

WORLD WATCH LIST 2027 ONLINE



Open Doors

PRAYER DIARY | November/December 2026

Thursday 21 January | 7.30–8.30pm

Following the launch of Open Doors' World Watch List 2027, you are invited to World Watch List Online! Join us on Thursday 21 January for a digital event to hear and pray about the impact of the launch of the World Watch List in Parliament.

You will have the opportunity to learn about key recommendations supplied by Open Doors UK & Ireland to the government concerning the religious freedom of Christians globally, as well

as trends in persecution in the past year.

Take this moment to stand with our brothers and sisters who count the cost of following Jesus daily. Your every act of support is 'an angel's embrace, a beam of light in the darkness and a charcoal fire in the cold. It is so tangible, powerful and heartwarming'. (Da Wei*, a believer from China)

Sign up at
opendoorsuk.org/webinars

*Names changed for security reasons

COVER Aicha (12) with her brother Azis (10) and sister Somaia (7) in Burkina Faso



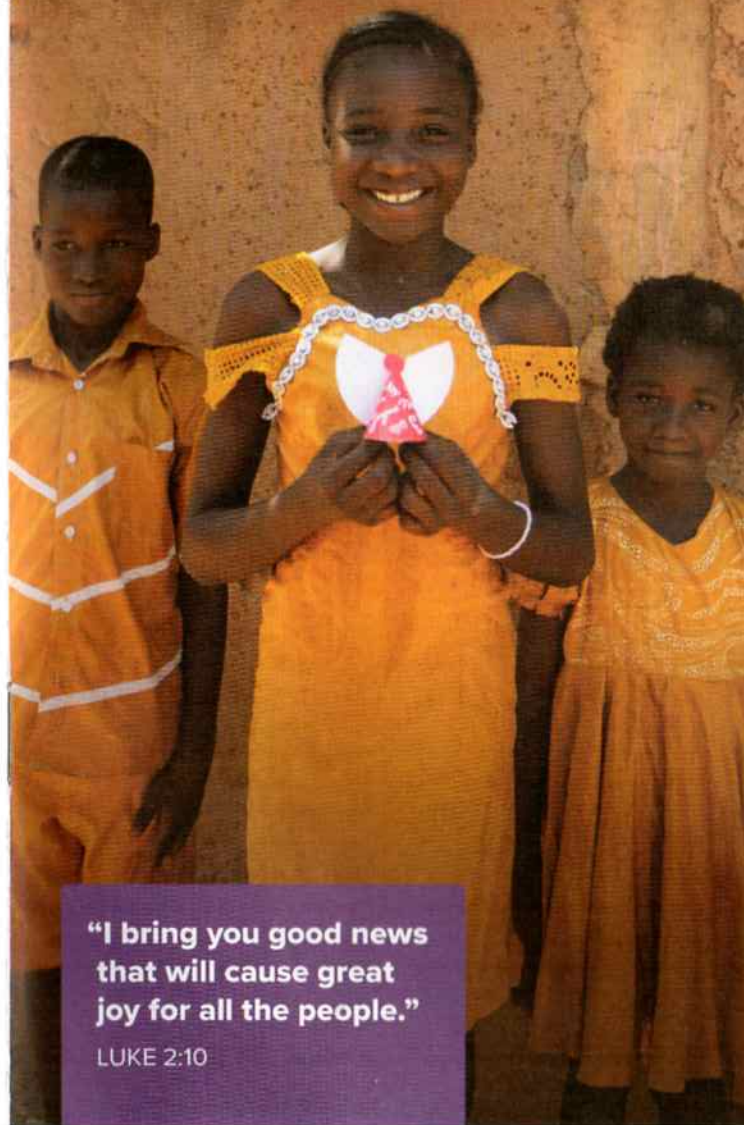
Open Doors, PO Box 6, Witney,
OX29 6WJ
T 01993 460015
E contact@opendoorsuk.org

FIND US ON:

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



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

LUKE 2:10

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1 November – IDOP

As we pray with our brothers and sisters in sub-Saharan Africa on this International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, ask the righteous God to rise up on behalf of His people, to 'bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure' (Psalm 7:9).

Persecuted children

Monday 2 November – Burkina Faso

Aicha (12) brought her parents to faith in Jesus despite being beaten by her uncles for attending church. She asks for prayer: "Please, pray for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel everywhere."

