

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR
THE PERSECUTED CHURCH 2026

1 November: A DAY OF PRAYERS AND PETITION



Every year, the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) brings together Christians around the world in support of our persecuted family.

This year's event is more crucial than ever, as it comes shortly before the *Arise Africa* petition will be delivered to the UK government, as well as to the UN, the EU and other governments worldwide.

The petition calls for justice, protection and restoration for millions of Christians facing violent persecution in

sub-Saharan Africa. Over 615,000 people worldwide have already signed it, with many more signing every day.

So, this is a pivotal moment in the campaign. Will you, your church or small group join in praying on Sunday 1 November? Together, we can pray that the petition has a lasting and significant impact for our African church family.

You can find a range of free orderable and downloadable resources and videos to help you and your church pray: opendoorsuk.org/idop

*Names changed for security reasons / COVER Reenactment image



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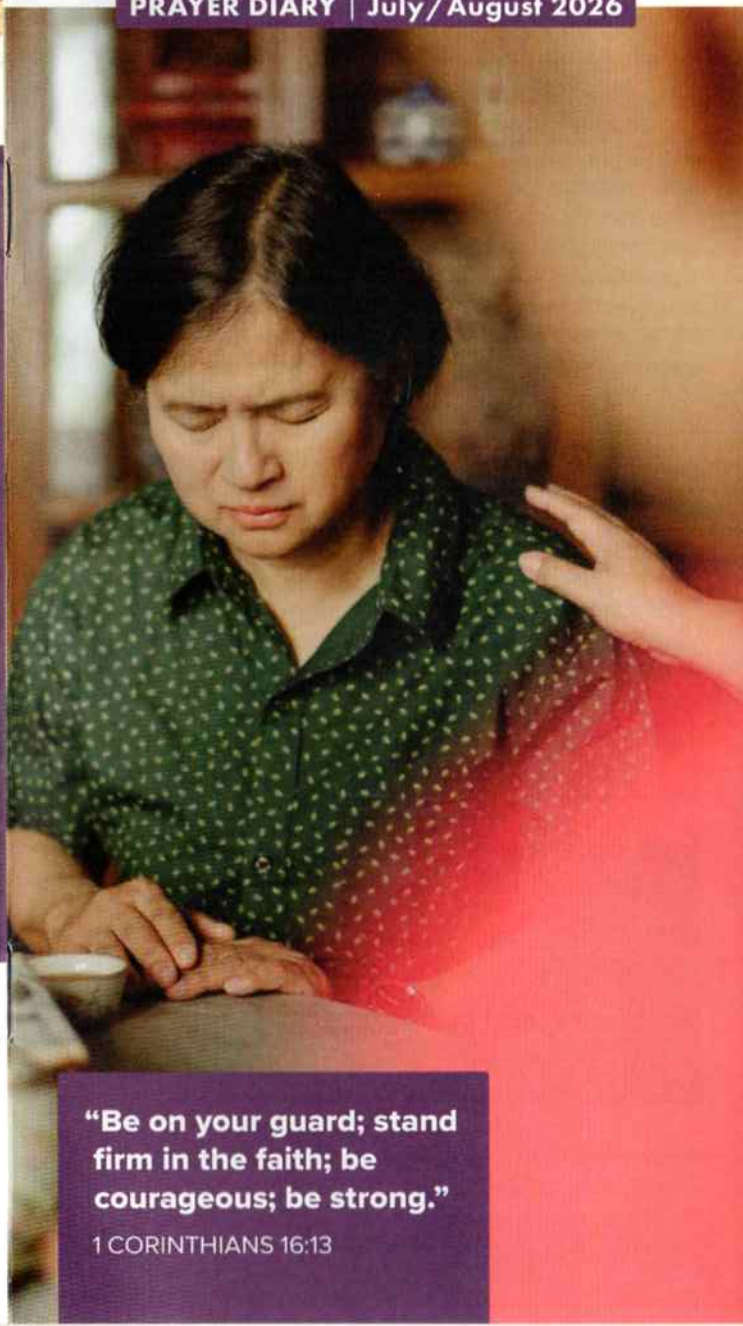
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Open Doors

PRAYER DIARY | July/August 2026



“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

JULY

China

Wednesday 1 July

Last year saw a renewed crackdown on house church activities after an 'Online Code of Conduct' was implemented that restricts the dissemination of religious content to state-approved channels. Pray that church leaders will be 'as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves' (Matthew 10:16) as they navigate intensified surveillance.

