Counting the cost of discipleship

Persecution against Indian Christians continues to increase. Believers are passed over for COVID-19 relief; they are beaten, raped, falsely accused, stopped from burying their dead and kicked out of their homes. The price to follow Christ is steep, but they are counting the cost, as Jesus describes in Luke 14:25-33.

January 21
Pray for healing and grace for Christian leaders, Aman* and Suman*, who were badly beaten by members of an extremist group while they were conducting a prayer service in the house of a Christian family.

January 22
Pray for two rape victims—Meeta* and Sujata*. Both girls are obviously very traumatized. Pray for Jesus to heal their hearts, minds and bodies.

January 23
Pray God protects two Christian leaders who have been falsely accused of abuse in a children’s home.

January 24
Susheel* and his family have had to flee their home for their safety. Having to leave their villages makes poor Christians like Susheel even poorer. Pray for provision and safety for Susheel and believers like him.

January 25–26
Recently, 15 Christian families were surrounded by people from their village who were shouting threats and brandishing sticks and rods. The villagers have already prevented the Christians from accessing public facilities like water and from getting jobs; the villagers now threaten daily attacks unless the families renounce their faith. Please pray for courage and protection.

January 27
A young Christian boy was openly assaulted with a sharp weapon and suffered critical head injuries. Please pray for his complete recovery.

Hope for the Middle East

Open Doors has a seven-year plan to pray for the church in the Middle East as Christians heal and rebuild in the years after being decimated by war and ISIS. 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.

January 28–29
Thank God for the health of our team in the field. Raneen*, one of our on-the-ground staff asks us to pray specifically: “While focusing on getting the job done, pray we are protected under the wings of God. Pray He will give us wisdom and success in everything we have planned for the future.”

January 30–31
With your help and your support, Open Doors has helped 8,671 Christians rebuild their homes and churches after ISIS occupation. However, the infrastructure in many regions in Iraq and Syria have remained badly damaged. In Syria, the medical care system has been decimated by war and now COVID-19. Praise God that municipalities are now starting to restore the roads and other services.

*Representative name or photo used to protect identity.
Stripped of her name for choosing Jesus

The North Korean regime uses a brutal and widespread prison system as a fear tactic. Anyone who is discovered to be a Christian is quickly removed from society, sent to detention centers, re-education camps and maximum-security, hard labor prison camps. One North Korean prison camp survivor* shares: "The name I was born with in North Korea was the first thing they took away. Every morning they call for '42.'"

January 1
Pray for provision for the North Koreans who will not have any food to eat today; ask that God would be their provision.

January 2
Pray Jeremiah 29:11 over the secret church in North Korea and ask that believers’ hearts be filled with the hope only found in Him.

January 3
Ask God to turn the hearts of North Korean leaders from stone to flesh as He did Pharaoh.

January 4
Pray God would continue to hold families in His hands throughout generations.

January 5
Pray Christian prisoners would be reminded of their identity in Christ.

January 6
Pray Christian parents have the opportunity to live out the gospel, even when they can’t share their faith with their children.

January 7
Pray believers will fix their eyes on Jesus, as Peter did in Matthew 14:28.

Violated but not alone

Our partners in the Gulf region run an initiative called "Daughterhood," which works to protect Christian women from brutal persecution like rape, molestation and humiliation. In this region, Christian women are particularly targeted by abuses and violence to force them to renounce their faith. Disturbingly, the persecution also sometimes includes the poisoning of pregnant women. Daughterhood also ministers to victims of these brutalities.

January 8
Pray for healing for Leena*, a Christian woman who was poisoned by a cult leader and is now being ministered to by the Daughterhood team.

January 9
Pray Daughterhood’s team of community workers would have wisdom in helping victims and their families heal from their trauma and understand their legal rights.

January 10
Pray for provision for Lydia Center—a community of women that is part of Daughterhood—who work to protect, restore and equip women like Leena.

January 11
Pray for comfort and peace for women and their families who have to be relocated for their safety.

January 12
Pray for God to have mercy as the Daughterhood teams fight for justice in the midst of these acts of brutality.

January 13
Pray the thief would not be able to steal, kill and destroy but that these women would cling to Jesus and experience life to the full (John 10:10).

January 14
Pray the staff of the Lydia Center are able to share the truth that God is a healer on the side of justice.

Abandoned in their golden years

Hobibor Rahman is a 70-year-old believer in Bangladesh who converted to Christianity from Islam 15 years ago. He has been praying for the salvation of his wife and children ever since. However, recently his daughter threatened she would commit suicide if he did not leave their home. Unfortunately, this story is not all that unique. Join us in praying for believers who are spending their golden years heartbroken and looking for a new home after being abandoned by family.

January 15
Pray for God to help Hobibor remain steadfast in his faith in Jesus during this heartbreaking situation.

January 16
Pray for provision for 69-year-old convert Ketsana*. In Laos, it is common for the elderly to live with their children until they die, but her son beat her and kicked her out of her home because she follows Jesus.

January 17
Pray for healing for Bangladeshi 65-year-old Nasir*, whose wife and children beat him and took away the deed to his land after he refused to renounce Christ and return to Islam.

January 18
Pray God would comfort the hearts of Nasir, Hobibor, Ketsana and others like them as they process the rejection of those they love most.

January 19
Pray the families of these believers and others like them would come to know Christ and give their lives to Him.

January 20
Pray Nasir, Hobibor and Ketsana would be encouraged by other believers who walk with them through this valley.