‘This was the answer to our unceasing prayers’

When Bhumika* and her husband Deepak* came to faith in Nepal, they were denied access to village water resources and struggled to survive, unable to get basic living essentials. Bhumika cried out to God for help. When Open Doors’ on-the-ground partners heard about the family and their persecution, they provided a water pump for the family and a few goats to help the family support themselves and earn income. Bhumika was also able to attend an Open Doors adult literacy class to learn to read. Now she can read the Bible.

February 21
Thank God that Bhumika’s heart is to share the gospel and show God’s love to her neighbors. Pray the seeds she plants bear abundant fruit.

February 22
Pray Bhumika and Deepak’s five children would continue to follow Christ. Ask God to keep their minds and hearts fixed on Him.

February 23
Pray Deepak’s parents would come to know the love of Christ and that there would be healing in their relationship. They oppose his and Bhumika’s faith.

February 24
Pray for both boldness and discernment as Open Doors’ local partners in Nepal provide advocacy support, help believers who are falsely accused and train believers to know their legal rights.

February 25
Deepak’s leg was badly injured in an accident and Bhumika suffers from a chronic illness. Pray for their healing and comfort.

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 persecuted believers in Iraq and Syria. You can also visit ODUSA.org/Pray4ME to learn more.

February 26
Pray Hebrews 11:1 over believers in Iraq and Syria: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Ask God to bring this scripture to mind, especially in difficult situations.

February 27
Several pastors have died from COVID-19 in Syria. Pray their churches will be comforted and strengthened. Ask God to raise up new leadership that will follow His call to make disciples.

February 28
In Iraq, terrorists attacked a UN car belonging to the World Food Program with an explosive device on a road close to the Christian-majority town of Bartella, near Mosul. Pray for peace, protection and strength for the frightened believers who live there.

Get up-to-date requests from persecuted Christians around the world through our free Prayer App.

Text PRAYER to 32500 to download the app now!
February

Imprisoned in Eritrea

Christians in Eritrea continue to face imprisonment despite political changes that had many hoping for better days. Open Doors has worked with and through the local church in Eritrea since the 1990s. Our vision is to see a strong church that’s holistically empowered to support one another and disciple believers so they remain faithful and reach out to others in the face of persecution.

February 1
Pray for ex-prisoner Shiden’s healing as he struggles to come to grips with all he missed out on during the decade he was imprisoned for his faith: education, career, marriage and fatherhood.

February 2
Family members often do not know the whereabouts of their imprisoned loved ones. Pray for their comfort.

February 3
Pray God would strengthen imprisoned believers in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10).

February 4
Pray Open Doors would have wisdom in how to best empower believers to earn income and provide for their families.

February 5
Pray God would make a way for specialized care and discipleship for believers who have endured long-term imprisonment.

February 6
Pray pastors have courage to lead their flock.

February 7
Pray with Open Doors as we work to enable the Church to respond biblically to persecution.

Taken but not forgotten

In many countries on the World Watch List, abduction is a common tactic of persecutors and is often used as a vehicle for other acts of violence, such as forced conversions and even murder. In Egypt, masked gunmen abducted 68-year-old Bakhit from his shop late at night. His nephew, Youssef, intervened. When the militants saw “Christian” on Youssef’s ID card, they took him, too. Youssef was later dumped alive in the desert not far from his home, while Bakhit has not been heard from since.

February 8
Pray that Bakhit, a diabetic, is delivered from the hands of his captors and that his faith remains strong.

February 9
Pray for protection for young girls and women in Egypt and the Gulf region who are at risk of being abducted and forced to marry Muslims in attempts to convert them.

February 10
Pray the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard Sam, Maryam and Lydia in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7).

February 11
Pray Amos 5:24: “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

February 12
Pray for a miracle to keep baby Lydia with her parents. Ask God to move, according to His will.

February 13
Pray that Sam and Maryam take up the shield of faith, which extinguishes the flaming arrows of the evil one (Eph. 6:16).

February 14
Pray nothing will stop the people of Iran from coming to and following Jesus.

February 15
Pray Sam and Maryam win their appeal in their conviction of “propaganda against the state.”

February 16
Pray Jesus holds Lydia close to Him and that she grows up knowing His love.

Hard-pressed on every side

In Iran, Sam and Maryam were arrested along with five other Iranian believers in 2019. These Christians were convicted of “propaganda against the state” for possessing Christian materials. Sam was sentenced to one year in prison followed by two years of exile. Maryam, a nurse, was fined and is banned from working for any national institution, including the hospital she has served for 20 years. If that wasn’t enough, the couple was also found “not fit” to be parents to their 2-year-old adopted daughter, Lydia—simply because they are Christians. Even the judge declared that Lydia, who suffers from health problems, may spend the rest of her life in state care. The couple lost their appeal in the case, which means their daughter will be taken from them.

February 17
Pray that Sam and Maryam take up the shield of faith, which extinguishes the flaming arrows of the evil one (Eph. 6:16).

February 18
Pray nothing will stop the people of Iran from coming to and following Jesus.

February 19
Pray Sam and Maryam win their appeal in their conviction of “propaganda against the state.”

February 20
Pray families of abducted Christians will find rest and hope in Christ (Psalm 62:5).