



PRAYER CALENDAR

May/June 2023

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

ISAIAH 60:1

| Nigeria

May 1

Nigeria faces challenges to its democracy amid severe security challenges, especially in northern Nigeria. Pray for a strong government in Nigeria that takes the protection of people seriously, no matter their religion, tribe, or gender.

May 2

There are more than 100 million Christians in Nigeria, roughly half of the population. But the church continues to grow despite persecution. Thank the Lord for His church and pray for wisdom to live lives that honor Christ, even in the face of increasing discrimination and attack.

May 3

Extremist groups like Boko Haram and Fulani militants are prevalent in certain areas of the Middle Belt. Pray that the president and state governors will work transparently to find lasting solutions to the deepening security crisis in Nigeria.

May 4

Ayuba's* father was killed when Boko Haram attacked his village in northern Nigeria in 2020. God used trauma care from Open Doors partners to strengthen his faith and enable him to forgive his father's killers. Praise God for Ayuba and ask God to deepen the faith and hope of Nigeria's church.

May 5

Mary* was sadly abducted from her church by Fulani militants and held captive for ransom. She faced repeated sexual violence and was severely

traumatized. Thank God she received trauma care and found hope. Pray that women like Mary will know God's healing love and restoration.

May 6

Violent persecution is especially devastating for young people, and puts their future in jeopardy. Please pray for the youth affected by persecution in Nigeria, that they would hold firm to faith, and find communities of wisdom, love and discipleship.

| Week of Prayer for sub-Saharan Africa

May 7

Jihadist groups are active in an increasing number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Their reign of terror has left a devastating impact, with governments unable to provide security. Pray for wisdom for leaders and governments to secure their nations and to provide an environment where citizens are safe.

May 8

The church in sub-Saharan Africa has the largest number of people younger than 25 in the world. And there is an unprecedented onslaught against them. Pray for these young people. Ask that they will be filled with hope, that their faith and future remain secure in God.

May 9

More Christians are killed for their faith in sub-Saharan Africa than in the rest of the world combined. Families, loved ones, and churches have been left devastated and bereaved. Pray that God comforts the broken-hearted and restores their joy.

May 10

At age 13, Habiba* was kidnapped from her village in Burkina Faso and forcibly married off at 13. She escaped but is haunted by the memories. Pray for those who have suffered violent attacks in sub-Saharan Africa. Ask for healing, restoration and enduring faith.



*After the attack, *Ayuba was strengthened by trauma care.*

May 11

Pray for the millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa who have fled their homes because of violence. Ask God to keep them safe from harm, free from illness, and provide for them.

May 12

The very presence of the church is in jeopardy in parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Christians are increasingly targeted by jihadist groups. Pray that Christians will remain firm in their faith and have the courage to boldly continue standing for Christ in their communities.

May 13

Pray that God will use Open Doors partners in sub-Saharan Africa to help the persecuted church to become resilient, resourceful, and influential.

May 14

Please pray that the Lord will intervene to stop the violent attacks against Christians in sub-Saharan Africa. Pray for the salvation of the jihadists and militants. Ask that God will work in their hearts and turn them from hatred to love for Christ.

Democratic Republic of Congo

May 15

Since 2014, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) have carried out brutal attacks in eastern DRC. In recent years, these attacks have become more severe and more frequent. Pray for radical change in the hearts of extremists.

May 16

Gertrude* and her family were attacked while working on their farm. She watched as the militants murdered her husband and kidnapped her young son, while she suffered bullet wounds. Nobody should have to go through such pain and trauma. Pray for her physical and emotional healing.

May 17

95% of the DRC is Christian. Despite their number, Christians face regular persecution. Pray that Christians will remain united.

May 18

Open Doors partners deliver persecution survival training in the DRC. Lift up the trainers and ask for continued strength for their work.

Burkina Faso

May 19

Burkina Faso suffered a military coup in 2022. Amid political turmoil, it is nearly impossible to bring stability. Pray for wisdom for the government and ask for better political conditions in which people can live safely and be productive.