Tuesday 3 November – South East Asia

Remember Robin and his mother Moly, who've faced rejection and threats from their family and neighbours because they follow Christ. Pray for protection and courage to hold fast to Jesus.

Wednesday 4 November – Myanmar

James* (9) is being bullied at school because he is a Christian. His mother, Mary*, reported this to

the school but no action was taken. Pray for courage to stand firm, and that the school will address the bullying fairly and ensure his safety.

Thursday 5 November – Myanmar

Praise God that Jo*, a teenager living in a displacement camp, has been able to continue his education with support from Open Doors partners. "Thank you for supporting my schooling," he says. "I can now continue my education, study well and have hope for the future."

Friday 6 November – Colombia

Pray for Christian children growing up amid armed conflict. Ask the Lord to guard them from recruitment by illegal armed groups, and provide safe environments where they can grow academically, emotionally and spiritually.

Saturday 7 November – Mexico

Pray for protection for children affected by violence or persecution because of their family's faith. Ask God to raise up parents, teachers and pastors who will guide them in the truth and let them know they are loved, valued and created with purpose.

ARISE AFRICA

Sunday 8 November – Nigeria

Eleven children were among 30 Christians killed in an attack in Kaduna State. In Plateau State, at least 25 people were killed when a predominantly Christian community was attacked. Pray for God's comfort, healing and peace.

Monday 9 November – Cameroon

"We want them to be converted," says Pastor Babien after a jihadist attack in north Cameroon. "Help us in prayer, so that even those who persecute us believe. Because everything is possible with God."

Tuesday 10 November – DRC

"We've had enough of the killings," said protestors following another attack in the east, killing three Christians. Pray for the church's resilience and for effective military support.

Wednesday 11 November – CAR

Lisa* gave birth while being held captive by a rebel group. She escaped, only to be rejected by her family. While attitudes have softened, relationships remain tense. She hasn't seen her husband since her abduction. Pray for full reconciliation.

Thursday 12 November – Arise Africa

Today, the *Arise Africa* petition is being delivered to the UK government. Pray that those in power will be receptive to the message and that it will lead to lasting change for our African church family.

Friday 13 November – East Africa

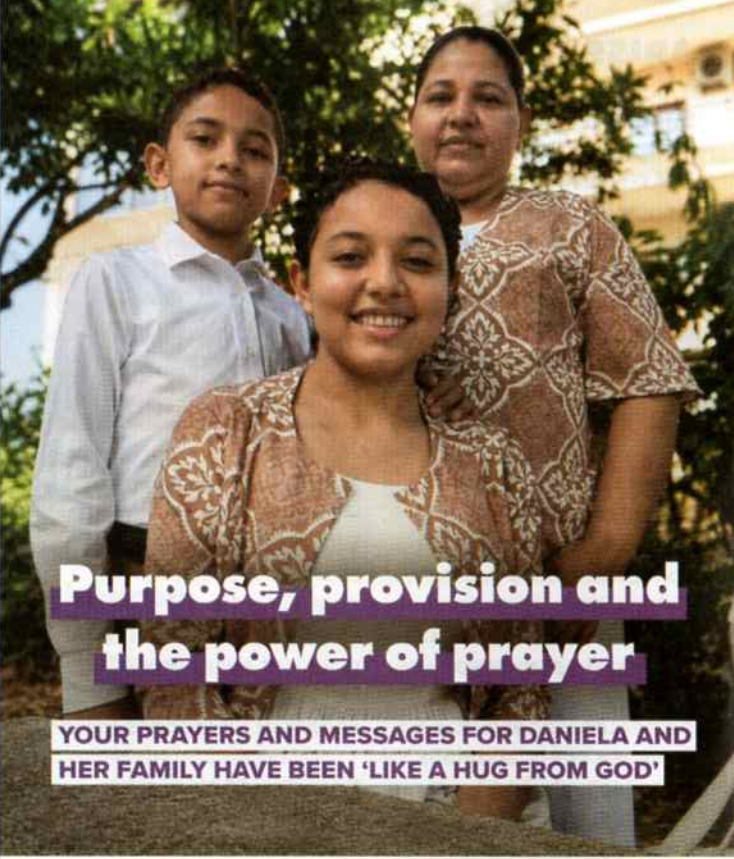
When Abed refused to recite the Islamic creed at school, he was thrown out of class. "God does not abandon us," he says. Pray for the impact of his witness.

