Persecuted believers faithfully serve their persecutors

We rejoice that in the midst of the darkness and desperation of the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, many persecuted believers stepped out in faith to share the love of Christ.

In Iran, secret believers delivered food and hygiene items to their community. One group of believers in Uzbekistan sewed and gave masks to the elderly and poor. In Sri Lanka, Pastor Shiyanth and his church passed out groceries to their community, including villagers who had attacked congregation members on their way to church.

October 22
Praise God for the faithfulness and compassion of Pastor Shiyanth and his church as they shared the love of Christ with their persecutors.

October 23
Pray specifically for this pastor. Pray for his family and his church. Ask that local churches in these areas would grow.

October 24
Pray for courage and wisdom for new believers who are sharing the love they have found with their family members.

October 25
Thank God that underground churches were prepared for the hardships of coronavirus and able to seize the moment to share Christ.

October 26
Pray the seeds believers planted in response to the COVID-19 crisis would grow deep roots and bear much fruit.

October 27
Pray the persecuted church in places like Iran, Sri Lanka and beyond would continue to be emboldened to share the hope of Christ.

Hope for the Middle East

Open Doors has a seven-year plan to pray for the church in the Middle East. Join our multi-year Hope for the Middle East prayer campaign as we lift up requests from believers in Iraq and Syria. You can also visit ODUSA.org/Pray4ME to learn more.

October 28
It's very difficult for Syrians to convert from Islam to Christianity—it may cause widespread persecution from converts' own families and communities. Pray for wisdom for new believers.

October 29
Pray for kids in Iraq like 13-year-old Sharbel, who dreams of being a doctor. COVID-19 has been another barrier for Christian youth.

October 30
Pray the Lord would renew believers' strength in Iraq and Syria (Isaiah 40:31) and protect them as ISIS militants re-emerge.

October 31
The Nineveh Plains—where many Christians in Iraq live—is still a region of conflict. The situation is unstable. Pray for peace for believers in the area.

*Representative name or photo used to protect identity.
October

“We cannot follow Buddhism”
Samson grew up as a Buddhist in Myanmar but came to faith in Jesus when a pastor shared the gospel with him. When he and his family refused to deny their new faith, their community attacked their house with rocks and tried to burn it down with the family inside. The family survived, and Samson chose to respond with forgiveness and love. Now, one of his persecutors also follows Christ.

October 1
Samson asks, “Pray that we will effectively do our mission, serve with our pastor and journey with him.”

October 2
Pray God will protect and sustain believers like Samson, that they will be able to endure the humiliation and attacks for their faith.

October 3
Pray for protection for believers living in countries where, to be a good citizen, you must be Buddhist.

October 4
Pray for provision—for a house and land for Samson’s family.

October 5
Pray for comfort and shelter for our brothers and sisters who lose their homes because they choose to follow Christ.

October 6
Thank God one of Samson’s persecutors came to faith in Christ.

October 7
Pray Open Doors’ local partners will be able to reach those most in need of support. Because of COVID-19, many believers are struggling to feed their families.

A mother’s secret prayers lead Muslim sisters to Jesus
The mother of Ethiopian sisters Fatuma*, 19, and Amina*, 16, never told her daughters she was a Christian. If her Muslim husband discovered she had renounced Islam, he would likely divorce her—or worse. So, for her safety and her children’s, she hid her faith but continued praying for her family in secret. Six months ago, the sisters came to Christ. They, too, tried to keep their faith from their father. But despite their best efforts, he found out, took all their belongings and kicked his children out of their home.

Sadly, there are many secret Christian converts who hide their faith from their Muslim families and communities in World Watch List countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

October 8
Pray Fatuma and Amina grow strong in their love for Jesus and knowledge of His Word.

October 9
Pray for secret believers like Ruhul in Bangladesh. Because he left Islam, his community refuses to help him after an accident.

October 10
Pray God would draw Fatuma and Amina’s father to Himself—that this broken family would encounter the peace and healing of Christ.

October 11
Pray for the girls’ education.

October 12
Pray for protection and provision for Galia*, a young convert in Kyrgyzstan whose Muslim brother is abusing her.

October 13
Pray for believers in Indonesia who converted from Islam. During COVID-19, they faced both the economic consequences of lockdowns as well as discrimination.

October 14
Pray for Fatuma and Amina’s mother, who follows Jesus in secret.

“You will not bring this foreign religion here ... we will kill you”
Ever since Balraj* and his family chose to leave their Hindu upbringing and follow Jesus a few years ago, they have been threatened and pressured in their remote village in India. Balraj remembers verbatim the most common threat over the past few years: “Here, we perform poojas [rituals] and worship our gods and goddesses; you will not bring this foreign religion here. You better give it up, or else we will kill you.” Recently, villagers showed up at their home and beat them with bamboo sticks, forcing the injured family to flee into the surrounding woods.

October 15
Pray that Balraj and his family will heal physically, emotionally and mentally from the injuries suffered during the attack.

October 16–17
In India, more extremists are exploiting COVID-19 lockdowns to isolate Christians and attack them. Pray for protection.

October 18
The neighbor of Seema*, an Indian believer, attacked Seema, blaming her for the neighbor’s daughter’s sickness. Pray for peace for Seema and her family.

October 19
Pray for provision for Balraj and his family. Ask God to place people in their path to come alongside them.

October 20
Pray for Suman*, who comes from a Hindu background. His family has been attacked three times; police refuse to act.

October 21
Pray no weapon formed against Balraj and his family would prosper (Isaiah 54:17).