



ARISE AFRICA ONLINE – YOU'RE INVITED!

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER
7.30-8.30PM

Join us online on
Wednesday 9 September
at 7.30pm for a special
prayer event for the
Arise Africa campaign!
At this crucial juncture,
we invite you to join with
believers across the UK
and Ireland to raise your
voice in fervent prayer.

Joined by Henrietta Blyth
and Tiffany Barrans, Open
Doors' incoming CEO,
we will be praying for the

hand-in of the petition in
November and its impact
on governing bodies,
asking the Lord to bring
justice and restoration
for our brothers and
sisters suffering violent
persecution in sub-
Saharan Africa.

Book your
free place at
[opendoorsuk.org](https://opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica)
[/ariseafrica](https://ariseafrica)

**"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."**

ISAIAH 60:1



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FIND US ON:

opendoorsuk.org



*Names changed for security reasons / COVER Pray with Pastor Josiah on p12

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Open Doors

PRAYER DIARY | September/October 2026
ARISE AFRICA SPECIAL



"How long, O Lord?"

PSALM 13:1 (ESV)

"Those who are praying, don't think your prayers are not being felt – they are," says Pastor Josiah in Nigeria (see magazine p18). The persecuted church in sub-Saharan Africa know how crucial your prayers are, as they seek to stand firm amid continued untold suffering. "There is power in prayer. So, I am pleading and praying that you keep on supporting through your prayers and help."

Martyrs

Tuesday 1 September

– Burkina Faso

Pastor Michée's father was killed when radicalised Fulani militants attacked his village. "My father was courageous," he says. "He was also a songwriter. Everybody was happy when he sung. Everyone felt the presence of God." Pray that his worshipful heart would continue to inspire many.

Wednesday 2 September

– Burkina Faso

Deborah also lost her husband in the attack. He was a drummer. "Today, if I go to church and see the drum player, I shed tears." She asks, "Pray for strength in moving forward. Pray for me to have my daily meals. Pray for me to never forget God and that I keep following Jesus 'til my last days."

Thursday 3 September

– Burkina Faso

Amadou and Jeremiah were at an all-day prayer meeting when they were killed by Islamist militants in an attack on Binadéni village. "I had known them since their childhood, and I had seen how they gave themselves to the Lord until the day of their death," says Pastor Bandiba* (see p4). Pray that many seeds will come from their example (John 12:24).

Friday 4 September –

Central African Republic

Father Crepin was killed by unknown gunmen in June. "He worked



Pastor Michée holds a picture of his father, Filibert

remarkably for peace in the region, and we fear that it is an execution and a warning on the part of those who do not want peace to return to this region," said his bishop. Pray for his congregation as they grieve and recover.

Saturday 5 September

– Nigeria

Pastor Josiah lost his wife, Rebekah, and three of his children in an attack. "Rebekah was hospitable – no one came to the house without her attending to them. She was considerate, to the point that she allowed me to shine publicly whilst she looked after our home," says Josiah. Pray that her example will continue to encourage Josiah to shine.

Sunday 6 September

– Nigeria

Of his three children, Pastor Josiah says: "Rowland loved singing in the church band. Jonathan was always up and doing things; he was very hardworking. Timothy was quiet, but calm and resourceful." Praise God for his lives and pray for his three surviving children, that they will continue to flourish in their faith, character and gifts.

Monday 7 September

– Nigeria

At least 20 people were killed in an attack on a

predominantly Christian farming community in Plateau State. Victims included Rev. Markus Nyam, medical staff from a local clinic, a pregnant woman and the parents and two sons of one family (leaving one son alive). Pray that those grieving will know the abounding comfort of Christ (2 Corinthians 1:5).

Tuesday 8 September

– sub-Saharan Africa

Last year, 4,491 Christians were martyred for their faith in sub-Saharan Africa. God knows their names and their stories. Pray for the enduring legacy of each one. God also knows the pain their loss continues to bring. Praise God that we do not grieve like those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Pray that the promise of eternity will sustain them today.

