



**OpenDoors®**  
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

# Prayer Meetings for BRIDGE BUILDERS

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## **Prayer Meetings for BRIDGE BUILDERS** *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What is the goal of BRIDGE BUILDERS prayer meetings?**

To mobilize Christians in your churches and communities to pray regularly and strategically for the persecuted Church.

### **My prayer meeting has been formed within my Church. Are we accountable to our Church or to Open Doors?**

We believe that you must first be accountable to your church group's goals. If one of your goals is to pray for the worldwide church, then we would make great prayer partners. We have designed prayer tools that complement church prayer groups and are inter-denominational in nature.

### **How do I start my first meeting? (Or, how can I attract more members to my meetings?)**

There are three things we advise you to do before you have your first prayer meeting. They are: Pray, Pray and Pray! This will establish a solid foundation for your group.

We encourage you to meet as a group to pray for an hour or more a month.

For those who are interested in forming a larger group, talk with your friends and/or your pastor. See if your Church will allow you to have a "kick-off" meeting. At these meetings invite a guest speaker or show a video that will draw a group. Open Doors has several you can choose from. A good time to attract new members is around the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP), which is usually held in November.

You may also have your group join an existing prayer group at your church.

If you live in a highly populated area, we may be able to provide you with names of interested intercessors in your area.

### **What materials should we use to pray with?**

We at Open Doors want to serve you in every way possible, and one way we can do this is by providing you with materials and resources for your prayer meetings. You will be receiving a variety of materials from us including news updates, specific prayer campaigns, personal stories from the field and other valuable points for prayer. You can count on all the information we provide to be trustworthy. Open Doors has been "on the ground" providing firsthand testimonies and statistics that many other ministries and churches rely on for their reporting. We highly recommend Compass Direct at [www.compassdirect.org](http://www.compassdirect.org). And keep a discerning ear open to what you might read or hear on the nightly news. As Brother Andrew always asks whenever war or terrorism hits an already struggling country, "How will this affect the church?"

**Will any of the materials received from Open Doors include prayer requests for confidential matters?**

Open Doors takes great pains to ensure that the information we publish will not in any way endanger the lives of those we serve. The Suffering Church comes first. Open Doors is not known in many Christian homes, but for over 50 years our international bases have quietly and effectively ministered in some of the world's most difficult and dangerous areas. We have given up countless opportunities to speak about how God has worked through our ministry because the security of persecuted Christians comes first.

There may be times when you, our BRIDGE BUILDER, and your group members will be informed of a project or situation that requires the utmost of secrecy and you will not be at liberty to divulge that information to anyone. It will be clear when those prayers are secret.

Though we work with indigenous believers, there will be times when we ask for your confidential prayers for Open Doors staff members. The in-country Christians are the ones who typically put their lives on the line, but our employees also place themselves in jeopardy and we may ask you to pray for their safety and effectiveness.



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## Prayer Meetings for Bridge Builders

*Why We Pray*

### Brother Andrew on Prayer

“Prayer is the basis of everything God is accomplishing in the world, and that is why I consider it so important for us to unlock these hidden reserves of divine power and confront the enemy who is sweeping the earth today.” – excerpt from *Unlock Your Hidden Prayer Power*

### From Carl Moeller, President of Open Doors USA

“Prayer is the most important, powerful, exciting and dynamic weapon that we as Christians can wield.

I think of the many examples in the Bible where prayer changed everything. For example, Esther and her people prayed for God’s protection and they defeated Haman and his evil plot to destroy them. And then there is our greatest example, Jesus, who prayed constantly to His Father as He carried out His ministry of preaching and healing. Prayer is the unseen force that can “turn the heart of a king” (Proverbs 21:1), tear down spiritual strongholds and accomplish God’s will in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

Countries like North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Iran – the three worst nations in the world for persecution of Christians – almost seem impenetrable. But your prayers for persecuted Christians in these nations cannot be stopped. No policeman or border patrol can prevent your prayers from touching God’s heart and moving the forces of heaven to bring comfort and hope to our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.”

### A message from Johan Companjen, author of “Please Pray for Us”

“Each time I meet members of the Suffering Church, they urge me to please thank everyone who is praying for them. When asked if there is anything we can do for them, nearly every time their first response is: ‘Please pray for us.’ Yet prayer is the very thing we often find so difficult to do in our world of busy schedules.

