Rejoice in the Lord always

We all know God does not necessarily answer our prayers in the way we want or in our timing. And because of His sovereign nature, this is a good thing. But in our humanity, it is encouraging to our hearts and minds when we can see His faithfulness in answering them!

May 20–21
After being abducted at gunpoint and held captive for four months in Egypt, Christian shop owner Bakhit has safely returned home to his family! Pray for healing from the trauma and for complete restoration of Bakhit’s health.

May 22–23
Thank God for His provision of a safer home and trauma counseling for 12-year-old Daniela and 5-year-old Sebastian after the murder of their father, Pastor Salcedo, in Colombia. Pray these children will grow in their love of Christ—what their father would want, Daniela says.

May 24–25
Thank Jesus that someone helped Maria*, a young girl abducted by Islamic extremists, escape her captors in a Muslim-majority country. She shared that she was forced to convert to Islam and marry. Pray for safety, hope and healing for Maria and her family.

May 26–27
Thank God for the faithfulness of our Cameroonian sister Sadia*. She lost her battle with cancer at age 20. Her faith amid opposition and courage in the face of uncertainty were an inspiration to many. Pray that Sadia’s testimony would ring clearly through her death and that her family would come to follow Christ.

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 war and the Islamic State group’s invasion. 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.

May 28–29
Pray for wisdom and discernment for Iraqi Christian activists whose advocacy campaign focuses on the challenges and difficulties that Christians face in Iraq. The hope is for a more peaceful and better quality of life for Christians in their homeland.

May 30–31
One of our partners in Syria asks: “Pray that all our partners grow in discernment of God’s will for them and for Syria, and that they go out of their way to reach the marginalized, particularly the Muslims. May there be an awakening that brings the good news to thousands upon thousands of Muslims, and may our church leaders be inspired to love and welcome them with arms wide open.”

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!
Reaching Muslims for Christ during Ramadan

For many Christian converts from Islam, knowing how to navigate Ramadan—the annual Islamic, month-long holiday where devout Muslims fast each day (this year celebrated April 12–May 11)—often becomes a challenge. After leaving Islam to follow Christ, Naida eventually felt God leading her to approach these celebrations in new ways. Naida now cooks traditional dishes for the end of the fast and invites her Muslim relatives. Her hospitality has helped Naida show respect for their traditions and values while also giving her an opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

May 1
Pray for protection over secret Christian converts as they risk everything to follow Christ.

May 2
Pray Naida is able to have even more meaningful conversations about Jesus with her Muslim family this month.

May 3
Pray Christian converts experience the comfort and presence of Christ during what can be a very lonely time for them.

May 4
Pray for discernment for Christian converts—especially those who live in secrecy—as they approach Ramadan.

May 5
Pray that Muslims would have dreams and visions of Jesus during Ramadan.

May 6
Pray that followers of Jesus would be bold—wise but courageous—as they share the gospel during Ramadan.

May 7
During a time when Muslims are so intentional in seeking spiritual revelation, pray that followers of Jesus would be faithful to pray for Muslims to come to Christ.

May 8
Ask God to strengthen and mature the faith of Iranian believers.

May 9
Pray that Iranian refugees in Turkey would be bold in sharing their faith with other refugees.

May 10
Pray that members of Iran’s house churches would not have a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7).

May 11
Pray for excellent discipleship opportunities for Iranian believers.

May 12
Pray with the many Christians currently imprisoned in Iran. Ask God to embolden their faith and grow their witness.

May 13
Pray that Iranian churches would find ways to work together and be unified (Ps. 133:1).

Illegal to convert, illegal to preach

Iranian society is governed by Islamic law, which means the rights of Christians and professional opportunities are heavily restricted. Converts from Islam face persecution from the government, and Christians are forbidden from sharing their faith with non-Christians. It’s illegal to hold church services in Farsi, the most common language in Iran. Christians who attend an underground house church face the constant threat of arrest.

May 14
Pray these believers would feel surrounded by Christ’s comfort and that they would not be overcome by their righteous anger.

May 15
Pray for physical, spiritual and emotional healing for these precious children who have witnessed so much.

May 16
Pray for insight for Sam and our other partners. Ask God to guide them in how to best help these believers.

May 17
Pray the faith of these believers who have lost loved ones would grow deeper.

May 18
Pray that believers would not lose their passion for sharing the love of Christ with their families.

May 19
Pray with Sam—that the kids in this village will grow up in the love of God, showing His gifts of forgiveness wherever they go.

Christians brutalized in attack

Our field shared about a horrific Islamic terrorist attack in a remote Indonesian village that left four Christian men dead and 13 families displaced. Some 20 to 25 children were traumatized, including an 8-year-old who witnessed the murder of his father and grandfather. “We want to help the children,” Sam*—an Open Doors partner—shares. “We don’t want the children to grow up with anger. We want to see [them] grow up in the love of God, forgiving the people who killed their family members.”

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May 15
Pray for physical, spiritual and emotional healing for these precious children who have witnessed so much.

May 16
Pray for insight for Sam and our other partners. Ask God to guide them in how to best help these believers.

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