

Open *Doors*

PRAYER DIARY | November/December 2024



**“When they saw
the star, they were
filled with joy!”**

MATTHEW 2:10 (NLT)

NOVEMBER

Persecuted children

Friday 1 November

In many countries, Christian children face bullying and isolation because of their faith. These children are often hidden and excluded, making them harder to reach. Pray for Open Doors partners providing these children with practical and spiritual care.

Saturday 2 November - Bangladesh

Pray for the children of Christian converts. "When the community cuts off the converts and isolates them, that brings huge emotional damage to their children," says a local partner. Pray that children will have access to Sunday schools where they can be encouraged.

Sunday 3 November - Bangladesh

"My teachers scold children if they sit with me, saying, 'Don't mingle with the Christian,'" says Rumana (9). Ask God to soften the hearts of her teachers towards her, and pray that other children will be drawn to her kindness.

Monday 4 November - Bangladesh

Rumana asks us to pray that she can be more courageous to speak

about Jesus to others, and that they will receive salvation. Give thanks for her bold faith!

Tuesday 5 November - Philippines

This month, 450 persecuted children from Muslim backgrounds will come together for Bible teaching and friendship building activities. Pray for protection and that they will connect more deeply to God through His Word.

Wednesday 6 November - Egypt

Give thanks to Julie*, who was bullied at school, is overcoming her anxiety after receiving trauma care through Open Doors partners. "I started to feel inner power to face hard situations," she says. "I learned to speak up and not be afraid because 'If God is for us, who can be against us?'" (Romans 8:31).

Thursday 7 November

Open Doors is committed to strengthening the next generation to stand firm in their faith. Pray for our partners supporting children with trauma care, relief aid, Christian education and Sunday school programmes.

South Asia

Friday 8 November - Bangladesh

Hundreds have been killed in political unrest. Pray that

the interim government will lead with wisdom, fairness and compassion.

Saturday 9 November - Bangladesh

The crisis is being exploited by extremists to target minority communities, including Christians. Pray for restoration of law and order, and protection of minorities.

Sunday 10 November - Bangladesh

Tapon* and his family suffered a brutal attack by extremists on their home and shop. "They're doing well physically, but mentally they're frustrated, crippled with fear and tension," says a partner. Pray for healing, comfort and peace for Tapon and his family.

Monday 11 November - Bhutan

"Joshua, Joseph and Timothy were all strong in the Lord, even in difficulties," says Wangmo* (19) after attending youth training. "I'm learning to follow in their footsteps." Pray for the courageous faith of young people in Bhutan.

Tuesday 12 November - Pakistan

"Many people came, but you stayed, you prayed," says Aleena* from Jaranwala after receiving aid from HOPE, an organisation supported

by Open Doors, following last year's attack on the Christian community. "Pray that God will change the hearts of our enemies."

Wednesday 13 November - Nepal

Attacks on churches are increasing. In one incident, 100 people surrounded a church and, when it turned violent, the police sided with the mob and refused to provide security. Pray for the safety and strength of believers in hotspots of hostility.

Thursday 14 November - India

Around 300 Christians from a tribal community in Tamil Nadu gather in a forest for worship as they don't have access to any buildings. They also face opposition from local leaders unhappy at the church's impact on the community. Pray for protection and continued growth.

Friday 15 November - Sri Lanka

The growth of house churches in rural areas is bringing opposition from villagers and Buddhist monks. Lack of a proper registration process makes it hard for pastors to answer questions about their legality. Pray for the Spirit's boldness and the right words to say when challenged (Luke 12:12).

*Names changed for security reasons



Kandi begins to smile again

Your prayers and generosity are helping Kandi and her community rebuild their lives after a horrific attack on Christians in Indonesia

Four years ago, a terrorist attack devastated a small Christian community on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. We asked you to pray for those affected – and those prayers are being answered through your generosity.

In November 2020, four Christian men were killed when a group with links to so-called Islamic State attacked the village of Lewuno. Six homes, including a makeshift church and a Salvation Army building, were also destroyed.

You might recall Kandi, who was left grief-stricken after her husband and father were among those killed. But during a recent visit, she told local partners, “Right now, my overall condition is fine. My children, too. The oldest is 15, the second is 13, and the youngest is nine years old. I remarried two years ago as well.

