A Christmas gift of hope in the Philippines

When Sarah’s father was imprisoned while she was still a young woman, she rebelled against her family. But her life turned around when she went to stay at Timothy’s Crib, a Christian home for young people run by a pastor with support from Open Doors. There, Sarah came to faith in Jesus—a decision her Muslim family despised. “My own family became my own enemies,” she remembers. After much prayer on a special Christmas Eve, Sarah’s sister and mother also came to faith. “It was the greatest gift I could receive,” she says.

December 21
Pray Sarah and her sister and mother will continue to stand firm in their faith and grow in their knowledge of God and His love.

December 22–23
Pray the young people who stay at Timothy’s Crib will become strong believers with unshakeable faith.

December 24
Pray the future hardships these believers face will bring them closer to Christ.

December 25
Thank God for the hope we have in Jesus; ask Him to reveal Himself in a special way to persecuted believers around the world today.

December 26
Pray for wisdom and energy for those who run Timothy’s Crib as they care for young believers.

December 27
Pray the rest of Sarah’s family comes to faith through her courageous witness.

Hope for the Middle East

Join our multi-year Hope for the Middle East Prayer Campaign and lift up requests from believers in Iraq and Syria as Christians heal and rebuild after civil war and ISIS. You can also visit ODUSA.org/Pray4ME to learn more.

December 28
One of our partners asks: “Please pray for a spiritual breakthrough in the churches of Syria, that people would come to meet the real Good Shepherd and know Him more.”

December 29
Pray for new believers seeking discipleship who can’t share their faith with family and friends.

December 30
Pray God gives a new bishop in Iraq—Father Felix (Saeed) Dawood Al Shabi—wisdom and strength for his ministry.

December 31
Pray God blesses the women’s and kids’ ministry Pastor Farah is starting in the Syrian Christian village of Kharaba, recently freed from extremist oppression.

*Representative name or photo used to protect identity.
December

Children are not exempt from persecution

Throughout the world, children of Christian parents suffer persecution. When a parent is imprisoned, attacked or forced to leave their home because of their faith, their children are deeply affected. This month, pray with us for the smallest victims of persecution.

December 1
In some schools, Christian children in Egypt are relegated to the back of the classroom and often face bullying from classmates and even teachers. Pray for these children—that their school days would be fruitful and peaceful.

December 2
Pray for school programs helping Christian children in Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu countries receive a strong, unbiased education.

December 3
In Colombia, paramilitary groups often target and recruit children of pastors. Pray for these children’s protection and for conviction in the hearts of these groups.

December 4
Pray for the success of children’s centers—where children can safely receive an education—in areas such as Colombia and Bangladesh.

December 5
In North Korea, children are enticed to betray their Christian parents—prohibiting parents from sharing their faith until children can keep the family secret. Pray the Holy Spirit prepares these young hearts to receive Christ when they learn about Him.

December 6
Open Doors secretly broadcasts Christian radio programs into North Korean households. Pray one of the programs that teaches parents how to disciple their children without mentioning God, Jesus or the Bible would bear much fruit.

December 7
In many Islamic countries where parents are secret believers, children are taught Islam at school and Christianity at home—often causing confusion over religious identity among children. Pray with parents as they guide their sons and daughters to discern the truth.

December 8
Pray for beautiful times of refreshment and inspiration for children participating in Open Doors’ Christian children’s camps in Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu countries.

December 9
In Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Myanmar, Buddhist extremists target children/youth in schools, forcing them to participate in rituals and learn Buddhist teachings. Pray no weapon formed against these kids will prevail (Isa. 54:17).

December 10
Pray Bibles and other Christian materials for children and youth would encourage them and strengthen their faith.

December 11
In parts of China, the government doesn’t allow children and teenagers under 18 to attend church. Pray God would be ever present in the lives of these children.

December 12
Pray for the success of children’s centers—where children can safely receive an education—in areas such as Colombia and Bangladesh.

December 13
Pray for the children in India where persecution is increasing. When Christians are not allowed to draw water or buy food, families suffer. Children who follow Jesus also endure abuse and rejection from their Hindu families. Pray for comfort and strength.

December 14
Pray that through Open Doors’ trainings for Sunday school teachers and youth leaders, children will be reached—especially during the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

December 15
An impossible ask in Central Asia

In Central Asia, the Christian deaf community is doubly ostracized—because of their physical disability, as well as their choice to leave Islam and follow Jesus. They suffer isolation and lack support. Five years ago, Open Doors had the honor of meeting these beautiful brothers and sisters. They shared they had prayed and asked God for the seemingly impossible: an opportunity to be trained and learn—things they are denied in society. Today, we support them with literacy projects, outreach activities for pastors and leaders, and income-generating projects.

December 16
Pray for these believers as they learn how to read and that God will use their literacy to open doors for better living conditions for them and their families.

December 17
Pray for restoration and healing for these believers suffering from lack of income and health issues during COVID-19.

December 18
Pray for the success of children’s centers—where children can safely receive an education—in areas such as Colombia and Bangladesh.

December 19
Thank God for the growing ministry of Open Doors to serve these deaf believers. Pray for wisdom as we continue to serve and reach many more deaf believers.

December 20
Ask God to bless the pure faith of this community and that they will experience Him deeply.