

PRAYER DIARY

Jan/Feb 2023

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did
for one of the least of these brothers
and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

MATTHEW 25:40

JANUARY

North Korea

Sunday 1 January

Open Doors facilitates secret deliveries of food, medicine, clothes and Christian materials to believers in North Korea. Please pray for the safety of the workers on these checkpoints and pray that God will sustain them with the courage and love they need to continue this work.

Monday 2 January

Secret Believers in North Korea depend on support from Open Doors' underground network. Sometimes it is a simple hot meal, but in their hardship, this means a lot to secret believers. Pray that believers will continue to be encouraged and ask that God will provide for their basic needs.

Tuesday 3 January

The hostility facing Christians in North Korea means believers are few. But Christians who bravely remain in the country are bold and rooted in their faith. Please pray that the seed of the gospel sowed into the hearts

of the North Koreans will grow into a tree that bears fruit across the land.

Wednesday 4 January

Pray for Open Doors' work with women who have been trafficked and sold into marriage with Chinese men. Our workers are able to reach these women with the love of Jesus, and run several Bible study groups for them. More female workers are needed for this vital ministry. Ask God to provide the right people.

Thursday 5 January

Sook-ja* was one of the trafficked women that encountered Open Doors workers. Sook-ja now regularly attends a Bible study group and is learning about being a disciple. Thank God that Sook-ja was rescued from slavery and pray that her faith will continue to bring her joy, love and hope to share with others.

Friday 6 January

If their faith is discovered, Christians are often sent to forced labor camps, where conditions are atrocious. Please pray that God will pour out supernatural peace and strength into believers, and their families, held in



Representative image

labor camps. Pray for an end to this brutal subversion of their human rights.

Saturday 7 January

Christians have no freedom in North Korea and it is forbidden for Christians to worship together or study the Bible. Nevertheless, courageous believers gather in secret to encourage one another, pray and share fellowship. Please pray that their meetings will be protected from the prying eyes of the authorities.

Sunday 8 January

This year, we received the terrible news that several dozen believers from an underground church were captured and executed. Please pray that God will comfort their families, many of whom have been sent to political camps. Pray against this tragic violence and for protection over secret believers that remain in North Korea.

Monday 9 January

Christianity is seen as a particular threat to the dictatorial ideology and governance of the country's barbaric regime. Christians are viewed as enemies of both the leadership and society in general. Please

pray that the North Korean regime will allow the country to be helped and influenced by the wider world.

Tuesday 10 January

The UN Commission of Inquiry report on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea recently concluded that human rights violations in the region make it a "State without parallel" in the contemporary world. Pray that North Korea will be liberated from oppressive leadership and that the evils levelled against the people for so long will end.

Wednesday 11 January

Pray for God's supernatural and powerful intervention in the leadership of North Korea. Pray that God will soften Kim Jong-un's heart and pray that he, and other people in his regime will encounter God, know His love, and put an end to the continuous persecution of Christians and other citizens.

Thursday 12 January

Praise God that the radio ministry continues to encourage Christians in North Korea. Believers are heartened by prayers and messages from supporters all over the world. Please pray that the broadcasts continue



to reach believers and even non-believers, so that they may be transformed by God's Word and messages of hope.

Friday 13 January

Lift up the people of North Korea in 2023. *"Lord, hear my voice, let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy"* (Psalm 130:2)

Afghanistan

Saturday 14 January

The Taliban's takeover in August 2021 has forced most Christians either further underground or away from the country entirely. Following Jesus remains a death sentence, so believers keep their faith secret. Please pray for the safety of these covert believers, who courageously hold their convictions, despite the many and serious risks.

Sunday 15 January

Under the Taliban regime, women and girls are treated as second-class citizens and Christians are considered to have no value. The abhorrent result of this extreme discrimination is that many women are forced into sexual slavery. Pray for an



end to these evil practices and for repentance in the hearts of the perpetrators.