Thursday 2 July

Jinyi's* husband Zhang* was imprisoned after their house church was raided. "Please pray for us," Jinyi asks. "My husband is still in prison, and our youth gatherings must remain underground. I am deeply grateful for your support and encouragement, which have made me feel less alone and afraid."



Friday 3 July

Pray for those leading and discipling underground churches. Ask the Lord

to provide creative ways for believers to grow in faith and keep sharing the gospel.

Saturday 4 July

Pray for endurance and protection for pastors and Christians who are imprisoned. Ask God to comfort their families and provide for their practical needs.

Sunday 5 July

Laws banning the involvement of under-18s in church activities are hampering efforts to disciple young people. Pray for more workers with the courage to serve young people and pray that this generation will grow strong in their love for Jesus.

Monday 6 July

Pray for Open Doors partners supporting the church with biblical and discipleship training, Christian literature and persecution survival training. Pray for wisdom to know where best to focus their efforts.

Tuesday 7 July

Praise God that, despite the challenges, many believers continue to share their faith. Pray for God's Word to reach every household in China, especially in regions where the gospel is unfamiliar.

Underground church

Wednesday 8 July

Underground churches in places like China, Laos and Iran face increased monitoring and pressure. Pray that church leaders will be alert and of sober mind so they can resist evil and stand firm in the faith (1 Peter 5:8).

Thursday 9 July

Many children of displaced house church leaders are banned from school because their parents refuse to renounce their faith. Pray that these children will grow in faith and knowledge of Jesus.

Friday 10 July

Pray for new underground converts to have boldness to practise their faith, that they would be discipled by mature believers and be protected by the Lord as they grow.

Saturday 11 July

Pray for those who are seeking to expose and disrupt underground church gatherings – that they would encounter the Lord Jesus, as Saul did on the road to Damascus, and be turned in faith and repentance to Him.

Sunday 12 July

Pray for church leaders who serve their communities and

churches while facing the risk of surveillance and harsh measures. Ask God to grant them wisdom, grace and favour in all their work.

Monday 13 July

– North Korea

Though the government has declared that underground churches are near extinction in the country, a North Korean Christian refugee reassures us that underground believers still gather. He says, "Your prayers are helping the underground church in North Korea to grow." Pray for their protection and encouragement.

Tuesday 14 July

– North Korea

Reportedly, scammers are exploiting families who are searching for loved ones forcibly repatriated from China. Ask God to protect Christians' families from these schemes and to strengthen their faith.

Wednesday 15 July

– North Korea

Pray for North Koreans who are currently residing in Open Doors safe houses outside the country to come to faith. Pray too for those who return to build up underground churches, that God would guard them in all their ways and prosper their work.

my heart to work there, because I saw hopelessness."

However, given the hostility towards Christianity in the region, choosing to follow Jesus is risky. "But there are many secret believers, including a mullah [Islamic leader]," he continues. "If

people really want it, I give them a Bible. However, if they are caught, they can be sent to jail.

"I share the good news with everyone, but now God has specifically put children on my heart. Now there are more than 30 believers. Getting together in large numbers is not possible. I also often meet hungry children who

do not have a mother. I hand out food and sing songs with them."

"I know there'll come a day when there'll be a revival in this area."

The area was rocked five years ago by a violent incident that killed and imprisoned several men, leaving many families fatherless. But seeing how God is at work among people, Evgeny is expectant. "I know there'll come a day when there'll be a revival in this area."