“Now we live in a new house in Lembantongoa village, that was given to us as a donation,” she says, smiling as she watches her youngest

play with their pet cat. “With my new husband, I’m attempting to rebuild my life. We have some land and grow cocoa there.”

Her new home is among several built in Lembantongoa village for victims of the attack, together with a new church for the community. Your prayers and support have helped make this possible.

“I am attempting to rebuild my life.”

“I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the donors who helped fund the construction of this wonderful church, as well as the pastor’s house next to the church building, which is very beautiful,” says Major Yusmina Obet of the Salvation Army. “I am amazed by these buildings; that in this mountainous area, 80km from Palu city, there are these beautiful buildings standing.”

“This church means a lot to us, because there is a history of our lives behind its founding,” says Yonatan, a member of the congregation. “In this beautiful church, we



ABOVE Some of the new houses built with your help

can continue to worship God. I believe what has happened is part of God’s plan. Thank you for your generosity.”

Thank you for praying for Kandi and others affected by the attack, and please continue to pray – the new homes are currently borrowing electricity from neighbours while they wait for the government to provide them with their own, and they live in a region susceptible to earthquakes.

PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks that Kandi and other victims are beginning to rebuild their lives
- That God will continue to heal those still carrying wounds from the attack
- For the provision of electricity and protection from attack and earthquakes.

Counting the cost

Saturday 16 November – Nicaragua

Many Christian leaders are under increasing government surveillance. “It’s time to share the good news,” says Pastor Wilber. “We must employ many strategies, knowing we may not complete our work, but we cannot stay silent.” Pray for continued resilience.

Sunday 17 November – Mexico

“We never stopped praying, always singing praises and saying that we wouldn’t faint in the way of the Lord,” says Lazaro, one of 35 people expelled from their community. They’ve since returned – and their number is growing! “Pray that my community will come to know God.”

Monday 18 November – Indonesia

Dina* became a Christian in Hong Kong, but when she returned home her father labelled her an infidel. After fleeing home, local partners helped her start a business. “I love sharing my faith, I’m not afraid,” she says. Pray for people to encounter Jesus through her.

Tuesday 19 November – Ethiopia

When Miftah* (26) gave his life to Jesus, his family

were furious and he was driven from home. “I thank those who persecuted me; they made me run to God,” he says. “Pray that I stand strong in all things.”

Wednesday 20 **November – China**

In the 1990s, Fen* was handcuffed for her faith and paraded in the streets. “All this did not affect my faith in Christ, and after more than 20 years, I am still holding onto Jesus.” Pray for Fen as she seeks opportunities to share this enduring faith with others.

Thursday 21 November – Central Asia

Danmar* was sacked as a policeman when he couldn’t stop telling others about Jesus and how his son was healed of leukaemia. When two ex-colleagues asked for prayer, they said, “We’re so grateful for your kind heart and for your prayer – you brought hope.” Pray for their salvation.

Friday 22 November – Sri Lanka

Amaya’s* husband allows her to attend church, but he limits her engagement with Christianity. “Sometimes he calls me from his work to check if I’m praying,” she says. It’s been this way for ten years, but still she stands strong. “Please pray that he comes to know Christ.”

ARISE AFRICA

Saturday 23 November

Pray against the forces of evil driving growing violence and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. Ask God to awaken awareness and urgency among governments, leaders and organisations.

Sunday 24 November – Nigeria

“By doing this, you are strengthening our faith in Christ,” says Abdu* after receiving aid from Open Doors local partners. Ask God to protect, nourish and guide these partners, and increase their number.

Monday 25 November – Sudan

The civil war is exacerbating pressures on Christians. “The epicentre of the conflict is the capital, where most Christians live,” says Fikiru*, an expert for the region. Pray for peace, strength and protection.

Tuesday 26 **November – Mali**

Pastors in Mopti region were summoned to a meeting with jihadists and told to adhere to certain rules or leave their homes. Pray for wisdom for the authorities as they tackle extremism.