May 20

Burkina Faso remains one of the least developed countries in the world. Nearly 80% of people practice subsistence farming for their survival. Pray for sufficient rain so people will have enough food to eat.

May 21

Around 5.2 million Christians live in Burkina Faso, 23% of the population. They have contributed to stabilizing the country and leading it to independence. Thank the Lord for the presence of the church in Burkina Faso and for the great contribution they have made.

May 22

Christians are increasingly targeted by jihadists in Burkina Faso. People are being killed and churches destroyed. Pray for protection for Christians and their leaders as they face these dangers. Pray that they remain firm in the faith as they face increased persecution.

May 23

Fati* is one example of God at work in those who have been violently persecuted. Fati and her family fled their village after militants launched a devastating attack. Praise God that despite her troubles, this young mother remains steadfast in her faith.

May 24

"Our pastor welcomed us and comforted us in our sadness," Fati shares. Thank God for the kind Christians that supported Fati after her village was targeted. Pray that Fati and her family remain steadfast in faith.

May 25

Pray for the people abducted from their homes. Often they witness horrifying acts of violence and women suffer sexual assault. Pray for God's light to shine through their despair, that they will experience His comfort and restoration.



JUNE

| Syria and Turkey

June 1

In the aftermath of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, the Church has provided shelter, food, and support to the community. Pray for Open Doors' local partners and the church leaders as they serve the people. Ask God to replenish their strength and grant them wisdom.

June 2

"People of the cross, you were our family, taking care of us." Praise God for the witness of generous Christians in Syria and Turkey, who are helping people in practical ways.

June 3

Many have lost their families, homes, and livelihood after the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. Pray for divine providence, that God will meet their needs and shine a light on their path as they seek to rebuild their lives.

June 4

Pray for healing from the trauma and psychological effects of the earthquake. Pray that the church continues to be a place of hope and relief in the community.

| Cameroon

June 5

In Cameroon, separatists commit violence against civilians, including murder, arson, sexual violence, and torture. Boko Haram persistently attacks civilians in the far North region. Pray for more action from authorities to deal with security challenges.

June 6

Cameroon is blessed with many natural and human resources. However, poverty remains widespread. Pray that the Lord will bless the country with sufficient rain so that everyone will have enough resources to look after their families.

May 26

Christians from Muslim backgrounds experience rejection from family and community to force them to renounce their Christian faith. Pray for protection and provision for our family and ask that they will find fellowship in the church.

| Mali

May 27

It is dangerous to be a Christian in Mali, where believers are targeted by militant groups for their faith. Pray that these Christians will support each other in fellowship.

May 28

Naomi* is a Christian in Mali. Praise God! She has not been hardened by the violence. *"I have to show love even to the worst of my enemies,"* she says. Praise the Lord for her godly love for her neighbors.

May 29

In May 2021, Colonel Assimi Goïta seized power in a "coup within a coup." Turmoil has since continued within the country. Pray for stability and ask that the government will seek peace and earnestly work for progress, allowing people to live in peace.

May 30

Mali faces several economic challenges because of high poverty levels. Most people live in remote parts of the country with environmental problems like rapid desertification and lack of access to water. Pray that the Lord will provide for His children.

May 31

Mali has a small but active Christian presence. Thank the Lord for the presence of His church in Mali. Pray for wisdom for pastors as they lead congregations amid ever-increasing complexities.

| Sudan

June 7

In Sudan, Christian women who convert from Islam are often forced into marriages and suffer domestic violence. Lift up Christians from a Muslim background and pray that they will know their worth as a child of God.

June 8

Pray for God's hand in building a resilient church in Sudan that stands strong in the face of discrimination and violent persecution.

| Eritrea

June 9

Eritrea is one of the hardest places in the world to follow Jesus. Believers are closely monitored, imprisoned, and stigmatized. Pray that attitudes will change and that courageous Christians can speak about why they continue to stand, even in the face of so much risk.