Evgeny's infectious passion reflects what he said two years ago: "I don't need anything in this life, nothing but to do as much as possible to spread the gospel, to help people who don't see hope. Thank you to all who pray for me."

PLEASE PRAY

- For recovery of the beekeeping business
- For Evgeny's health and that God will raise up people to help him
- That strongholds will continue to break in people's lives and for revival to come.

Encouraged and expectant

Evgeny serves in tough places in Central Asia, but with your prayers, he's seeing the Holy Spirit overcoming hopelessness among young people.

ABOVE Evgeny (second right) having a meal whilst on his travels sharing the gospel

"I can only reach out because of your prayers," said Evgeny*, a beekeeper in Central Asia, when we first introduced you to him. Two years on, despite challenges, he continues to see lives transformed as he shares God's love with those on society's margins.

A former criminal, Evgeny is passionate about loving those others find hard to love. With your help, he runs rehabilitation centres for vulnerable men, women and children, including drug addicts, ex-prisoners and prostitutes.

Evgeny also has a beekeeping business, employing 15 people. Sadly, the bee colonies did not survive the recent inclement weather, but he has surplus money

from a microcredit given by local partners to purchase new ones.

He is also an evangelist and recently made an encouraging ministry trip to an area where the suicide rate amongst young people is very high because of poverty. "Several young people wanted to take their own lives, but when they met Christ, they wanted to start a new life," he shares. "The Holy Spirit put it in



ABOVE A widow and her daughter with aid received through one of Evgeny's projects

Latin America

Thursday 16 July

– Colombia

Eva's* husband was killed when he refused to follow the demands of an armed group. "Please pray that God helps me to move forward," she asks.

Friday 17 July – Honduras

Honduras is going through a fragile transition following controversial elections last year. Pray that the new government will act with integrity, transparency and justice.

Saturday 18 July

– Nicaragua

Tomorrow is Liberation Day, a national holiday which carries significant political and ideological weight. Pray for the church's effective witness over the coming days.

Sunday 19 July – Men's World Cup Final

Mexico is co-host for this year's tournament. Pray that the world's focus on Mexico will also bring the plight of persecuted Mexican Christians to greater attention, and lead to change for our brothers and sisters.

Monday 20 July – Mexico

"When we faced persecution, I didn't know the global church was praying," says Silvia from Oaxaca. "Those prayers

sustained us in our darkest moments." Ask God to shine His face upon those facing hostility, giving them peace (Numbers 6:25-26).



Tuesday 21 July

– Venezuela

The country is experiencing uncertainty following the capture of President Nicolás Maduro by the US in January. Ask the Holy Spirit to work through this situation to strengthen the church and draw many to Jesus.

Wednesday 22 July

– Cuba

Cubans are facing a worsening humanitarian crisis because of fuel shortages. Food is scarce, electricity fails, medicine is limited, and water supplies are unreliable. Pray for food and resources, and for the crisis to end.

Thursday 23 July – Cuba

Christians are suffering increasing repression. Pastors are being questioned, spies infiltrate services, and churches are being closed. Pastor Luis* requests your prayers, sharing, "We're worried and stressed, but we're trying to rest in the Lord, asking for strength."

ARISE AFRICA

Friday 24 July – Mali

Recent attacks by jihadist groups have further unsettled Mali and raised concerns over the implementation of Sharia (Islamic law). Pray against this. A church leader also asks, "Pray that the church will reflect Christ's light and rely on His Spirit for strength and comfort."

Saturday 25 July – DRC

Attacks continue to intensify in eastern DRC, with Christians amongst those killed and displaced in recent attacks. "Pray for the faith of Christians," asks a local church leader. "Truly, let us pray for our faith."

Sunday 26 July – Nigeria

Praise God that 386 people have been brought to justice for terrorism-related offences. Pray that this will set a precedent for other incidents and deter further violence.

Monday 27 July – Uganda

A bill has been tabled which will subject Christians and non-Muslims, under some circumstances, to Islamic law over matters regarding marriage, divorce, custody and inheritance. If passed, it will particularly affect women, children and converts. Pray against this happening.