Monday 16 January

In some shocking circumstances, fathers are forced to give up their daughters at gunpoint. These girls are forcibly married to Taliban fighters. Pray that God will bring comfort and peace to these girls who face this trauma. Pray for healing of their physical and emotional wounds.

Tuesday 17 January

Religious minorities in Afghanistan live in fear of the lifestyle imposed on them under strict Sharia Law, enforced by the Taliban. Please pray for the transformation of the leadership by God's power, that they will be inclusive of minorities and seek God's love and peace. Pray for miraculous change in their hearts.

Wednesday 18 January

With violence and volatility in Afghanistan, many people including Christians have fled the country and become displaced. The conditions in bordering refugee camps are poor and resources are few. Please pray for food, water and shelter for these people and pray for a future with more stability, comfort and safety.

Thursday 19 January

Please pray that, despite the significant hardships faced by Christians in Afghanistan, God's close Presence will bring them peace, joy and hope. Pray that they will know



His deep love for each of them and know that they are not alone and not forgotten.

Friday 20 January

Pray for Open Doors partners who meet with and minister to Afghan refugees in neighboring countries. Ask the Lord to sustain them and give them energy and capacity for this work.

Saturday 21 January

Local journalism dwindled in Afghanistan since the Taliban came to power. With a lack of reliable news sources, fake news is spread around the world about events in the country. Much of this concerns Christians, causing undue panic and alarm. Pray against censorship and misinformation and ask God to preserve the stories of His people.

Sunday 22 January

Many aid organizations and governing bodies have cut their support in Afghanistan to snub the Taliban leadership. But without foreign aid, the locals suffer the most. Pray for wisdom for global policy and decision makers – ask the Lord to show them how to reach those

in need with necessities as they also uphold justice.

Monday 23 January

It's extremely dangerous to live openly as a Christian in Afghanistan, even more so following the Taliban's seizure of power last year. Pray that a wall of protection will guard secret believers from harm, and ask God to surround each one with His loving presence.

China

Tuesday 24 January

Open Doors partners encourage the faith of new believers from Buddhist backgrounds with regular discipleship training. For people who with previous knowledge of Jesus, the attendees find the sessions "captivating". Thank God for the impact that these small groups of disciples have in spreading the gospel in China.

Wednesday 25 January

Where Christians are suspected of evangelical activity in China, they're often put under surveillance. That's what happened to Lixin* after he attended a conference



across the border a few years ago. Now he faces potential criminal charges and 3 years in prison. Please pray that the authorities will not press charges and that freedom of religion will be upheld.

Thursday 26 January

"I have already been prepared to suffer for Christ." Despite the threat of imprisonment, Lixin* remains optimistic and steadfast. Thank God for his powerful witness to other local believers and the courage he has shown as a Christian leader in China. Pray that his church will continue, even if he must endure a stint in prison.

Friday 27 January

In recent years, China has introduced new restrictions on the internet and social media which impose severe limitations on Christian freedom. Many churches are monitored and shut down. Pray for a radical reversal of these overbearing restrictions. Pray that those who watch churches would encounter Christ unexpectedly as they oversee these Christian activities.

Saturday 28 January

Please pray that God will anoint the conversations that Christians have with

the local authorities. With God's intervention, these discussions can involve moments of divine encounter for those who seek to oppose His work.

Sunday 29 January

China is intentionally reducing the number of overseas business people, students and teachers, especially those suspected of affiliation to missionary organizations. Many overseas Christians have had their visa applications rejected. Ask the Holy Spirit to equip Chinese Christians with wisdom and maturity in this season.

Monday 30 January

With your support, our partners in China have been able to deliver discipleship training, and persecution survival training. Christians are learning how to navigate oppression and suffering. Ask God for his continued blessings over these sessions and to build up the workers who deliver the training.