Wednesday 27 **November – Nigeria**

The trauma care centre is greatly helping Mafulul*

after he lost his wife in an extremist attack. “In the few days I have spent here, I am healing inside,” he says. Pray that the centre will be equipped to care for more people like Mafulul.

Thursday 28 November – DR Congo

“Thank you, because you continue to support us, physically and spiritually,” say the children of Pastor Paluku Katahiindwa Claude and Katungu Vyahasa Esther, who remain missing after being kidnapped in May. “Please continue to pray for us and our parents wherever they are.”

Friday 29 November – Cameroon

With help from local partners, Pastor Pascal has started income-generating projects for believers affected by militant attacks. Pray for each new business and Pastor Pascal’s wider ministry.

Saturday 30 **November – Kenya**

Believers in a village close to the Somali border are being squeezed out by local Muslim leaders. This includes Christian teachers, doctors and nurses being transferred elsewhere, and the closure of Christian schools. Pray for opportunities to build relations with these local leaders.

*Names changed for security reasons

You're helping Moryom to live her dream in Bangladesh

Thank you for
standing with
persecuted children
like Moryom



Watch a video
about Moryom at
opendoorsuk.org

Nine-year-old Moryom lives with her parents and older brother in a small, Muslim-majority village in Bangladesh. Her mother teaches Sunday school and leads an adult literacy class, and her father is a pastor and evangelist. Both are converts from Islam, which often means brutal persecution in this part of Bangladesh.

"I walk two kilometres to school because no one wants to take me in their rickshaw," she says. "They mock me, saying 'Christian'. When I go to school, I see some of my classmates on the way. Sometimes they throw bricks at me and push me."

MISTREATED AT SCHOOL

At school, Moryom often spends her day alone. "Most of the people in my school don't treat me well," she says. "Sometimes they beat me with sticks and call me 'Christian' as an insult. My classmates don't allow me to play with them."

Her teachers turn a blind eye to the bullying. Once, a child pushed Moryom off the roof of a one-storey building while shouting "You are a Christian!", but the teachers did nothing. "I didn't want to go to school anymore," Moryom says. "I got very angry but still asked Jesus to forgive them."

Even at home, Moryom has been targeted. Some Muslim women once tried to convert her to Islam by offering her chocolate and asking her to recite the Shahada, an Islamic creed, but her parents chased them off.

"I WILL TELL CHILDREN ABOUT JESUS."

The one safe place Moryom and her family have is their church. Here, Moryom isn't alone, and she can worship Jesus openly. "I really like Sunday school," she says. "We sing songs, dance and pray together. We also read from the children's Bible."

This children's Bible was provided by local Open Doors partners, thanks to your prayers and gifts. With it, Moryom has



ABOVE Moryom loves the chance to celebrate Christmas with other young believers

memorised many psalms and lots of other Bible verses. The partners also support an annual Christmas gathering for Bangladeshi Christians and their children. "We have lots of fun," Moryom says. "I like it when we all come together. It's a lot of fun to celebrate Jesus's birth by cutting a cake and eating it."

"Those who mistreat me, I forgive them all."

Thanks to you, Moryom's faith remains strong. "Because Jesus died on the cross for my sins, I forgive my friends. Those who mistreat me, insult me, hate me or don't love me, I forgive them all.

"I want to be a teacher," she adds. "When I become a teacher, I will tell all the children about Jesus. This is my dream."

PRAY

- That Moryom will grow closer to Jesus
- That Christian children will know God's love for them this Christmas
- For local Open Doors partners as they provide practical and spiritual support for believers in Bangladesh.

DECEMBER

Persecuted children

Sunday 1 December

– Bangladesh

Moryom* (9) is bullied by her classmates and teachers because her father is a pastor. Yet her faith in Jesus is strong. “I pray for them,” she says. “Despite everything, I forgive them.” Pray that her forgiveness will open their hearts to Jesus.

Monday 2 December

– Bangladesh

Moryom has to walk two kilometres to and from school as no one will take her in their rickshaw (p8). Ask God to change attitudes and move people to show kindness to her.

Tuesday 3 December

– Bangladesh

Open Doors local partners support an annual gathering for families who’ve converted from Islam, to celebrate Christmas together. Pray for protection for this year’s event and that more families can join and find fellowship.

