

# PRAYER FORCE

Prayer request bulletin for *alert* persecuted Christians worldwide



accepting one of these offers is the only way forward for her. But, she also realizes that this will put pressure on her Christian faith.

**Jan 18 | TUNISIA** – Pray for Hassan\*, a believer who is being mistreated by his family. His brothers tried to steal his inheritance, and he is struggling to establish a life for himself. Pray for his protection and that God will undertake for him.

**Jan 19 | MOROCCO** – The Moroccan church asks for prayer for their second generation of believers. Young people struggle to stay connected to the Church as society tries to pull them back into Islam. Pray that they will stand strong and remember who they are in Christ.

**Jan 20, Sun | GAZA** – Christians in Gaza suffer many hardships in their daily lives. Pray that God will help them to remember His promises to them and that His Word will be a source of hope and blessing to them.

**Jan 21 | ARABIAN PENINSULA** – Pray for the safety of believers in this region where Islam is the dominant religion. Pray that the lives of persecuted Christians will reflect the love, joy and strength of God’s grace.

**Jan 22 | YEMEN** – Pray that the Lord will use the hardships that Christians in Yemen go through to be a witness for Him. Pray that He will make believers stronger and more committed to the Kingdom of God, which is being established in this land. As the humanitarian crisis continues to loom large, please pray for intervention by international bodies to help improve the situation for the many thousands of people suffering here.

**Jan 23 | SYRIA** – The Syrian war has had a huge effect, not only in the region, but around the world, as Syrian refugees are dispersed worldwide and other governments are drawn into the war in one way or another. Let’s pray that this long-lasting war will finally come to a complete halt.

**Jan 24 | ALGERIA** – Pray for strength for believers who have been unjustly imprisoned. Pray for their loved ones. The fear and uncertainty of imprisonment can be troubling and traumatic for both those inside and outside jail.

**Jan 25 | IRAN** – Please pray for Iranian believers who are dealing with trauma after being imprisoned or even tortured as well as for those who face persecution from their families and society. Pray that God will reveal the truth of who He is to their persecutors.



Ex-prisoners receive trauma awareness training in Iran. Please pray for these precious believers who have undergone so much for the sake of following Jesus.

**Jan 26 | CHINA** – Pray for China’s Christian children under 18 years old, who are not permitted to attend Christian meetings. Some children have been coerced by their school teachers to deny their faith. Pray that God will give them the strength to endure the pressure they face. Hundreds of Churches were closed or ransacked in China last year. Crosses were removed, many pastors were arrested. Bibles sold online were removed from e-commerce platforms. Please pray for faith to be strengthened for the church in China at this time.

**Jan 27, Sun | CHINA** – Pray for believers from a Muslim background in the northwest of China who have been detained in re-education camps for over six months without explanation or contact with their families. Pray for their spouses and children who are suffering greatly without them. “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5: 11, 12

**Jan 28 | INDIA** – Pray for Christians throughout India who face daily persecution for their faith. Our church partners continue to send reports about the growing number of daily persecution incidents. Pray for strength for these Christians amid such trying times.

**Jan 29 | KENYA** – Last year two people lost their lives when a bus was attacked by Al-Shabaab militants, they could not recite the Muslim Shahada (confession of faith). Pray that those who witnessed this terrible violence will be drawn to the beauty of Christ that stands in stark contrast to everything the militants stand for.

**Jan 30 | CAMEROON** – In September, last year, Sadia (18) underwent surgery to remove a tumour after being diagnosed with cancer. Over the next couple of months, she will undergo chemotherapy. Pray that the Lord will complete the good work of healing He has already begun in her.

**Jan 31 | WORLDWIDE** – Pray for persecuted Christians worldwide as they face an increase in persecution. Pray that, amidst the persecution, they will be resilient in the faith and that their testimonies will lead many to Christ this year.

*\*Names changed and representative images used for security purposes.*

OpenDoors®  
SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

Telephone: 905-636-0944

Open Doors Canada  
8-19 Brownridge Rd.  
Halton Hills, ON L7G 0C6  
www.OpenDoorsCA.org



*“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18 (NIV)*

*\*Representative photo used to protect identity.*

# January

**Jan 1 | SUDAN** – Islam is deeply embedded in Sudanese society and Christians face serious restrictions, such as constant surveillance. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as they worship Him under such circumstances. If discovered, they face arrest, torture and lengthy imprisonment for apostasy. Churches face constant surveillance and interference in their business. Pray for God to speak to the leaders of the country and intervene in the situation to allow Christians to worship Jesus Christ in freedom.



Please pray for God's word to richly bless our brothers and sisters in Sudan. May hope and strength be restored to those who are being persecuted for their faith.

**Jan 2 | SUDAN** – Praise the Lord that, after many years, the Sudanese government cleared a shipment of Arabic Bibles late last year. Pray that the Word of the Lord will revive those who know Him and bring to life many still living in darkness. Please pray that these Bibles will be a source of great blessing.

**Jan 3 | UGANDA** – Mary\* (39) and her six children were kicked out of their house by her husband after he found out they had become Christians. They are struggling to make ends meet, which has resulted in her oldest child dropping out of school. Pray that God will sustain Mary and her family at this time.

