord Jesus! Pray that the joy of believers would be reignited today as they celebrate Jesus' victory over death.

## Persecuted women

### Monday 6 April – North Korea

Thank God for a North Korean mother who confessed her faith in Christ to a fieldworker. She bravely shared the gospel with her daughter, teaching her to depend on her Heavenly Father. Pray for their faith and for our field workers in an extremely dangerous mission field.

### Tuesday 7 April – Malaysia

When Laila\* began following Jesus, her mother stopped her going to church. But through patient prayer, God began work in her mother's heart and she recently attended church for the first time with her sister! Pray that Laila's faith and witness will remain strong.

### Wednesday 8 April – Sri Lanka

When Ruwani\* started a Christian prayer centre in her village, her house church was shut down by

Buddhist leaders. Despite threats, Ruwani refuses to abandon her church. Pray for wisdom in dealing with local authorities and that the church can continue to meet.

### Thursday 9 April – Nigeria

Rifkatu\*, whose story we shared last year, has been blessed with another daughter! Give thanks for this gift and pray for the continued healing and joy of Rifkatu and her family as they recover from extremist violence.

### Friday 10 April – Central Asia

Violence against women continues to be a major issue worldwide – in Central Asia, this often takes the form of so-called 'honour' killings, where converts are killed to preserve the name of the family. Pray for our sisters' protection and freedom.

## Latin America

### Saturday 11 April – Nicaragua

Viviana's\* church lost its legal status when protests erupted against the regime. Pray that, despite threats, they would continue to be a bold witness and be granted status.

### Sunday 12 April – Cuba

Gaining permission to open a church is

difficult in Cuba, so many believers like Alicia and Aarón run house churches. Local partners supported their church with a much-needed infrastructure project. Praise God for His provision and Alicia and Aarón's witness.

### Monday 13 April – Colombia

Praise God that in Colombia, there is growing recognition of the risks religious leaders face because of crime and armed groups. Pray that the government would work to increase religious freedom and stability.

### Tuesday 14 April – Mexico

Concha\* once thought that Christians were 'too fanatical'. But when she met missionaries Beatriz\* and Marcos\*, she was stunned by their love displaying God's goodness. Pray that Concha and others would continue to grow in knowledge of the Lord.

### Wednesday 15 April – Venezuela

Following unrest earlier this year, Christians remain vulnerable. Ask God to encourage them to be a bright light of hope, and that the government of Venezuela would prioritise the protection of those threatened by unrest.



Across the tranquil fields and cerulean skies of northwestern China, a silent battle ensues. For believers like Lu Mei\*, each day brings the renewed struggle to keep following Jesus.

It began ten years ago when Lu Mei's church was suddenly raided by police. As leader of the church, she was immediately arrested, interrogated and detained. The days in detention stretched on almost endlessly but, at last, after 28 days, she returned to her husband and two children, desperate to see their faces.

But that was only the beginning of Lu Mei's battle.

**WATCHED**

Two years after her release, police began to make frequent intrusions into their home without

documentation or notice. Such incessant monitoring began to drive her husband into depression. Her children were growing up with a fear of knocks at the door.

Over that time, the police took Lu Mei into custody twice. Though they had no evidence, their objective was clear: scare her and her husband into abandoning their faith in Jesus.

Then, Lu Mei discovered she had been blacklisted.

**ERASED**

When someone is blacklisted in China, different freedoms are taken from them. Police in Lu Mei's area would conduct identity checks repeatedly – wherever she went, they knew. Even in the streets she would be stopped and interrogated on the spot.

Meanwhile, her ability to book travel, gain employment or use her finances became severely restricted. Exposed to endless scrutiny, and yet, made to disappear.

**"I know who holds tomorrow, and I know whose hand is holding mine."**

"It's strange," Lu Mei reflects, "how you can still be here, breathing, and yet feel like you've already been erased. I couldn't earn money, and my family was struggling financially. As the leader of the church, I dared not show my weakness, for fear that my weakness would make others fall. I felt isolated and unbearably lonely."

However, Lu Mei refused to give up her faith. While the authorities were trying to erase her trust in Jesus,

He was sustaining her and her family each day.