Tuesday 31 January

Lift up those Christians who have converted from Islam or Tibetan Buddhism. They face hardships from their community and even their own families. Pray that their

witness will display God's love in a way that impacts those around them, even those who seek to persecute them.

Christians will be able to communicate safely with one another and be encouraged.

FEBRUARY

| Somalia

Wednesday 1 February

Al Shabaab has increased their stronghold in Somalia. The country is volatile and worryingly dangerous for Christians. Pray for God's protection over his Church and that each of our brothers and sisters will find continued strength and hope in Jesus.

Thursday 2 February

Rain has been scarce in Somalia and the country faces severe drought. Nearly 7 million people are on the brink of famine. Please pray urgently for rain in Somalia and that aid from the international community will flow into the country to help the most vulnerable.

| Libya

Friday 3 February

Law and order is in disarray in Libya and organized criminal gangs have taken advantage of the lawless situation. Please pray against the evils of human trafficking and pray for an end to the exploitation of vulnerable people.

Saturday 4 February

While Christianity is legal, believers still face social discrimination and many Christians keep their faith secret. Please pray that

| Yemen

Sunday 5 February

Yemen operates under strict Islamic laws, which can make life difficult for Christians. Lift up the brave Christians who still choose to follow Christ in secret, despite the danger they face if their faith is discovered. Pray that God will strengthen the secret church.

Monday 6 February

The situation is particularly dangerous for Muslims who convert to Christianity. Radical Islamic groups threaten people they label as 'apostates' with death if they do not re-convert. This creates an atmosphere of scrutiny and mistrust, even between families. Pray that Christians will be safe, and that all people in Yemen can live in openness and freedom.

| Eritrea

Tuesday 7 February

Pray for unity in the Church in Eritrea. While some churches have gained recognition, others have been forced underground. Whether recognized or covert, all Christians face the threat of state-sanctioned persecution. Please pray that strong internal advocates will rise up from the different churches to offer a united voice to challenge their government.

Wednesday 8 February

There are thought to be 1,000 Christians indefinitely detained in Eritrean prisons, not officially charged with anything. Pray for God to bring hope to these Christians and pray for their swift release.

Thursday 9 February

Thank God, that despite the dangers, *“the church is growing fast in Eritrea. The persecution inspires Christians to be close to God and know Him well.”* As Yael* reports, the Christian community is bubbling with hope and strength. Praise God for these resilient Christians who witness to the power of Christ in their homeland.

Nigeria

Friday 10 February

In the last year, violence and insecurity has worsened in Nigeria. The reign of terror from extremist Islamist groups was focused in the North, but now it's affecting more people as Boko Haram and Fulani militants move southwards. Please pray that the President and State Governors will find lasting solutions to the deepening security crisis.

Saturday 11 February

Open Doors partners seek out survivors of violence and abduction to help to heal their emotional wounds with trauma care. Please pray for more survivors to find ways to heal, and pray that the persecution survival training will help to restore the lives of people who have suffered so much.

Iran

Sunday 12 February

Despite extreme attempts to suppress the church in Iran, it continues to grow year-on-year. Thank God for this counter-intuitive growth and for the many hearts that have been set free through the gospel.

Monday 13 February

Christianity is still seen as a foreign idea in Iran and is treated with suspicion. Gatherings are often monitored and house groups are at risk of intrusion. Please pray that Christians in Iran will be free to worship together. Pray that they will continue to gather to encourage one another without feeling intimidated by possible surveillance.

Pakistan

Tuesday 14 February

Christians make up only around 1.8% of the population in Pakistan, but in a predominantly Muslim country, this small number of Christians is not well tolerated. Christian girls are abducted, abused and forcefully converted to



Islam. Pray for protection for women who suffer domestic violence and girls who are forced into early marriages.

healing, nourishing period for those who have been traumatised.

Sudan

Wednesday 15 February

Following a military coup in October 2021, Sudan is afflicted by ongoing unrest. This has resulted in a lack of protection for religious freedom. Churches have been forced to close and in some cases their land has been confiscated. Please pray for political stability and for a government that recognizes equal protection for all religious expressions.