Tuesday 28 July – Niger

"Because of fear, many people do not sleep in their homes," says a church leader following an attack on a majority Christian village. "Pray for peace and tranquillity for our families and the church."

Wednesday 29 July – Sudan

Following aid distribution to 1,300 families affected by civil war, a partner said, "Your generosity has not only met practical needs but strengthened faith, restored hope and reminded many believers that they are not alone." Praise God for this impact.

Thursday 30 July – Eritrea

Thirteen Christians were arrested from an undisclosed location, one of whom had been released from prison last year after 15 years' imprisonment. Pray for their release and that they will be sustained by God's presence.

Friday 31 July – Horn of Africa

Netsebraq* helps gives trauma care to persecuted Christians. "There is always hope to move forward, and that really gives them courage," she says. Pray that Netsebraq, and other counsellors, will be nourished as they nourish others.



How your support is growing house churches in Cuba

Natural disasters, limited resources and intense surveillance – these realities have a daily impact on house churches across Cuba. Yet, amidst the pressures they face, there is another reality: a growing hunger for the Word of God. Here's how your vital support has been meeting their needs.

Aarón* and Alicia* vividly remember the day that a government informant visited their house church.

"That day we held a small outdoor activity with the children," they recall. "We played games, shared a Bible lesson and gave out snacks – nothing unusual. But, at the end, we noticed a stranger taking photos and recording us. A few days later, we were

visited by the Department of Religious Affairs."

During that visit, the officials threatened the church and stated that they needed a permit to host such gatherings. Although house churches are not forbidden in Cuba, intense surveillance and limits on activities are the norm. "The risk is overwhelming," Aarón says.

Despite this, there are between 20,000 and 30,000 house churches in Cuba. They are crucial for fellowship and growth – especially for the next generation.

"Here, children don't just learn Bible stories," Abraham, another house church leader, explains. "We teach manners, hygiene and sometimes even provide food in the midst of crisis."

This is all too often met with opposition in the form of government monitoring and repeated interrogation.

However, as well as hostility from outside, house churches suffer from a lack of resources and poor infrastructure. Some have no running water, and when leaders have tried to improve their buildings, their work has been halted by governmental officials.

"THIS HELP RENEWED OUR STRENGTH"

Given such pressures, your support has proved vital for believers in Cuba. Open Doors is able to run a project to strengthen both the walls and the leaders of house churches,

providing funding for repairs, maintenance and equipment. In response to emergencies, your aid means that 400 Christian families have received support in the wake of the 2024 cyclone that devastated homes and church buildings.

"It reminded us that we're not alone."

"I thank God and the ministry for their support," Abraham says. "The congregation is growing, and we need to provide a safe space that gives people hope. Thank you for making that possible."

"This help renewed our strength," echo Aarón and Alicia. "It reminded us that we're not alone – that there are brothers and sisters praying and working so we can keep sowing the Word."

PLEASE PRAY

- For God's protection of Christian leaders and their families serving in house churches
- For hearts to be opened to the message of hope in Jesus
- That local partners would have wisdom to support churches effectively.

AUGUST

Laos

Saturday 1 August

Many Christians worship in underground churches either because they can't obtain the required permits or for fear that registering their church will subject them to government control.

Pray for courage to keep meeting together to spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

Sunday 2 August

Laos' growing dependence on China has reinforced the authorities' commitment to Communism, making Christians more vulnerable. Ask the Lord to change the spiritual atmosphere in Laos and open people's minds to the message of Christ.

Monday 3 August

It's becoming increasingly difficult to import and distribute Bibles and Christian literature. Ask God to guide and protect those providing Christian resources to local believers.

Tuesday 4 August

New believers can be viewed as 'threatening government authority' and 'betraying family unity'. Pray that converts will have boldness to follow

Jesus despite violence, ostracism and pressure to leave their new faith.

Wednesday 5 August

Pray for Christians displaced from their homes because of their faith. Ask the Lord to provide food, shelter and loving communities to help them stay rooted in Jesus.

