

continued

December 20 | SYRIA

Praise God for the Church and its presence in many cities and towns. Pray for church leadership and that it will be passionate to serve the poor and oppressed.

December 21 | IRAQ

Please pray for the rebuilding of the church in Iraq. Compared to the 1990s, only around 10 percent of the Christian population still lives in Iraq. Pray that the church here will continue to grow as God heals and restores.



Women

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
— Psalm 73:26

December 22 | ETHIOPIA

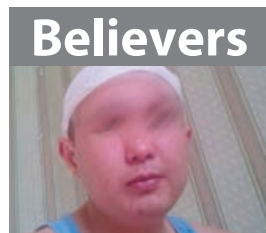
Debora*, Eden*, Gifti* and Mihret* ended up in jail for three months because they offended local Muslim leaders by sharing their faith. Through partners, Open Doors supported them with prayer and trauma counseling. Praise the Lord for their faith and courage.

December 23 | GUINEA

Mother Luupou was one of the senior women in her village's witchcraft practices. She recently gave her life to Christ, which has led to severe persecution. Pray that the Lord reveals Himself to her persecutors.

December 24 | MALI

After attempts to convert Juliana to Islam were unsuccessful, her husband abandoned her and their new baby. Through partners on the ground, Open Doors helped her start a small business. Pray that Juliana will continue to move forward.



Believers

We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
— Romans 6:4

December 25 | CENTRAL ASIA

Boris is a young follower of Christ. Because of his faith, he has been beaten up twice and hospitalized. Pray for his protection and that love would show itself stronger than hate.

December 26 | CHINA

Local authorities recently interrogated Daniel*, a secret Bible translator, because they suspect his involvement in the ministry. Pray with Daniel to be strengthened by God's Spirit.

December 27 | CAMEROON

Christians in West Africa continue to face attacks from Boko Haram. Pray for God's comfort for traumatized believers and for continued provision of food and shelter to the displaced.

December 28 | GUINEA

A young convert, John*, is being threatened by his family and his village. When his sister tried to warn him about plans against him, she was attacked. Pray for protection over the pastor who led John to Christ; he also is in danger.

December 29 | NIGERIA

Violence from militant groups has caused believers like Ruth untold heartache: "My husband was killed, and my house was burned down," she says during a trauma care seminar. Pray with Ruth as she draws strength in her grief.

December 30 | MOROCCO

Local authorities are keeping a close eye on home groups. Pray for wisdom for how to deal with this, as believers are spread throughout the country. Pray for unity among believers in the many different areas.

December 31 | TUNISIA

Pray for people who came to faith during Ramadan. They are now searching for groups to join and their faith to grow. Pray they will find these groups.

*Names changed to protect identities



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DECEMBER 2018



PRAYER FORCE ALERT

Prayer request bulletin
for persecuted
Christians worldwide



YES, AND ALL THAT WILL LIVE GODLY IN
CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION.

(2 TIMOTHY 3:12)

*Representative photo used to protect identity.

As you look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, persecuted believers in other countries like Somalia, Pakistan and Nigeria are preparing for a time of heightened persecution. This month, join us in praying with the Church around the globe.

Christmas/Advent

December 1 | BRUNEI

In Brunei, public Christmas celebrations are banned. Believers can only celebrate in their own homes or in church. And for secret believers, Christmas must be even more private. Pray that this year's Christmas will be meaningful.

December 2 | INDONESIA

Pray for the nation's security during Christmas. Recent church bombings are potential signs that there will be more threats during this time. Pray that Christmas will be safe and that Indonesia's programs combating terrorism will be effective.

December 3 | MALAYSIA

Churches in Malaysia will be offering programs to share about Christ and the purpose of His coming. Pray that through these activities, the message of Christmas and the gospel of salvation will impact and draw many to Jesus.

December 4 | ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Pray for Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem and surrounding areas. Pray this will be a blessed time. Pray churches will play a special role in peacemaking and reconciliation.

December 5 | ALGERIA

Please pray with North African Christians here, where the church celebrates amid a Muslim-majority population. *God, we pray a blessing over these believers' celebrations, for safety, and for this time to be an opportunity to share about the Good News.*

December 6 | IRAN

Each December, pressure on Persian-speaking Christians and house churches increases. The Iranian regime security forces usually arrest more Christians around Christmastime. Please pray for protection for believers.

December 7 | BANGLADESH

Pray with all believers, that they will celebrate Christmas in joy and safety, even as Islamic extremism is on the rise. Pray against the further Islamization of textbooks and for the ruling government and opposition parties to work together.

Pastors



And I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.
– Jeremiah 3:15

December 8 | KYRGYZSTAN

Pastor Miran* was falsely accused of pedophilia last year by local Muslim authorities as an act of revenge for following Christ. Now, the pastor and church members are under surveillance. Pray for him and his church; and for God's protection over their lives, families and ministry.

December 9 | TAJIKISTAN

Keep praying for Pastor Bahrom Holmatov. He was imprisoned for three years on false accusations of extremism. "Just keep praying for me and my family," he asks. "I am ready to go through this."

Discipleship



Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me."
– Matthew 16:24

December 10 | PAKISTAN

Pray for the students at ALIVE Bible College who began their theological studies in mid-September. Pray they are settling well into their learning environment as they move forward in their three-year course of study.

December 11 | BANGLADESH

Pray for Eusuf, 21, who says, "Those who know of my conversion have been troubling me, but I depend on God and believe He will protect me." Eusuf is attending Open Doors' persecution awareness training.

December 12 | BRUNEI

The number of Christians is shrinking rapidly in the face of intense Islamization by the government. Pray that efforts by local churches will strengthen the discipleship of young believers in this small country.

December 13 | MALDIVES

Pray for the ministry among Maldivians living outside the country. Pray that local churches in these surrounding countries will reach out to this people with the gospel.

December 14 | NIGER

Salifou heard the gospel through a missionary. His community is now pressuring him every day to come back to Islam. Pray that Salifou's discipleship program would continue strengthening his faith.

Churches



And He is the head of the body, the Church...
– Colossians 1:18a

December 15 | KAZAKHSTAN

Pray with churches increasingly monitored by secret police and for church leaders who face more difficulties.

December 16 | CHINA

The situation for Buddhist-background believers continues to deteriorate. A number of Chinese house churches have also been ordered to discontinue their meetings. Ask God to strengthen the underground church as religious freedoms continue to shrink.

December 17 | ALGERIA

The country is gearing up for presidential elections during spring 2019. Please pray for stability and peace and that this election will positively impact Algerians and ease pressure on the church.

December 18 | IRAQ

Pray for church leaders, that they will make the right decisions when people from destroyed villages begin moving home. Pray for an end to the spirit of war that has dominated this country for decades.

December 19 | CHINA

As the government ramps up its demands that China's house churches register, pastors are increasingly under pressure. Pray that a young generation of leaders would rise up and usher in a new era of church growth.