I feel urged to challenge you as well as myself regarding this matter of persistent, earnest prayer for those whom you read and hear about. One of the three main objectives in the Open Doors Vision Statement is to pass on information about the Suffering Church so that Christians like you can pray for our brothers and sisters who face pressure and persecution. God Bless you!”



### **Intercessory Prayer**

*Hebrews 13:3*

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.

*Proverbs 31:8*

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

*1 Corinthians 12:25-26*

...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

*Psalms 82:3-4*

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

*Isaiah 58:6*

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loosen the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

*Galatians 6:10*

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

*Ephesians 6:18*

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

*Hebrews 10:33-34*

Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

*2 Timothy 4:16-17a*

At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength...

*Acts 12:5*

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

*Romans 15:30*

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

## **The Victorious, Faithful Church**

### *Daniel 3:16-18*

Shadrach, Mesach, and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

### *John 15:18, 20*

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

### *Revelation 2:8-10*

These are the words of him who is the First and Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty - yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some in prison to test you. And you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

### *Romans 8:18*

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

### *Psalms 61:1-2*

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

### *Psalms 7:9*

O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure.

### *Psalms 12:5*

"But now I will come" says the Lord "because the needy are oppressed and the persecuted groan in pain. I will give them the security they long for."



## Videos, DVDs, Books and Other Prayer Resources

The following resources, and more, are available on our website:  
[www.opendoors.usa.org](http://www.opendoors.usa.org).

### Videos and DVD's

***The Eastern Bride:*** A globetrotting young man learns first-hand about persecution.

***WorldWatch with Open Doors:*** An excellent series featuring reports with live footage from various "hot spots" around the world.

***Stronger Than Guns:*** A powerful film that shares true stories of the persecuted church in Mexico, Peru, and Colombia.

***Four Faces:*** Live video footage chronicles first-person accounts of suffering Church in four countries: Sudan, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam.

***Beyond the Gates of Splendor:*** An award winning documentary with a message of reconciliation and forgiveness.

***Stripes of the Zebra:*** A dramatic reminder of the suffering many Christians living in Sudan, Nigeria and throughout Africa face because of their commitment to Christ.

***Behind the Sun:*** A powerful and emotionally charged film will help you understand what happens in the life of a Muslim who becomes a Christian.

***The Cross: Jesus in China:*** An honest and comprehensive documentary that answers many questions about the Christians in China and provides an inside look at the House-Church movement.

### Books

***Faith That Endures*** – Essential guide to the Persecuted Church from Ron Boyd-McMillan

***Escape From North Korea*** – A compelling look inside the "Hermit Kingdom" of North Korea

***The Continuing Heartcry for China*** - A compelling book about the Christian revival taking place in China.

***A Living Sacrifice: The Life Story of Allen Yuan*** is a moving testimony of conversion and imprisonment by one of the founding fathers of what is now the Chinese House Church.

***Light Force Audio Book on CD (as read by Wayne Shepherd)*** - Audio book of Brother Andrew's compelling book focuses on the role of Christian in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

***Lilies Amongst Thorns*** provides first hand stories from Chinese Christians about persecution and revival in China paid through blood and tears.

***Standing Strong through the Storm*** is a comprehensive study on lessons learned from the Persecuted Church.

***When God Weeps*** is Joni Eareckson Tada's powerful book on her intimate experience with suffering and how it gives her a special understanding of God's intentions for us in our pain.

***Operation Desert Light*** is the story of how Brother Andrew...in the midst of suicide bombings and constant war...risked everything to encourage the weary Church in the Middle East to stand strong as a force for change in this volatile region.

***Light Force*** is Brother Andrew's compelling book which focuses on the role of Christian in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

***God's Smuggler*** The classic story of Brother Andrew's call to serve and strengthen the Persecuted Church in Eastern Europe.

***The Calling*** Brother Andrew's autobiography of his service to the Suffering Church.

## **Books on Prayer**

***Intercession, Thrilling and Fulfilling*** combines practical and powerful teaching on prayer along with inspirational testimonies.

***Please Pray for Us*** presents current situations and prayer requests of persecuted believers around the world.

***Day by Day*** is an inspiring collection of 365 daily readings, featuring testimonies from believers who have been tested in the fire of persecution and found the Lord always faithful.

***Secrets to Spiritual Success*** will teach you the secrets to successful spiritual living through the lives of persecuted Christians.

***Prayer Works*** – Powerful insights on prayer from Brother Andrew

***Unlock Your Hidden Prayer Payer*** – Tips on how to empower prayer by Brother Andrew