Wednesday 4

December – Sri Lanka

There is an imbalance of opportunity for children of different faiths in Sri Lanka and Christians often face discrimination. Ask God to keep these

children free from discouragement and pray for equal opportunities for all children.

Thursday 5 December

– Afghanistan

Give thanks that people are coming to faith in Afghanistan. Pray that their children will be disciplined so they can grow up to love Jesus, and be a light in their communities.

Friday 6 December

– Central Asia

A church was ‘visited’ by the head of the regional affairs asking for the names of all the children and youth who receive material help. Ask God to protect these children and pray that the pastor can continue his ministry unhindered.

Saturday 7 December

Open Doors partners support persecuted children around the world through trauma counselling and healing camps, especially during school holidays. Pray for the healing power of the Spirit to be at work.

Youth

Sunday 8 December – Iran

Sepideh’s* (13) father is threatening to report her and her mother to the police for their faith. “It’s very difficult to make friends, because I cannot be who I really am,” she

says. Pray that she will find a supportive Christian community, and ask God to change her father’s heart.

Monday 9 December

– Egypt

When she was horribly bullied for her Christian faith at school, Julie* learned to isolate. Then Open Doors offered her counselling. “I started to feel inner power that I was able to face hard situations. I felt strong inside,” Julie says. Pray that Julie will know how much God values her as His child.

Tuesday 10

December – Iraq

A lack of job opportunities has left many Christian youth feeling hopeless. Pray for Open Doors partners holding youth training sessions, and pray that God’s Word will build strength and resilience in these young people.

Wednesday 11 December

– Maldives Many young Maldivians experience domestic violence and grow up in broken families. Pray that expat young believers will know how to share the love of Jesus with their friends, as there are laws against sharing their faith.

Parents

Thursday 12 December

– Myanmar

Children displaced by war and persecution are often

unable to continue their schooling. Pray for wisdom for Christian parents to know how to protect and provide for their children.

Friday 13 December

– Myanmar

Tun Maung* and his wife Lhing* have made the difficult decision to leave their home to escape the civil war. This will affect their children’s education and the environment they now live in is unsafe. Pray for discernment as they decide how best to care for their family.

Saturday 14 December

– Sri Lanka

Jayanthi’s three children used to be Christians before a local monk bribed them to covert to Buddhism. Now they have rejected Jayanthi because she won’t leave Jesus. Pray for Open Doors partners supporting Jayanthi, and pray with her that her children will return to the Lord.

Sunday 15 December

– Indonesia

Praise God that Dinda*, who was kicked out of the family home for her faith, has received support to rent a house and set up a business, through Open Doors partners. Pray that her new business will succeed so she can support her two children.

*Names changed for security reasons

Upheld with justice: Preeti's Christmas promise

Preeti from India can celebrate
with joy, thanks to you



“Jesus’s name gives salvation. Jesus’s name gives peace,” sings Preeti*. “This is my favourite song to sing at Christmas.”

Preeti (12) lives in a small village in India with her grandparents. When her grandfather, Ashok*, became a Christian, he started to share the gospel with the people in his village and conduct prayer meetings at his house.

But Hindu extremists living nearby were angry, and so they retaliated by attacking Preeti’s mother, and then Ashok. Five or six attackers beat him with iron bars and wooden rods, and threw chilli powder in his eyes. He was taken to hospital, but the extremists bribed the doctors and nurses not to treat him, so he did not receive proper care.

YOU HELPED KEEP PREETI’S FAMILY ALIVE

Preeti only learned about the attacks when she got home from school. “I was very sad,” she says. “I was feeling afraid. I was very angry at the people who did this to my family.”

When local Open Doors partners heard about the attack, they made sure Ashok received proper hospital treatment and covered his medical bills. He still struggles with pain in his left arm and is unable to work, which means he can’t provide for the family.

“We would have died of starvation if the organisation had not helped us.”

But thanks to you, Preeti and her family have received food and prayer support. “There were no groceries in the house. The team helped us and

we were so thankful,” says Preeti. Ashok agrees: “We would have died of starvation if we had not received these groceries. I thank the Lord that we got this help.”

“We have carol singing and gatherings – I feel good and joyful.”

