



# PRAYER CALENDAR

---

September/October 2023

“Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

EPHESIANS 6:18

# SEPTEMBER

## | China

### September 1

In China, the government is threatened by anything that could rock the country's "stability." Often, this means anything they view as "Western thought," including Christianity. Pray the government will see Chinese Christians as a positive influence.

### September 2

Gatherings of more than a hundred people are alarming to China's Communist party. That's why many Christians meet in secret house churches instead. Pray that community and fellowship would thrive in these smaller groups.

### September 3

Ming\* is part of the underground church in a region where Christianity is severely restricted. He takes huge risks to follow Jesus and minister to other believers. *God, I pray for my brother Ming and ask You to continue to grow his resilience and courage as Your witness.*

### September 4

Ask God to call other workers like Ming who have a passion to serve ethnic minorities in China. There is a great demand for the gospel in these areas, but the workers are few.

### September 5

Pray for Open Doors' local partners in China as they search for creative ways to do their work and reach out to believers in the most restrictive areas. Ask Jesus to keep them safe and grant them wisdom and discernment.

### September 6

Please pray for unity among Chinese believers as they follow Jesus under intense and constant digital surveillance and heightened restrictions. Pray that pastors would stay united and faithful in their pursuit of Jesus.

### September 7

Please pray for Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) churches (registered churches under government control). They are closely monitored, even required to submit their sermons for review. Pray for boldness to preach the gospel under the government's tight grasp.

### September 8

In Zhejiang province, churches have been ordered to display communist party slogans: "Love the communist party" and "Love the country." Pray that churchgoers will be drawn to love God first.

### September 9

Pray for the church's protection from authorities' interference in their decision-making. Pray for Zhejiang church leaders as they listen to God's voice above the clamor of government pressure.

### September 10

Pray for wisdom for Zhejiang church leaders to live out their faith within this restricted landscape, as they seek out and model a Christlike response.

### September 11

Thank God for the church's growth in this region, despite the oppression. Pray that more people will trust in Christ with all their heart and acknowledge Him in all their ways.

### September 12

Ask the Lord to continue to strengthen our brothers and sisters in China. *God, I pray that You would fill my sisters and brothers in China with Your overflowing peace that transcends all their human understanding.*



Pray with underground church believers like Ming in China.

## | Myanmar

### September 13

Myanmar is a Buddhist country where Buddhist extremists often persecute Christians. Pray that all faiths can live in harmony, respecting each other's differences and serving one another.

### September 14

Since the military coup in February 2021, the situation has become increasingly difficult for Myanmar Christians. Churches have been destroyed; pastors have been killed. Pray for Christians' protection.

### September 15

When authorities become suspicious of a Christian, they can be subtle but devastating in their persecution, like blocking their bank account. They can also threaten arrest and imprisonment. Ask God to bring freedom from oppression.

### September 16

Young Open Doors partner Ko Aung\* discovered that authorities had red-flagged him when his bank accounts were blocked. He had to flee Myanmar—pray for your brother.

### September 17

Praise God for Open Doors' partners who helped Ko Aung flee his homeland to safety in a new country. Thank God for this provision and pray that Ko Aung can one day return to his homeland.

## | Brunei

### September 18

There is a growing desire among Christian youth in Brunei for a deeper relationship with the Lord. Many long for guidance and leadership. Ask God to raise up mentors who can disciple them.

### September 19

Young people need safe spaces to meet with their mentors. Pray that God would open doors to places where they can come together to discover God's Word.

### September 20

There are relatively few churches in Brunei. Unfortunately, this Christian community struggles with disunity. Pray that God would cultivate a desire for unity in church leaders.



### September 21

Pray that the few churches in Brunei will be filled with love and humility, bringing God's love and grace to those around them.

## | Sri Lanka

### September 22

In Sri Lanka, Hindu extremists carry out hate campaigns against Christians. Pray for tolerance between religious groups and that God would make a way for believers to live and worship without threat.

### September 23

While speaking to an Open Doors local partner, a pastor from a village in Gampaha District broke down in tears as he shared his struggles. Pray for believers who face daily persecution.

## | Iraq

### September 24

The financial situation in Iraq is very unstable as inflation continues. Please pray for provision for Iraqi families in this ongoing state of economic collapse.

### September 25

Many Iraqi believers are unemployed, living at the poverty level. Often, they have no other choice than to leave their country. Ask God to strengthen this remnant and bring tangible reminders of His presence with them.

### September 26

Praise God for a recent ray of hope in Iraq's agriculture sector. The harvest is better than in previous years due to an increase in rain. Farmers are enjoying a good harvest of wheat and barley.



## September 27

Open Doors' local partners are helping Iraqis build businesses through our Centers of Hope ministry. Pray that young people will seize these opportunities.

## | Iran

### September 28

Imagine not being able to hear the Word preached in your own language. In Iran, the government has closed many Farsi-speaking churches. Pray for the reopening of churches and the loosening of restrictions.

### September 29

Out of the 16 Bible-teaching churches that remain in Iran, only four are permitted to preach in Farsi. But since the pandemic, the state has not allowed the four to reopen. Pray for God's intervention.

### September 30

Please pray for miracles in Iran. Pray that our brothers and sisters will be allowed to meet, worship, pray and fellowship together in their own language.