June 10

Despite the hardships, Eritrean Christians like Pastor Gideon remain joyful: *"Even when we are in suffering, we rejoice. When people see that, they accept Jesus."* Praise God for their remarkable strength and witness.

| Somalia

June 11

In Somalia, society expects everybody to be Muslim. Secret Christians can be physically abused and ostracized. Pray for greater tolerance and acceptance in the country.

June 12

"I started to look for more videos and found others that shared the Word of God." Despite the risks, even death from her own family or tribe, Nala* chose to follow Jesus. Pray that she finds fellowship and remains safe.

June 13

Pray that God will move in powerful, supernatural ways to eradicate fear, intimidation and violence in Somalia.

| Central Asia

June 14

Pray for believers, pastors and leaders of home groups in Central Asia, who face regular threats from the authorities. Pray for their strength, safety and for their courage.

June 15

Recently the state has started recruiting believers to spy on secret believers. This development has caused an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion. Pray that this new challenge will bring believers closer to God, and not deter them from their faith.

| Vietnam

June 16

In Vietnam, believers can be imprisoned on false charges and tortured. Sadly, Pastor Phuc recently died in prison, and his family suspects he was beaten. Pray for God's comfort over his family as they grieve.

June 17

Pastor Phuc's family has not been able to give him a proper burial. Please pray that the local government will respond to the family's inquiry and that his body will be released to his family.

| China

June 18

Lift up the Open Doors partners who continue to work in mainland China. Thank God for their service and pray that their work will help to build the Kingdom of God in that region.

| Malaysia

June 19

There is growing concern in Malaysia about the rise in sexual abuse, particularly directed toward young people. Pray that vulnerable people will be clothed in God's protection.

| Indonesia

June 20

"My heart was filled with peace afterwards." Thank God for Nara's newfound faith in Christ. Support her in prayer as she finds community and starts her journey of discipleship.

June 21

Unfortunately, Nara was shunned for her faith by her daughters and her neighbors. Pray for reconciliation in these relationships. Pray that her daughters would also accept Christ. Ask that Nara remains steadfast and that her faith in Jesus will grow stronger.

| Laos

June 22

Back in January 2023, a group of Christians in Laos were arrested for celebrating Christmas. Our Open Doors partner there shares that *"prisons get overcrowded, and food is scarce."* Pray for comfort, peace and strength, and for the quick release of these believers.

June 23

Christians in Laos usually have to obtain a permit from the local government for church events and the process is difficult. Pray that the laws will be relaxed around religious freedom so that Christians can celebrate major events.

| Bangladesh

June 24

Open Doors runs an Adult Literacy Center in Bangladesh, helping rural people learn to read and write and engage with the Bible. Praise God that many local people are coming to know Christ this way.

June 25

Recently, Muslim groups have cautioned students from attending these literacy classes, saying they will *"fall into trouble"* if they go. Pray for this fear and intimidation to end and for greater acceptance of religious diversity.



| Sri Lanka

June 26

"This one incident accomplished what I couldn't have done with a thousand sermons." Even though his church was attacked by Buddhist extremists, Pastor Indunil praises God for the spiritual growth he has seen after the attack. Praise God for bringing good out of this situation.

June 27

Pastor Indunil's strength has encouraged other Christians to come out of hiding and the Christian church is now more visible than ever before. Pray that this church will be a beacon of light and hope in the region.

June 28

Pray that these courageous Christians in the southern province of Sri Lanka will remain steadfast and continue to share the gospel with others in their community.

| Mexico

June 29

Pray for the pastors in north Mexico where organized crime has created insecurity and fear. Pray that God will protect them as they serve in these dangerous areas.

| Colombia

June 30

Thanks to vocational workshops run by Open Doors partners, more persecuted brothers and sisters in Colombia are building their own businesses. Pray for successful entrepreneurial ideas and ventures.