**Jan 4 | GUINEA** – Anne Marie K (23) grew up in a traditional religion but accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour last July. Since then she has faced critical amounts of hatred from her family and community. They constantly abuse her verbally and told her she is responsible for her father's illness. Additionally, they are depriving her of her basic needs, such as food and shelter. Pray for the Lord's encouragement, strength, faith and provision for this sister. Pray that she will receive the help she needs from her local church, and that they will also help her to grow in her faith.

**Jan 5 | NIGERIA** – Christian women in Nigeria continue to suffer trauma and social exclusion as Boko Haram and Fulani militants use sexual violence when attacking Christian communities. Pray that God will completely heal them from this trauma and that He will undertake for them during their healing processes.

**Jan 6, Sun | NIGERIA** – Many Christian women and young girls have been kidnapped by Boko Haram only to be forcefully converted and married off to Muslim men. Please pray for God's protection over all who have been kidnapped and for their release. Pray especially for Leah Sharibu who was



Please pray for Leah Sharibu, and many others missing like her, that they may be united with their families once again.

kidnapped from Dapchi last year and for more than 100 girls still missing from the Chibok kidnapping in 2014.

**Jan 7 | ERITREA** – Aster\* whose pastor-husband is in prison for worshipping outside of state-recognized churches in Eritrea, says, "Pray for our suffering to end and for courage to overcome all the problems we face. Pray fervently that we can worship God freely in our country."

**Jan 8 | ETHIOPIA** – Nuredi, a believer from a Muslim background, was attacked by Muslim villagers to punish him for his Christian faith, destroying his house and belongings. Pray for the Lord to restore to him all he has lost. Another young man, Dinsafa, lost his property and was forced into marriage after he accepted Christ. Pray for the young man to experience God's provision for his daily needs and much wisdom as he deals with the marriage. Pray that his wife will come to know the Lord.

**Jan 9 | IVORY COAST** – Paul-Moise is from a Muslim background and recently accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour. He went to Saudi Arabia to do a doctorate in Islam, but encountering Christ while there, he decided to return to Ivory Coast. When he told his family that he had become a Christian, they had him admitted to a psychiatric hospital. He was soon discharged as there was nothing wrong with him. His family tried their best to make him return to Islam. They beat him and even tried to poison him. The Lord protected him, but he had to flee. Please pray for the Lord's provision for Paul-Moise as he is all alone and has to make ends meet without any financial support from his family. Pray that he will receive proper discipleship, and that he will continue to grow in his newfound Christian faith.

**Jan 10 | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)** – The mostly Christian population in the northeast of the DRC are vulnerable to brutal violence, destruction of property and kidnapping by militants associated with the Islamic radical group, Allied Democratic Forces. Pray for the Lord's protection of His people and for an end to bloodshed in this country.

**Jan 11 | CHAD** – Achta (20s) is a Sunday school teacher. Nearly 200 children once attended Sunday school at her church, until some of their Muslim families stopped them. She asks that we pray that they will be allowed back, and that many of them will come to know Christ.

**Jan 12 | MALDIVES** – Maldives' new President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih (better known as Ibu), took office in November 2018 after defeating Abdulla Yameen in the presidential elections held in September 2018. Pray for God to use him to bring about change that will benefit the people and will allow for more religious freedom. Please pray for political stability in this island nation.

**Jan 13, Sun | INDONESIA** – In the runup to the 2019 presidential and legislative elections in Indonesia there are groups that may stir up trouble, including smearing Christians, to gain the upper hand in the elections. Pray for a peaceful and just campaign, and that upright politicians will be elected to office.

**Jan 14 | SRI LANKA** – Schools across Sri Lanka need 400 teachers to teach Christianity. But many people are uninterested in teaching Christianity at schools as it does not pay well. Pray that God would raise up people with a burden to fill these positions.



A large number of school children in Sri Lanka do not have access to Christian education. Please pray that the Gospel may reach the young ones.

Please pray also for the Government which has been in a constitutional crisis since October 2018, when President Maithripala Sirisena abruptly sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and appointed Mahinda Rajapaksa, the former leader. Please pray for peace to reign in Sri Lanka.

**Jan 15 | VIETNAM** – Members of a H'mong church were beaten and arrested by local authorities mid-2018 in a province in North-central Vietnam. Many were severely bruised and wounded. Their citizen identification cards were also confiscated, cutting them off from their social benefits. Their children were unable to attend school. After the beatings, local authorities set up two large loud speakers facing the church every Saturday, blaring discouraging messages in front of the church to stop the believers from gathering. This situation went on for weeks, but the believers in this church stood firm in their faith and never gave up. We praise God these believers could stand strong through this crisis. Pray that they will continue to withstand any trial that may come their way and that they will continue to proclaim Jesus' love in their community and, in this way, change and transform the lives of their oppressors.

**Jan 16 | BHUTAN** – Praise the Lord for the completion of a discipleship workshop for women in Bhutan. Many more women are interested in attending the next workshop. Pray that all the women who benefitted from these workshops will continue to grow and be a blessing in their homes and villages.

**Jan 17 | LIBYA** – Please pray for Amida\* who is being pursued by Muslim men who wish to marry her. Pray that she will remain strong in her faith, as she feels that

\*Representative photos used to protect identity. \*Names changed to protect identity.