**EMBOLDENED**

Eventually, Lu Mei's name was taken off the blacklist. Once free, she never considered escaping the oppression of her country, choosing to continue the ministry entrusted to her.

Lu Mei had the opportunity to attend persecution survival training offered by Open Doors in a different part of China. The feeling of joy and renewed hope was overwhelming as she reunited with old classmates and made new friendships.

"I don't know what the path of tomorrow will look like," Lu Mei admits. "I live each day for the Lord. There are many things about the future that I cannot understand now, but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know whose hand is holding mine."

Please pray for Lu Mei and other Christian women in China to know God's protective presence as they witness.



Chinese believers at persecution survival training run by Open Doors partners

## Arise Africa

### Thursday 16 April – Nigeria

Praise God that Pastor Barnabas' family has a new home (see Magazine p4)! They'd been living in a tent the size of a double mattress. "We're so grateful for the people who helped us," he says of your support. Pray for Pastor Barnabas as he shepherds displaced believers.

### Friday 17 April – Niger

A couple were killed as they fled a church attack on Christmas Eve. Pray for their loved ones and their church as they grieve and recover.

### Saturday 18 April – DRC

"We continue to endure and pray, because we know that God is there," says Pastor Daniel amid ongoing, devastating attacks. "We hope in Him and He will not forsake us. Please pray that we may have lasting peace in the country."

### Sunday 19 April – Burkina Faso

"The Bible encourages us to pray for our enemies," says Pastor Maturin\* after nine churches in his community were destroyed by extremists. Pray for persecutors in sub-Saharan Africa to encounter Jesus.



Dorcas with her children

### Monday 20 April – Kenya

After her husband was killed in an attack in 2022, Dorcas received trauma care from local partners. "It's helped me to open my heart for happiness again," she says. Pray for 'daily bread' (Matthew 6:11) as she recovers and cares for her family.

### Tuesday 21 April – Eritrea

Praise God that several Christians have been released from prison, alongside businessmen and politicians. Pray for healing and smooth reintegration into life outside prison, and for the release of other believers.

### Wednesday 22 April – Mozambique

Last year, 76 Christians were killed by extremists and 72,000 people were forced to flee from their homes. Pray for stability in the country, and for provision and hope for the believers who are displaced.

## Impossible faith

### Thursday 23 April – Yemen

Majed\* is preparing for capture by the authorities by memorising scripture. "I want to be a walking Bible, so that wherever I'm taken, I can share about Jesus." Pray that people will meet Jesus through Majed.

### Friday 24 April

#### – Central Asia

Naira\* was threatened with losing her job because of her faith. "I felt huge stress, but I'm so grateful God defended me, and I was not fired," she says. "I'm also glad that colleagues, the director and policemen heard about Jesus." Pray for her witness to bear much fruit.

### Saturday 25 April

#### – North Korea

"With a steadfast faith in the Lord, we realise deeply that we must never abandon our faith," says a secret believer. "Not even if it costs us our life." Pray for the endurance of the North Korean church.

### Sunday 26 April – Morocco

Friends Younes\* and Qadir\* have been persecuted by their families. "The hardships have drawn us closer to God," says Younes. "We experienced the hand of the Lord with us the whole time," says Qadir. Pray for their families to embrace Jesus.

### Monday 27 April

#### – Nicaragua

"Although they took away our legal recognition, we continue to spread the gospel," says Pastor Dana\*. "We keep meeting in homes, praying and trusting in Jesus." Ask God to strengthen pastors facing increasing pressures.

### Tuesday 28 April

#### – Arabian Peninsula

Andrew's\* quiet sharing of Bible stories with his family has led six of his relatives to Jesus, resulting in a new house church in their home! Pray for protection and continued growth.

### Wednesday 29 April

#### – Bangladesh

"Once I heal, I'll go out again and share the good news," says Robi\*, who was violently beaten for evangelising. "I want to win as many hearts as possible for Jesus." Pray for this to happen.

### Thursday 30 April – China

Yong Shi\* thought his youth work ministry was over because of persecution – that was until an encouraging visit from local partners. "The light in my heart turned on again, and the hope of belief came back," he says. Pray that Yong Shi will inspire many towards Jesus.