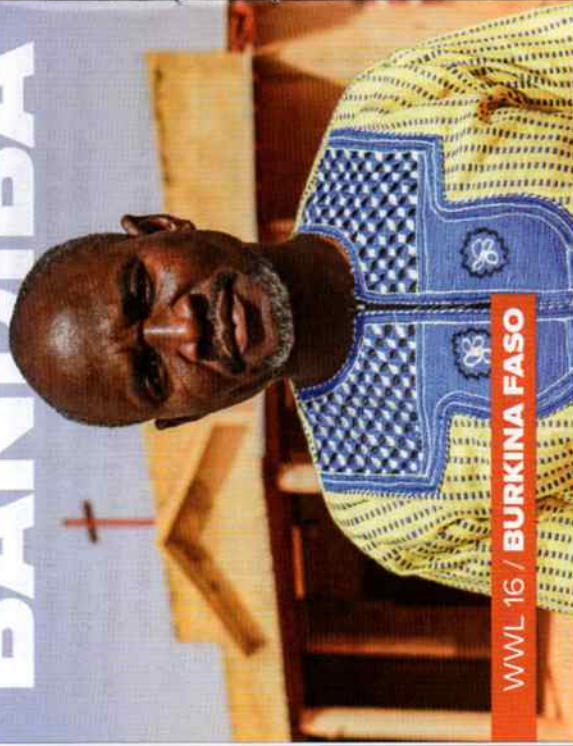
Wednesday 9

September

– Arise Africa Online

Tonight, supporters will gather online to pray for the petition hand-in and for continued global momentum in advocating for persecuted believers in the region. Pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire the words of those contributing and the prayers of those who attend.

PASTOR BANDIBA



WWL 16 / BURKINA FASO

Like many villages in Burkina Faso, Binadéni has faced the onslaught of extremist violence. However, Pastor Bandiba still prays for the restoration of his church family – when beauty will come forth from ashes.

Before Pastor Bandiba* (ABOVE) started work in Binadéni, the church was small – but a harvest awaited. As he began sharing the gospel, their numbers grew. Young people even started to plant churches elsewhere.

"I was joyful, continually thanking God because we

were winning the whole village to God," Bandiba remembers. For almost two decades, peace reigned in Binadéni.

TREMORS

As the number of Christians in the village increased, so did reports of extremist attacks nearby. Amongst the rising leaders in the church were two young men dear to Bandiba: Amadou and Jeremia, youth passionate about gospel proclamation. "I had known them since their childhood, and I had seen how they gave themselves to the Lord until the day of their death."

That day would come sooner than expected.

In May 2025, jihadists launched an assault on Binadéni. At the time, Bandiba was travelling to another village. On the way, his motorcycle broke down. "That's when I saw people from our village fleeing and shouting for others to flee!"

"Now I am healed, I am helping others."

In Binadéni, the attackers sought out Bandiba's house and burnt it to the ground. After the attack, he finally made it back with one objective in mind: get to the church. But he wasn't prepared for what was there.

"I saw bodies in the church covered by curtains," he shares. Bandiba folded back the curtains and found them: his friends, Amadou and Jeremia. "I lay down next to them," he says. "I wished for death because, at that moment, my life was useless. I had to be pulled out of there."

RUNNING THE RACE

Once Bandiba and his wife moved to a nearby town, other believers gave

them the strength they needed to begin healing from their trauma. With their help, Bandiba was able to confidently say, "Amadou and Jeremias finished their race well. May these two young people be a model of faith for us. Let us finish our race well like them."

With the support of your gifts and prayers, Bandiba and his wife began trauma counselling. "I had a hard time forgiving," he shares. "If you are not healed, you cannot help anyone else. Now I am healed, and I am helping others."

Despite everything they've been through, Bandiba and the church look forward in faith to the restoration of their home, when songs of praise will again resound.

PLEASE PRAY

- That the Lord would continue to strengthen Bandiba and his wife for ministry
- That God would comfort grieving hearts and provide for the displaced
- For the Lord's restoration of Binadéni and all communities affected by violence.