Saturday 14 November – Sudan

Two church leaders have been killed and two kidnapped by Islamist militants amid rising tribal violence in South Kordofan. Pray for protection, and for peace and stability in the region.

Sunday 15 November – Tanzania

After leaving her family's traditional religion to become a Christian, Amekidia* was thrown out of home, and kidnapped and sexually assaulted by the man chosen to marry her. She's since escaped and is doing well. "Pray that I can achieve my dreams," she asks.



Purpose, provision and the power of prayer

YOUR PRAYERS AND MESSAGES FOR DANIELA AND HER FAMILY HAVE BEEN 'LIKE A HUG FROM GOD'

Four years ago, we introduced you to Daniela from Colombia. Her father, Plinio, was killed for sharing the gospel in an area controlled by gangs. As she's wrestled in prayer and seen God at work through her suffering, her faith has emerged stronger.

"Back then, I was drowning in sadness," Daniela recalls. "I remember crying almost every night and asking God: 'Why my family and no others?'"

For years, she questioned God, until one day she got an answer.

In 2024, the family attended an event with a

group from Germany, who were on a trip sponsored by Open Doors. A woman prayed for her and her brother, Sebastián. "Maybe God allowed this to protect your dad's future," she offered.

For Daniela, the words prompted a profound shift in perspective. "Maybe this was God's mercy for him," she shares.

That same night, something else happened. The group gave Daniela and her brother a pamphlet that had their faces on it. "They told me they use it to share the gospel with children and show them that, despite difficulties, it's worth following Jesus. They said that my story was impacting millions of lives."

Seeing purpose in her pain, a weight lifted. Daniela also saw how important it is to persevere in prayer, knowing that if she'd given up, she might never have discovered what God was doing through her story. "If we don't remain firm, we may never know why. We won't know what God holds for our future," she says.

Another wonderful answer to prayer soon followed.

After graduating from high school, Daniela dreamed of studying graphic design, but it was unaffordable for the family. "Believe in God," her mother encouraged her. "He will provide."

That's what happened when Open Doors local partners offered to fund the course. "I knew it

was God Himself. God paid for my studies," says Daniela, who now works as a graphic designer.

Many of you also wrote letters to the family. Some are pinned to Daniela's wall. "Open Doors was like a hug from God, showing me that He was there. They are little messages from God that He sends through people."

"Now the Lord is my everything."

Losing her father changed Daniela's life forever, but it's not had the final word.

"Of course, there are times when I miss him. But now, it's more about remembering with joy what I had. He is with God. Now the Lord is my everything. He knows how to show me His love."

PLEASE PRAY

- Praise God for how He's met with Daniela in her suffering
- That she will thrive in her vocation and faith
- For continued healing, comfort and strength for the whole family.

Mothers

Monday 16 November

– Bhutan

Dema* struggled to provide for her children when her husband threw them out of home. "It was almost impossible to explain the price of faith to my kids," she says. "Pray for my husband. May the Lord open his eyes to see Him."

Tuesday 17 November

– South East Asia

Anne* had been unable to conceive for 15 years, bringing judgement from society. Six months after meeting Dhea*, who prayed for her, Anne fell pregnant. She and her husband later became Christians. Pray for their spiritual growth.

Wednesday 18 November

– Vietnam

Lem* was divorced by her husband following years of abuse. She's now sole parent to their two children. "No matter what happened, I want to keep following Christ," she says. Pray for healing and provision.

Thursday 19 November

– Central Asia

"I never had enough money even for food, so of course I couldn't buy Christmas presents for my three children," says Bahul*, whose husband left her because of her faith. "I prayed and God answered

– He sent you with your gifts!" Pray that her children will grow to know Jesus.

Friday 20 November

– Sri Lanka

Many women in the Ampera region turn to church to escape abuse from their alcoholic husbands. When they become Christians and take their children to church, the opposition can worsen. Pray for their husbands' salvation.

Saturday 21 November

– Iraq

Many Christian mothers are concerned about their children's future. Limited job opportunities for Christians are leaving young people discouraged. Pray that the sincere faith of these mothers will also live in their children (2 Timothy 1:5).

Sunday 22 November

– Egypt

Alia* is a mother of five and her husband is disabled. She intervened when her daughter was facing forced marriage to a Muslim and forced conversion. Alia carries many burdens – ask the Lord to sustain her.