Thursday 6 August

Pray for those who persecute Christians. Ask the Lord to open their hearts to the gospel and transform them with His saving grace.

Friday 7 August

Open Doors partners are providing biblical and theological training to church leaders. Pray that leaders will be equipped to live Spirit-filled lives and build healthy churches despite limited access to formal theological education.

Communist/ post-Communist countries

Saturday 8 August

– Vietnam

Recent laws have tightened state control over Christian fellowship and evangelism. Under such constant pressure, pray that Christians in Vietnam would know God's presence and strength.

Sunday 9 August

– Central Asia

Pray for believers whose gatherings face being shut down by authorities. Many Christians meet quietly in small groups and converts from Islam must be especially careful. Pray that God would protect believers from unwanted attention and encourage their hearts.

Monday 10 August

– Vietnam

Cuong* used to be a village shaman before he turned to Jesus and experiences intense surveillance from the authorities. Pray for his protection and boldness in sharing the gospel, despite the opposition he faces.



Tuesday 11 August

– Vietnam

Nam* used to spy on believers for the government – now, he leads a church in his community! Praise God for His work in Nam's life and pray that, even as the community faces persecution, they will remain steadfast.

Wednesday 12 August

– Nicaragua

Pray that the Lord would strengthen the church

in Nicaragua so that it remains a living, growing body. Pray for leaders to persevere despite challenges, and that the gospel would spread across communities, touching hearts even in the most restricted areas.

Thursday 13 August

– Nicaragua

In Nicaragua, ordinary Christians face daily obstacles to practising their faith openly. Pray that they grow in boldness, understanding of God's Word and commitment to live out their faith.

Friday 14 August

– Nicaragua

Roberto* is a pastor from Nicaragua who was imprisoned then expelled from the country for his ministry. He longs for his home and to see more Nicaraguans find faith. Pray that God would bring transformation and hope to the nation.

Saturday 15 August

– Nicaragua

Pray for Christians who are unjustly accused, monitored or imprisoned because of their faith. Ask God to give them courage, peace and spiritual strength amid isolation and hardship, and that the seeds they sow behind bars will bear fruit.

PASTOR KHOUN

WWL 28 / LAOS

ABOVE Despite threats and violence, more than 30 people have come to faith through Khoun's witness

One choice cost Pastor Khoun* from Laos his home, his community and his traditions – but his mind is made up. He has decided to follow Jesus.

Pastor Khoun first heard about Jesus through his mother-in-law. "When she told me about Jesus, I read and liked the teachings in the Bible," he shares.

But that wasn't the only thing on his mind as he continued learning. The pains in his body made his daily work

almost impossible – until someone told him that he could be healed if he prayed and believed in Jesus. So Khoun prayed and, a few days later, the pain disappeared.

Khoun told his wife about his healing, prayed for her frequent bouts of fever and she too was healed. That was the moment that he and his family gave their lives to Jesus.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE
As Khoun shared the gospel, his neighbours

began to turn to Christ. "More than 30 people came to Jesus," he remembers. "There were over ten Christian households."

"I stand strong in my faith, and I know that my life is safe in Jesus."

But a spiritual warfare had also begun. "When I told the villagers that I believe in Jesus, they hurled abuses at me," he says. "I started receiving threats. They wanted me to stop the worship services I was conducting."

On New Year's Eve, it reached breaking point.

"YOU MUST FLEE"

Khoun's request to hold a New Year's Eve thanksgiving service was quickly denied. The next day, he found his water pipes cut. "One person from the village came to my house and warned me: 'They are planning to kill you. You must flee.' I was terrified and ran to a nearby village."

He later heard that his house plus two others had been destroyed and their possessions taken to a detention centre.

The devastation was so great that one family renounced their faith.

"MY LIFE IS SAFE IN JESUS"

Since then, Khoun and his family remain in exile. "Life is a struggle; we have very little food and resources," he says. Through your support, Open Doors partners are responding with practical help and persecution survival training.