Pastor Hamza supports his community in Cameroon, following numerous extremist attacks

Church leaders

Thursday 10

September – DRC

At least nine pastors have died from the Ebola virus. Church activities have

been halted and believers are struggling spiritually.

"We fear that people are at risk of abandoning their faith," says a pastor. Pray that pastors will be equipped to respond to this crisis, and ask God to raise up more leaders.

Friday 11 September

– Kenya

Ado* is an evangelist who works tirelessly to help believers and tell others about Jesus. He faces many challenges, particularly in his work with believers from Muslim backgrounds, including relentless attacks from locals during open-air meetings. Pray for his strength and safety.

Saturday 12 September

– Cameroon

Each weekend, Pastors Mamoud and Hamza return to their home village to care for those

unable to flee following attacks. "When he travels, we are all stressed at home," says Mamoud's wife. Pray for the pastors' protection and peace for their families.

Sunday 13 September

– Sudan

"Church leaders are very frustrated seeing their communities suffering and they have no means to help them," says Ebrahiem*, who adds that many are struggling to provide for their own families. Pray for provision, encouragement and strength.

Monday 14 September

– Central African Republic

Three pastors were kidnapped by rebels whilst preaching at an outreach event before being later released. "We're determined to keep sharing the gospel, despite the risks," says Pastor Salomon. Many believers fled following the attack. "Pray that God gives us wisdom and strength to reach those still hiding and to bring them back."

Tuesday 15 September

– Nigeria

Thanks to you, Pastor Barnabas has a new home, but he still returns to the displacement camp where he used to live to minister to people. "On Wednesday, we have a midweek service; Tuesday, we have Bible studies. I strive to go there and share the Word of God," he says. Ask the Holy Spirit to always give him a 'word that sustains the weary' (Isaiah 50:4).

Women

Wednesday 16 September

– Nigeria

Asabe* is part of a widows' group after her husband and three of her children were killed by Islamist militants. "God set me in this group, so that we can encourage each other and pray and worship God together," she says. "Pray that God will strengthen us, and that God will make these attacks stop, so that we can go back home."

Thursday 17 September

– Chad

When Samira's* Bible was discovered by her husband, he beat her and evicted her and their four children. She was also rejected by her parents. After being cared for by a church, she says, "These few weeks have been hard, but I have a good feeling, and I am happy."

She asks, "Pray for me and my children so that they do not fall into sin."

Friday 18 September –

Central African Republic

Judith* became a Christian after being overwhelmed by the generosity of Christians who paid for her mother's medical expenses. However, she was beaten by her husband. "I will not go back on my decision to follow Christianity and serve God," she says. Pray for her protection and for her husband to meet Jesus.

Saturday 19 September

– Sudan

The civil war has greatly exacerbated the vulnerability of women and girls. Given the dangers, many choose to stay at home, depriving them of work and companionship. Some refugees who flee to Egypt fall into prostitution. Pray for protection and empowerment.

Sunday 20 September

– Nigeria

"I can now carry out my daily activities because of the healing I have received," says Blessing. She attended the trauma care centre run by local partners after being kidnapped by extremists. "It's taught me how to forgive those who hurt me." Pray for the centre's continued impact.



HAVEN FOR SIBLINGS DRIVEN FROM HOME

**YOU CARED FOR RUFO AND HER SIBLINGS AFTER THEY
WERE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED BY THEIR FATHER**

Your support has provided safety and security for Rufo* and her four siblings in Kenya after they were rejected by their father because of their faith.

The siblings grew up in challenging circumstances after their parents' divorce. They lived with their mother and uncle, but when their mother fell seriously ill and died, the children were sent back to live with their father.

When Rufo encountered Jesus in 2023, after a pastor prayed for her and she received healing from chest pain, their father was unwilling to care for them. He believed that she influenced her siblings to become Christians, too.

"We came back to my father's, but on Sundays he would make us take

harvest khat [a highly addictive stimulant, popular in East Africa]. If we refused and went to church instead, we were denied food," Rufo says.