Thursday 16 February

Life is particularly dangerous for Christians who have converted from Islam. Conversion is perceived to bring shame upon a Muslim family and Christian converts may face sexual assault and domestic violence in their homes. Pray that God will bring strength, hope and healing to those affected by violence and persecution.

God to settle them into kind communities and that Christmas time will be a

India

Friday 17 February

Increasing numbers of states in India have implemented anti-conversion laws, which are designed to stop Hindus being forcibly converted to other religions. However, these laws are often used as an excuse to harass and intimidate Christians. Pray for a change of narrative around Indian identity so that the culture becomes more accepting of minority faiths.

Saturday 18 February

Sadly, many Indian Christians experience social exclusion in their communities, discrimination in the workplace, and have false accusations and rumors spread about them. Understandably, this is trying and wearying for many believers. Pray that God will draw close to downtrodden Christians and ask that an attitude of acceptance and kindness towards every faith will sweep across India.



| Saudi Arabia

Sunday 19 February

Conversion from Islam to Christianity is unacceptable under Islamic law, many Christian converts live as secret believers. Despite the risks, the small number of Saudi Christians is slowly increasing, and boldly sharing their faith on the internet and Christian satellite TV channels. Thank God that isolated secret believers find ways to connect with other believers online.

| Myanmar

Monday 20 February

The situation in Christian areas of Myanmar has taken a turn for the worse since the military took control in February 2021. Fighting has increased across the country and the Christian minority is bearing the brunt of these attacks. Pray that displaced Christians will find safe shelter, and the healthcare they need. Stand with them in prayer as they are forced to leave their homes.

Tuesday 21 February

"Jesus said 'Carry your cross and follow me'. That is our motto too." Thank God for Moses'* courageous leadership of his church in Myanmar, especially during this turbulent time. Pray that Christians will be unified and that their presence and witness will be a force for peace and stability in Myanmar.

| Iraq

Wednesday 22 February

Iraq is home to a number of traditional Orthodox and Catholic churches, but all are seriously affected by intolerance, discrimination and persecution from local leaders, government authorities and Islamic extremist groups. Pray for more cooperation between Christian denominations and more understanding towards Christians from their communities and local leaders.

Thursday 23 February

In central and southern Iraq, many Christians choose not to display their faith in public to avoid harassment



| Qatar

Sunday 26 February

"We already see the move of the Holy Spirit in the Arabian Peninsula. God is visiting people in their dreams. God is doing miracles. God is doing healings among the people." Praise God for the miracles happening in Qatar. They keep this Christian community thriving, even while the country tries to stifle their convictions.

Monday 27 February

Please pray that the impact of the World Cup in November 2022 will bring greater tolerance and understanding of different religions, cultures and lifestyle choices. May it be the beginning of a new era of acceptance and multiculturalism.

Tuesday 28 February The World

In parts of the world, Islamic extremism is on the ascendancy. It's gaining ground in Asia, and extremist attacks are also increasingly common across sub-Saharan Africa. Ask the Lord to thwart the plans of those seeking violence, and to guard those who are vulnerable to recruitment by extremists.

or discrimination at work, university or when trying to cross checkpoints. Pray that one day, religious freedom will be widespread in Iraq.

| Syria

Friday 24 February

Years of conflict and extremism in Syria have created an environment in which sexual violence is commonplace. Women and girls from minority groups are particularly vulnerable and may be subjected to abduction, sexual harassment and rape. Pray that the perpetrators will repent from these evil practices and that sexual violence will be eradicated in Syria.

Saturday 25 February

With your support, Centers of Hope have been established in Syria. These centers are restoring optimism to war-weary people and helping them to see a brighter future. Pray for ongoing financial provision and that the workers will be reenergized to give support and compassion to those in need.



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