Despite everything, Khoun remains thankful. "I am thankful to God that we have a place to stay and that we can worship with others in a nearby village. The Bible teaches that nothing can harm me. I stand strong in my faith, and I know that my life is safe in Jesus."

PLEASE PRAY

- Khoun asks, "Please pray that one day we can build a house of our own"
- "Please pray for my five children – two daughters and three sons. All of them except one have moved away"
- For the church in Laos to stand firm and grow despite opposition.

Middle East

Sunday 16 August – Syria

Praise God that a bomb attack close to Mariamite Cathedral of Damascus was foiled in April. It forms part of an ongoing series of threats and thwarted attacks, adding to the fears of Christians. Pray for safety.

Monday 17 August – Syria

"In many parts, Christian children are bullied simply because of who they are," says Juliette*. "We're holding onto our faith while the world we once knew shifts beneath our feet. Pray for a future where we're no longer seen as outsiders in our own home."

Tuesday 18 August – Iran

Amidst ongoing conflict, people are suffering physically, mentally and financially, with many forced from the country. Pray for peace and stability, and for people to encounter Jesus.

Wednesday 19 August – Iran

There are an estimated 47 Christians in prisons across Iran, where conditions are dire. Others are at risk of arrest and pressure. Pray against further detentions, for the release and well-being of those held and resilience for believers.

Thursday 20 August – Iraq

The country has a new president (Nizar Amedi) and prime minister designate (Ali al-Zaidi). Pray that the new government will seek and ensure the welfare of all citizens.

Friday 21 August – Yemen

"He looks sick, tired, unaware of what's going on," said Sanad* after visiting her father in prison. Like many Christian prisoners, he's likely faced torture and interrogation. Pray for supernatural strength for prisoners and God's unfailing peace for families.

Saturday 22 August – Saudi Arabia

"Christians in Saudi Arabia fight loneliness," shares Talal* from the Arabian Peninsula. "Pray that God gives them access to trustworthy people to feel less alone, having others that can share their happy and sad moments."

Sunday 23 August – Middle East

An online initiative called DNA is reaching young people across the Middle East. "It helps us stay strong and not give up on Jesus," says one person. Pray for continued impact.

Impossible faith

Monday 24 August

– Sri Lanka

Jerusha's* father has tried to entice her with gifts to return to Buddhism. "If I leave God, I'll get a new car, a new apartment and my family back. But I cannot leave the Lord," she says. Pray for her father to encounter Jesus.

Tuesday 25 August

– North Korea

"We regard this calling as the compass of our lives, and with an unwavering conscience of faith, we are running faithfully with deep devotion," writes a secret believer. Praise God for the extraordinary endurance of the North Korean church.

Wednesday 26

August – East Africa

Christine* is pressured to conform to Islamic culture. She once spent three days in prison without food or water. "It's not easy, but we surrender to God," she says. Pray for the resilience of Christians in the region.

Thursday 27 August

– Brunei

Although evangelism is banned, people are coming to faith. "I never thought I could follow Jesus here, but His love gave me courage," said one of four people baptised recently. Pray for

boldness and protection as believers share their faith.

Friday 28 August – Colombia

Thirteen families were forced from their community after refusing to deny Jesus. "Their faith remains strong," a leader says. Pray for provision and for their light to shine.

Saturday 29 August – Tajikistan

A house church meets, knowing they're being watched. "God grants us firmness and courage," says the leader. "Pray that God would give us strength and faith to tell people about Jesus."

Sunday 30 August – Nepal

"People who opposed us now see the fruit of God's grace," says Sarjana*. "Slowly, some of our relatives saw the change in our lives and came to Christ." Pray for the new believers to grow in faith.

Monday 31 August – Malaysia

Pastor Rayden ministers on an island steeped in the occult. After falling seriously ill, a co-worker had a vision of a charm planted in his shoe. It was found and burnt, along with others hid in his home. He immediately felt stronger and lighter. Pray for the family's protection.