Their father would often threaten Rufo with a machete. Once, after attending church, the children returned to find their belongings strewn across the road. With the intervention of village elders, they were allowed back home. However, their father continued to neglect them, refusing them food. "The suffering at my father's hands was so difficult to explain to anyone, so we just left," Rufo explains.

Aged 22, Rufo became the sole provider for her four younger siblings, whilst still enduring insults and accusations from

her family. "My father said that the church is a brothel and he cannot stay with prostitutes in his home," she recalls. During Christmas in 2023, the entire family gathered to pressure Rufo to return to Islam, but she bravely refused.

**"May God bless you
wherever you are and
give you everything
you expect."**

Following her mother's death, the farm and goats were meant to go towards providing for the children, but their father and uncle conspired to deprive them of their rightful inheritance.

Whilst their father gave them a small plot of land to build a modest, grass-thatched home, it only brought relentless harassment and threats.

Thankfully, Open Doors local partners stepped in

to support the children, providing funds for Rufo to attend teacher training and two of her siblings to go to school, as well as a scholarship for another. They also provided them with a new home: a haven where they can play and worship in safety and freedom.

"I am grateful," Rufo says. "May God bless you wherever you are and give you everything you expect."

PLEASE PRAY

- For Rufo and her siblings' safety, and that each of them will flourish in their faith and studies
- That their father and uncle will encounter Jesus and follow Him
- For local partners in Kenya, asking the Holy Spirit to equip and encourage them.

Rufo and her siblings continue to follow Jesus in the face of persecution – and now have a new home, thanks to your prayers and support



Governments

Monday 21 September

– **Arise Africa petition**
Over the coming months, the *Arise Africa* petition and its recommendations are due to be presented to the UK government and other governments and organisations worldwide. Praise God for the thousands of people who've added their voice to it. Pray for God to begin softening the hearts of those in power who will receive the petition.

Tuesday 22 September

Several nations are experiencing internal conflict and political upheaval, such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Sudan and Niger. These leave power vacuums that embolden extremists and gangs, adding to the vulnerability of Christians. Pray for good governance and robust security in these places.

Wednesday 23 September

– **DRC**
Recent years have seen an upsurge in attacks against Christian communities in the east. "Our hearts are broken," says a church leader. "The killings are out of control." Pray that the government, with its international partners, will urgently prioritise civilian protection in the region.

Thursday 24 September

– **Nigeria**
After visiting the country, a UN expert released a report highlighting the violence against Christian women and girls. It follows the conviction of more than 300 people on terror-related charges. Praise God for progress in awareness and justice – pray for more.

Friday 25 September

– **Somalia**
"Somalia and Islam go together; they cannot be separated," said Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre. The comments reinforce the pre-eminence of Islam in Somalia, which can fuel the vulnerability of religious minorities. Pray for the rights of all citizens to be upheld in government.

Persecutors

Saturday 26 September

– **Sudan**
"You could see the hate in his eyes for Christians," says Ebrahiem* of a Sudanese official. However, noticing the love believers from different ethnicities have for each other, the official queried this with a Christian detainee, who replied, "This is only the love of Christ." Pray for the official's salvation.

like the apostle Paul, they will encounter Jesus and the scales will fall from their eyes (Acts 9:18).

Tuesday 29 September

Poverty, family breakdowns, insufficient education, political grievances, insecurity, indoctrination – these are just some of the multitude of reasons why people get involved in extremism and criminality, leading to persecution. Pray that these root causes will be tackled.

Wednesday 30 September

"Please, brothers and sisters, let us unite in prayer to counter the enemy," asks a church leader in DRC following yet another attack. As religious extremists seek to expand their influence across sub-Saharan Africa, and target Christians, ask God to frustrate the ways of the wicked and thwart their plans.

Thank you for spending this month praying for our family in sub-Saharan Africa. Your prayers really do make a monumental difference. "Thank you very much," says Pastor Josiah. "We are seeing changes and the power of God in the form of your prayers and help in many ways." Please continue to pray, and please urge others to join you.