# OCTOBER

## | Saudi Arabia

### October 1

Converts in Saudi Arabia face persecution from their own families and communities, who often see their conversion as a betrayal. Pray that God will break this cultural stronghold.

### October 2

Pray that Christian leaders will model biblical leadership in contrast to Islamic leadership. The idea of servant leadership is foreign to the culture and often viewed as weakness.

### October 3

Pray for the emerging churches in Saudi Arabia, that they will have access to the resources they need to teach their congregations and encourage their faith.

## | Vietnam

### October 4

In remote villages, converts risk losing their homes and crops for their newfound faith. Pray that God will strengthen our family to hold tight to Jesus, despite the pressures.

### October 5

Pray that God will protect new believers in Vietnam and use their testimony as a powerful witness. May they see their neighbors trust Christ.

### October 6

Pray for the local churches in remote areas: *God, we pray that the fellowship in these congregations would nurture a powerful community of disciples who share Your Word boldly.*

## | North Korea

### October 7

Pray for Christians who secretly listen to Christian radio broadcasts from abroad. Believers are hungry to learn about the Bible and share the gospel. Pray these broadcasts bring spiritual nourishment.

### October 8

Christians are prevented from receiving any formal teaching about faith. It's just too dangerous to meet as believers. Pray they will find subtle ways to share their testimonies.

### October 9

"Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them" (Heb. 13:3). Today, there are around 70,000 Christians enduring the inhumane conditions of North Korea's prison camps. Pray they would feel and see God's angels surrounding them.



### October 10

Believers in North Korea's prison camps face unimaginable atrocities for their faith. Labelled as "political prisoners," they are often taken to a maximum-security facility. Ask God for supernatural strength and miraculous release.

### October 11

Through our networks in China, Open Doors supports the underground church in North Korea. Pray for the safety and wisdom of our local partners in China who risk so much to offer aid and discipleship.

## | Central Asia

### October 12

Thousands of Afghan refugees live in limbo in Central Asia. They can't afford to move on—pray that God would place compassionate people in their paths to help them begin to rebuild their lives.

### October 13

Praise God for the growth of His church in Central Asia. Our local partners tell us that many Afghan refugees in camps have given their lives to Jesus and want to be baptized. Thank God for this good and hopeful news!

### October 14

Pray that God would raise up leaders in these camps to disciple new converts. *God, we ask that churches would be birthed in these camps and that Your Word would be heard and shared.*

## | Kyrgyzstan

### October 15

Imagine if your neighbors shunned you and your family because you follow Jesus. In rural areas of Kyrgyzstan, this is believers' reality. Pray for community with other Christians.

## | Indonesia

### October 16

In Indonesia, a church needs 90 members before it's granted a building permit—a challenging figure in a Muslim-majority nation. Pray for more converts who can come together to form a church.

### October 17

Additionally, a church needs the almost impossible approval of the village chief and 60 signatures from locals. Pray for a softening of villagers' hearts and their leaders.

### October 18

Pray that God would lead legislators in Indonesia to create policy, allowing people from all religious backgrounds to enjoy the same freedoms.

## | Israel

### October 19

Please pray for Christians in the Holy Land. Since the new Israeli government came into power last December, there has been a significant increase in aggression towards Christians.

### October 20

Recently, a group of radical Israelis attacked a Christian restaurant in Jerusalem. Pray for its restoration and thank God for the courage of leaders who publicly showed support for the restaurant owners.

### October 21

*"Not a week goes by without Christians being heckled and spat at, graffiti, vandalism and other forms of harassment,"* a local church leader shared. Pray the government will take steps to protect Christians from this violence.

### October 22

Pray for the boldness of Christians in Israel: *God, I ask You to be ever-present with our family in Israel and give them Your grace to be salt and light in their communities.*

### October 23

In the past few months, Israeli citizens have been attacked, and the Israeli army has retaliated, targeting a Palestinian refugee camp. Pray for families who lost loved ones in the attack.

### October 24

Pray for peace in Israel and Palestine—pray that the church can play its part in reconciliation and bringing an end to the violence.

## | Syria

### October 25

Thanks to the support of Christians around the world, our local partners were able to support 5,038 families in Syria affected by February's earthquake. Praise God for their generosity and impact.

### October 26

Open Doors' local partners have completed 265 of the 2,600 properties scheduled for repair. Thank God for their hard work and pray for continued energy and enthusiasm.

### October 27

Pray for the 37 graduates of the Open Doors-supported trauma care center in northern Syria. Ask God to protect their minds as they hear the difficult stories of those affected by a decade of civil war and the ISIS occupation.

### October 28

Open Doors partners offer church leadership training to all generations in Syria. Please pray for those sessions and the future leaders of the church in Syria.



## | Yemen

### October 29

It may surprise you to learn that there is a thriving Bible distribution program in Yemen. Please pray for those who are risking their lives to bring the Word of God.

### October 30

Thank God that so many Yemenis are seeking Christ through online discipleship platforms. Pray they will be inspired by the teaching and will meet Jesus in new ways.

### October 31

Pray for economic stability in Yemen and provision for those living in poverty. Pray for access to a sufficient share of emergency aid and ask God to bring peace to these lands.