Fathers

Monday 23 November

– China

Brother AK* was arrested for listening to the Bible

through a USB device while driving with his wife and children. At the time of writing, his whereabouts are unclear. Pray for his release and ask the Holy Spirit to sustain him.

Tuesday 24 November

– Bangladesh

Anis* is an evangelist who's separated from his family for safety. "As a father, my heart is in great pain," he says. Ask God to strengthen the family's faith.

Wednesday 25 November

– Yemen

Many of the more than 60 Christians arrested at the turn of the year are fathers. Pray for opportunities to see their children and that they will be reassured of God's loving care for their families.

Thursday 26 November

– Central Asia

Samman* and his children couldn't attend a house church given the stigma of a one-parent family (see Magazine p22). Open Doors partners brought gifts and invited them to a prayer house. "It started changing everything in my life," he says. Pray for continued encouragement.

Friday 27 November

– Sri Lanka

Pastor Hiral* has been forced from his village.

"I've even faced death threats," he says. "It's very stressful for me and my family." He's feeling traumatised and frightened. Pray for peace, wisdom and courage.

Saturday 28 November

– Colombia

Following their father's death, Daniela (see p4) encourages her brother, Sebastián. "Sometimes he still feels sad, but I remind him that our Heavenly Father will take care of us," she says. Pray for this truth to nestle deeply in their hearts.

Sunday 29 November

– Cuba

Pastor Alexis Padrón Lorenzo spent three months in prison for anti-government protests, but still faces charges. He has rheumatoid arthritis and one of his children has heart problems. Pray for his acquittal and good health for the family.

Monday 30 November

– Iran

The persecuted church has lost a spiritual father in Rev. Dr Edward Hovsepian-Mehr. Persecution brought him to the UK, where he still gave pastoral care to a network of thousands of house churches. Pray for his enduring legacy and for more spiritual fathers.



SOWING HOPE IN NIGERIA

Reverend Markus Bambo has seen the lives of people in his community transformed by your support

Because of your generosity, Christian farmers in Nigeria are experiencing fresh hope through the support of Open Doors local partners. Thank you!

For many of our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, it isn't just attacks from extremists that they fear, but the growing isolation that comes from within their own communities.

"When it comes to employment, Muslims are always given priority," says Reverend Markus Bambo. "For example, if they are picking ten people, they might just consider one Christian out of the ten after considering their own people."

Rev. Bambo lives with a community of believers in Kanam Local Government Area (LGA), Plateau State, where Muslims make up most of the population. Christians are often treated as second-class citizens

and are denied privileges that their Muslim peers enjoy – including the provision of vital products needed for farming, an essential livelihood for many citizens.

"This has completely shown that Christians in other parts of the world are concerned about us."

When government subsidies for fertilisers and insecticides are distributed, local partners state that Muslim communities receive over 90% of these items, leaving Christians with little or nothing. The subsidised items are then often sold to believers at exorbitant rates, driving whole communities deeper into poverty.

In the face of these growing challenges, Open Doors local partners stepped in to provide three days of skill-building sessions for 100 Christian farmers in Kanam LGA. Following training, the farmers were each given a loan of two bags of fertiliser, herbicides and a knapsack to be shared between two farmers. For many, these provisions went beyond equipping the community – it was a timely reminder of their global church family standing with them despite the marginalisation they are experiencing.

"We are sidelined, we have been cheated, oppressed and seen as nothing, but you have brought support to us that will help us spiritually and build our faith and physical body. We thank God and thank you again," Rev. Bambo expresses. "The fertiliser

and herbicide have really helped our farms. Since we started using these items, we have seen the blessings of God on our farms and from what we can see, our yield this year will be more than last year.

"We thank God and the ministry and ask God to bless you. This has completely shown that Christians in other parts of the world are concerned about us."

PLEASE PRAY

- Praise God for His generous provision to our brothers and sisters in Kanam LGA
- That the beneficiaries of the training will have wisdom and perseverance as they work
- For the Lord's protection and blessing over the community and farms.

Persecuted children

Tuesday 1 December

Many children around the world face persecution because they follow Jesus. Pray for wisdom and compassion for Open Doors partners supporting children practically and spiritually, and pray that they can reach more families next year.