Asabe, pictured with her daughter Joanna, has received vital trauma care

Sunday 27 September

– **Nigeria**
Asabe received trauma care after her husband and children were killed. "The anger reduced, my bitterness reduced and I have freedom," she says. "I realised forgiveness is impossible without God." Ask the Holy Spirit to empower believers in the region to forgive those who've hurt them, and pray that attackers will see this and turn to Jesus.

Monday 28 September

– **Nigeria**
"Even the persecutors, some of them are coming to know Jesus," says Manga, whose father was killed by Boko Haram militants. Pray for those persecuting the church in sub-Saharan Africa that,

PASTOR JOSIAH'S PRAYER FOR NIGERIA

"Our Father and our Lord, the One who reigns overall. We are quiet before You, signifying our hearts are heavy. Everything happening in the world is not unknown to You.

"God in heaven, God who reigns over all, our plea and our hope is that You comfort us all. In these attacks, many have lost their wives, they have lost their children, they have lost their siblings, and some

their neighbours. Jesus, our Saviour, You are the Great Comforter, You indeed are our Well of Peace.

"Whatever pain we face in this world, we have peace and a resting place in heaven. The death of a Christian is gain. Eternal life awaits them forever, and we are grateful.

"With all these happenings around us, please be our encourager. Be ever close to us and help us. Amen."

Josiah gives honour to the martyrs buried in a mass grave – you can read Josiah's story on p18 of the magazine



OCTOBER

Burkina Faso

Thursday 1 October

Political instability has allowed militant Islamist groups to flourish in parts of the country and attack Christians with impunity. Christians have been killed and churches burnt. Ask the Lord to confront those who are persecuting His people and transform their hearts with the love of Christ.

Friday 2 October

Pastor Michée lost his father and brothers when militants from the Fulani tribe attacked his village, killing 31 Christian men (see Magazine p6). "Our people died as strong believers, and we are asking God to help us have the same faith, worshipping Jesus," he says. "Pray for me to always be devoted in my ministry until the end."

Saturday 3 October

After receiving trauma care through Open Doors partners, Pastor Michée now provides trauma care to widows in his village. "Many have stopped going to church. I felt they are in dire need of this training that I received." Ask the Lord to heal hearts and souls through Michée's ministry.

Sunday 4 October

Nathalie is one of 17 widows receiving trauma care through Pastor Michée. "The trauma care gave me a lot of strength," she says. "Pray for me to be able to provide for my kids. Pray for us to stay healthy and keep worshipping God."

Monday 5 October

Since the 2022 military coup, Burkina Faso has been led by a military government. Promises to return to civilian rule have so far not come to pass. Ask the Lord to restore peace and stability to the Burkinabe people.

Tuesday 6 October

Christian women and girls are vulnerable to abduction, rape, forced marriage and pressure to convert to Islam. Daughters of Christian leaders who have converted from Islam are particularly targeted. Pray for protection.

Wednesday 7 October

As violent persecution increases, pray for God's wisdom and strength for Open Doors partners serving the church with relief aid, trauma care and persecution survival training. Ask the Lord to provide the workers and resources they need to reach more vulnerable believers.

Impossible faith

Thursday 8 October

- Vietnam

Despite opposition from their children and loss of government support, Toan* and Huyen* continue to follow Jesus. "We knew the Lord would not abandon us," Toan shares. "He has given us a new family in the church." Pray for the couple and their perseverance.

Friday 9 October - Iraq

Pray for Yasin* who, amidst hostility and attacks, continues to share the gospel. Now, his son and daughter are witnesses to Jesus. Pray that many would come to faith from their community.

Saturday 10 October

- Nepal

Pray for Indra*, whose bold faith has drawn her family and many from her community to trust in God. Pray that more from her village would find hope in the Lord through livelihood projects run by local partners.

Sunday 11 October - India

Since violence broke out a couple of years ago in Manipur, India, many families have struggled to survive. Despite her hardships, Thoinu* says, "God has created this big universe, and my problem is so small. With Christ, I will overcome all my problems."

Pray that God will provide for all her family's needs.

Monday 12 October

- Bhutan

Pray for Dema*, whose husband drove her from their home when she became a believer. "Please pray for my husband. May the Lord open his eyes to see His truth and love."

Tuesday 13 October

- North Korea

The church in North Korea is growing! "There is still a large underground church. Because you pray, people come to faith," says a believer. Pray for strength and grace for our church family.

Wednesday 14 October

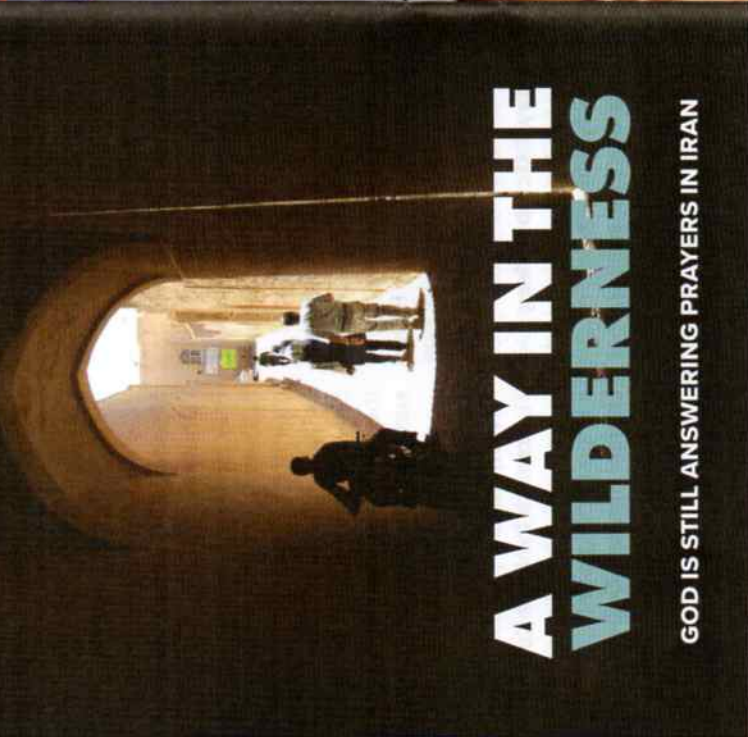
- Nepal

Pastor Santosh used to harass local believers – now he is passionate about reaching the lost. Pray for him and others to keep trusting in God and sharing the gospel despite persecution.

Thursday 15 October

- Bhutan

Many churches in Bhutan must move regularly because of opposition. But believers like Pastor Dorji* persevere. "I want to thank every individual who is praying for us and standing with us," he says. Pray that God would give wisdom in seemingly impossible situations.



A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS

GOD IS STILL ANSWERING PRAYERS IN IRAN

“God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.”

PSALM 46:1

For Mahnaz*, the memories of her imprisonment in Iran have never fully faded: the cold interrogation rooms, the uncertainty of each day and the heavy price she paid for following Christ. Arrested because of her faith and eventually forced to flee her homeland, she now serves as a lifeline to believers who remain behind, discipling and counselling Christians still living under the shadow of persecution.

Life in Iran is marked by immense pressure. Mahnaz hears daily of families struggling beneath soaring inflation, where even basic groceries and essential medicines have become unaffordable. At the same time, believers live with the constant fear of phone searches, surveillance and sudden arrests.

Yet even in these dark circumstances, God is moving in remarkable ways. He is answering people's prayers.

Mahnaz shares of her friend Hana*, a Christian convert mother, who found herself caught in the chaos of a street protest. As gunfire echoed nearby, she feared for her life. While she waited in a hair salon for the streets to calm, Hana sensed an unexpected peace from the Lord. Listening to the women around her speak of their fears and disappointments, she began sharing the hope she had found in Jesus.

**“I am living proof
that God still heals.”**

To her surprise, several women listened intently. They were weary of false promises and searching for something real. Before she left, some of them asked to know more about Christ. A few days later, Hana returned to the salon carrying copies of the New Testament for these women who had become eager to learn about Jesus.