Wednesday 2 December

– Syria

Elie (9) survived a deadly church bomb attack 18 months ago. Pray that he will overcome fear and return to church to celebrate this Christmas. "I want to go," he says. "I'm reasoning with myself that nothing will happen; my faith gives me strength."

Thursday 3 December

– Iraq

Pray with this Iraqi Christian child: "I would love to enjoy the Christmas celebrations at church, sing songs and spend time with people I love without fear. I also wish for a bright future where we can continue to grow in our faith and live peacefully in our country."

Friday 4 December – Palestinian Territories

Pray for Christian children in Bethlehem, Jesus' birthplace. Pray that they will grow in faith and joy, and experience

God's steadfast love in their uncertainty.

Saturday 5 December

– China

Some schools forbid students from celebrating Christmas, claiming it's a Western holiday that doesn't align with Chinese traditions. Ask God to guide students to understand the true meaning of Christmas and come to faith in Christ.

Sunday 6 December

– China

Pray for the children of missionaries based in remote regions where churches are not fully established. These children often feel isolated and struggle to adapt to a new culture. Ask the Lord to provide them with fellowship and help them embrace their identity in Christ.

Monday 7 December

– South Philippines

Pray for the children of believers from a Muslim background who experience rejection for their faith in Jesus. This Christmas, ask God to fill them with His peace and help them grow into courageous followers of Christ.

Tuesday 8 December

– Central Asia

Open Doors partners show Jesus' love to children

in rural areas by holding Christmas outreach events and distributing gifts. Pray that this will be a powerful way of helping children and families understand the true message of Christmas.

Middle East

Wednesday 9 December

– Syria

A bomb exploded outside Saint George Cathedral while children were playing nearby in the church yard. No one was injured, but it's renewed fears among Christians. Pray against these attacks and threats, and for peace for Christians.

Thursday 10 December

– Syria

Sarah (13) was left blind in one eye and disfigured following the bomb attack on Mar Elias Church in Damascus in June 2025. "She stays alone and refuses to do the things she used to love. It breaks my heart," says her mother. Ask God to restore her self-esteem.

Friday 11 December

– Syria

Hind Kabawat, the only Christian and woman in cabinet, says that the future constitution should guarantee freedom for all religious minorities. "We [Christians] used to be fifteen per cent, then nine per cent, then four per cent," she said.

Saturday 12 December

– Iran

"Amid the financial hardship from war, church members have become increasingly committed to prayer and intercession," shares Aptin*, a church leader. Praise God for growing unity and spiritual hunger, and pray for more.

Sunday 13 December

– Iraq

Many Christians feel pressured to leave Iraq because of insecurity and economic uncertainty. Pray for strength to remain and bear witness to Christ in the land of their ancestors.

Monday 14 December

– Egypt

Fifty young people from North Africa gathered for a forum aimed at equipping them to support converts. A participant from Egypt said it encouraged them 'to believe that things could change here in my country'. Pray for greater religious freedom in Egypt.

Tuesday 15 December – Palestinian Territories

Bible-reading challenges on social media are helping reach youngsters. "Many youth feel lost and don't enjoy life. But when I got closer to God, I realised the answer is in the Bible," says a young Christian. Pray for the initiative's continued impact.



Esther: my mum's story

Stories live on through the words of one generation to another. Esther, a young girl, listens to her mother's stories about Christians in Iran, longing for the day when they can share her freedom.

Esther* watches her mother, Mary, walk in, carefully carrying a tray with a teapot and cups. It's a rhythm of life which enables them to share memories as well as tea.

Esther is 12, old enough to understand that the stories her mother tells her aren't fairytales. Mary describes her home in Iran, the place she fled when she was just 17.

"I cherish this time with my children," Mary says. "I share with them stories about our house church, how we sang songs in low voices, how we were thirsty to learn more about Jesus."

But she doesn't skip the harder parts – how persecution grew so much that her family had to flee. "Both my grandfather and father were taken when

secret agents raided the house," Mary remembers.

"This reality still exists in Iran today," Esther says. "I pray for them."

Her family continues to serve Christians inside Iran through online ministry. They hope that eventually they'll be able to return home. "I want my kids to pray for Christians in Iran and to appreciate what they have now," Mary shares. "I also want them to hope that, one day, we will all be able to go and worship Jesus there."

Esther wrote a poem imagining Mary's experience, and drew a picture (ABOVE) to express their shared longing, looking forward to a day when she can worship with believers from her mother's homeland.