Then Mahnaz shares the remarkable story of Roya*. For three years, she had been confined to her home by severe illness. She was so weak that she needed help with the simplest tasks.

For two years, Mahnaz and her team faithfully prayed and walked alongside her.

Then the impossible happened.

Following a successful operation, Roya sent Mahnaz a video. She was not only walking again, she was hiking through the mountains she once thought she would never see. “I am living proof that God still heals,” she says joyfully. “I thought my life was over, but now I thank God for every breath I take.”

“These stories are the fruit of faithful prayers,” shares Mahnaz. “While the world may see only crisis and persecution, we see a God who is drawing people to Himself and restoring broken lives.”

PLEASE PRAY

- Praise God for His kindness and provision in the midst of chaos
- For protection and courage for Christians facing increasing persecution in Iran
- That many more people would be drawn to Jesus and respond to the gospel.

Middle East

Friday 16 October – Iran

Pray for strength and comfort for believers who remain in prison with no promise of release. Hoda*, a house church leader who was imprisoned, says, "The presence of God became real to me in a way I had never experienced before."

Saturday 17 October – Iran

Ask the Lord to provide for the needs of families suffering because of escalating living costs caused by conflict. Pray that God would meet them in their anxiety and desperation and turn many eyes to Him, the Giver of life.

Sunday 18 October – Iran

Praise God for increased openness to the gospel across Iran. Pray that believers would have wisdom and boldness to share the hope they have, and that God would provide opportunities and soft hearts.

Monday 19 October

– Yemen

Earlier in the year, the church suffered an intense crackdown, with church leaders arrested. Pray that the wives and children of imprisoned believers would know God's encouragement and provision for all their needs.

Tuesday 20 October

– Saudi Arabia

Pray for young people who become believers and face hostility from their families. Ask the Lord to strengthen and embolden His children to be salt and light before their parents and siblings.

Wednesday 21 October

– Iraq

Converts to Christianity and those who work with them are at great risk of persecution. One pastor asks, "Converts face very hard challenges because they are secret believers. Please pray for me and my family, that God will strengthen our faith and will protect us."

Thursday 22 October

– Turkey

Pray for Christians under growing pressure to renounce their faith in Christ. Ask the Lord to help them "continue to live [their] lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as [they] were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6-7)

Friday 23 October – Syria

Earlier this year, a Christian was appointed mayor of the city of Al-Suqaylabiyah in Syria. Pray for Adeeba Mikhail Mansour and for wisdom, godliness and courage

in how she governs

the city in the face of hostility to the gospel.

Asia

Saturday 24 October

– China

Praise God that Zhang*, husband of underground church leader, Jinyi*, has been released after spending months in prison. Pray for healing and wisdom as he adapts to life after prison.

Sunday 25 October

– Myanmar

Today is the start of the Buddhist holiday of Thadingyut (Festival of Lights). It's also a time when opposition increases for Buddhist-background believers. Ask God to strengthen them to stand firm under pressure.

Monday 26 October – Laos

Pray for 40 young believers still traumatised after their Christian camp was interrupted by the authorities who interrogated believers. Ask God to transform fear into resilience.

Tuesday 27 October – Laos

Pray with ministry leaders who face questioning by the regional authorities. Ask God to give them boldness and discernment as they respond.

Wednesday 28 October

– Vietnam

Thanh Son* has been rejected and even abused by his parents for his faith in Jesus. "I feel so stuck and hopeless," he shared with his local pastor. "Pray for me."

Thursday 29 October

– North Korea

A recent report indicates that Chinese authorities are now digitally tracking North Korean defectors. Pray for believers who must decide between being connected to their community or going silent.

Friday 30 October

– Kyrgyzstan

Pastor Dmitry Golovin and his church are under constant surveillance. Ask God to place people in Dmitry's path to encourage and uphold him.

Saturday 31 October

– Arise Africa

As the petition deadline approaches, pray for preparations to present the petition to leaders and decision-makers in the EU, the UN, the UK and other local governments. Pray that those in power will be moved to take action to provide protection, justice and restoration for our persecuted family.