Today, I leave the place I've always known,
The house where I was born,
Where I took my first steps,
And where silence now speaks louder than love.

You might wonder, Why run?
Why abandon the soil that raised me?
But listen, and I will tell you why...

It began months ago,
When the government turned cold against us,
Against Christians.
Now, belief is a crime,
And faith can set your home in flames.

It happened to another Mary once.
My name is Mary, too.
In Iran, it's not an uncommon name.
But in times like these,
It carries the weight of danger.
School offers no refuge.
My sister and I are the only Christians
In a sea of silence and scorn.
At our all-Muslim school,
We are mocked, shamed,
Treated as strangers
In the land of our birth.
And when the day is over,
There is no comfort waiting.
We return to a home missing its heart.

Only one parent greets us now
And not always.
Our father is gone again.
Perhaps arrested,
Perhaps worse.
His only crime:
Handing out Bibles, sharing the
Word that gives us strength.

So today, I run.
Not from love,
Not from memory,
But from fear.

Today, I leave to survive.

Impossible faith

Wednesday 16 December

– Afghanistan

Afghan Christians must live out their faith in secret, silent ways. Samira*, an Afghan Christian woman, shares, "Even if we can't go to church, we pray in our hearts and rooms." She asks, "Pray that we feel the Holy Spirit in our loneliness."

Thursday 17 December

– Afghanistan

Afghan refugee Christians in Central Asia live with the anxiety of deportation. Pray that God would 'make seeing eyes blind', protect His children and help them to trust in Him.

Friday 18 December

– North Korea

A believer from North Korea says, "Because of your warm helping hands, we can endure, believing that we are surrounded by God's love and care." Pray that secret Christians would experience encouragement from God's Word and fellow believers this season.

Saturday 19 December

– Syria

Continue to pray for Elias and his family whose church suffered a terrorist attack in Damascus last year. Pray for full healing for Elias and his daughter, and for comfort for every affected believer.

Sunday 20 December

– Vietnam

Pray for Luu Thanh Hang*, a believer in Vietnam who longs to see her community come to Christ, and recently received training in evangelism from Open Doors local partners. Pray for boldness and endurance.

Monday 21 December

– Mexico

Juan was the first Christian in his indigenous village 16 years ago. His witness transformed his community, and he is now helping others to grow in faith. Praise God for His work through Juan and pray for more.

Tuesday 22 December

– Africa

Pray for leaders of churches across sub-Saharan Africa who are often targeted by extremists – pray that the Lord would cast out fear and help them to lead with courage and love.

Wednesday 23 December

– Pakistan

Pray for four Christian families who were forced from their homes after choosing to follow Jesus. Pray for a new place to live where they can find secure employment, settle permanently and worship in peace.



Christmas

Thursday 24 December

– Christmas Eve

Pray with our Nigerian family who lost loved ones in attacks last year on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Ask that the Prince of Peace would grant them deep comfort and knowledge of His presence.

Friday 25 December

– Christmas Day

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'" Praise God for the gift of Jesus and pray for joy for persecuted believers celebrating His birth today. (Luke 2:10)

Saturday 26 December

– Boxing Day

"When everything around you feels uncertain, Christmas reminds us that God has not forgotten us," says a believer from Iran. Pray for Iranian believers and that they would know fresh assurance in the Lord this Christmas.

Sunday 27 December

– China

Pray for the protection of believers in nations like China, where churches must celebrate Christmas in secret. Ask the Lord to bless and encourage them.

Monday 28 December

– Iran

A believer from Iran asks, "Please pray for peace in Iran. Pray for strength for Christian families raising children in difficult circumstances. May we one day be able to follow Jesus openly and celebrate our faith, and Christmas, without fear."

Tuesday 29 December

Pray for the protection of Christians around the world who come under greater threat of attack over Christmas. Pray that they would remain steadfast in faith and persevere in their witness.

New Year

Wednesday 30 December

Sarjana* from Nepal shares, "What we have today is not because of our strength, but because of God's grace and the kindness of His people." Praise God for His faithfulness and provision for His people this year.

Thursday 31 December

– New Year's Eve

Ask the Lord to go before the ministry of Open Doors, that 2027 would see more believers equipped and refreshed in the joy of the Lord as their strength (Nehemiah 8:10). Pray that Jesus' name would be glorified this coming year.