“I WILL HELP PEOPLE TO GET JUSTICE”

Since the attack, Ashok has been wary of leading large church gatherings – but Christmas is the exception. “More than 150 people gather to celebrate Christmas,” he says. “It is a grand celebration with singing, dancing, worshipping and sharing the good news of Christ with unbelievers.”

“I get to wear new clothes, eat biryani and other delicious, special food,” Preeti says. “We have carol

singing and gatherings – I feel good and joyful.”

At Christmas, many Christians reflect on the promise of Jesus in Isaiah 9. Verse 7 says, “He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.”

Preeti longs for justice – which is why she wants to be a police officer. “I don’t like what happened to my family, as we were treated unfairly,” she says. “When I become a police officer I will help people to get justice.”

PRAY

Preeti says, “I want you to pray for me, so that God gives me wisdom; pray for my family to grow in Christ and for their safety; pray that we should be safe to live out our faith.”

*Names changed for security reasons

Middle East

Monday 16 December

Continue to pray that peace will come in Israel, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories. “Pray for God’s mercy on all who suffer on every side of the conflict, and for lasting peace,” says a local partner. “Pray that our brothers and sisters will continue to trust the Lord.”

Tuesday 17

December - Iraq

Christians In the Kurdistan region live in fear due to military operations, several Christian villages are facing the threat of forced displacement. Please pray for the safety and protection of the people in the area.

Wednesday 18 December

– Iraq Christians frequently face harassment, threats and discrimination in employment. Ask the Lord to give them courage to be salt and light.

Thursday 19

December – Iraq

Praise God that Walid (35) from Qaraqosh has opened a restaurant with a microloan from Open Doors partners. Pray he can provide for his wife and three children.

Friday 20 December

– Egypt

Pray for a Christian family whose 14-year-old

daughter was physically assaulted by Muslim extremists. Ongoing threats have forced them to flee their home. Pray for God’s justice and protection.

Saturday 21

December – Egypt

Christians who are building a church in their village have faced persistent opposition from Muslim extremists. The church building has been demolished and Christian homes vandalised. Pray for protection and wisdom for the pastor.

Sunday 22 December –

Egypt Open Doors Sweden has been raising the plight of Christians in Iraq and Syria with the Swedish parliament. Praise God that they have now committed to supporting persecuted Christians in their Middle East and North Africa 2024-2027 policy.

Christmas

✦ Monday 23 December

Sadly, Christmas often sees an increase in attacks on Christians. Pray for protection and joy for all our family celebrating Christmas, whether openly or in secret.

✦ Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

Pray for God’s comfort for the families of the 160 believers killed in

extremists attacks in Plateau State, Nigeria, on Christmas Eve last year. Ask the Lord to thwart any plans for violent attacks against Christians this Christmas.

✦ Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day

As we remember the birth of our Saviour in Bethlehem, please pray with this Palestinian believer: “Heavenly Father, Lord of Mercies, we ask You today to look down from Heaven and heal the Middle East. You are our only hope, our Stronghold that we can run to daily. We cry to you Lord to hear our prayers. In the precious name of Jesus we pray.”

✦ Thursday 26 December – Bangladesh

Open Doors is holding a special gathering for Muslim-background believer families who are unable to celebrate Christmas out of fear of persecution. Pray that they will experience the joy of Jesus as they celebrate His birth.

✦ Friday 27 December – Central Asia

Open Doors partners distribute Christmas gifts and food parcels to children, the elderly and those with disabilities. Pray that these gifts and visits will bring God’s love and hope to many.

✦ Saturday 28 December – Secret believers

Remember the many secret believers who must celebrate Christmas secretly. Pray for creative ways to connect with other believers and to share the peace of Christ in their families and communities.

✦ Sunday 29 December – Prisoners

Pray for believers in prison for their faith. Ask Emmanuel to comfort those struggling with the loneliness of being separated from their families and pray that the joy of the Lord will be their strength.

✦ Monday 30 December – Iran

The Iranian regime increases pressure on Christians over the Christmas period and the number of Christians arrested and imprisoned often rises. Pray that believers can gather to worship Jesus freely.

Tuesday 31 December – UK&I

Praise God for the prayerful generosity of Open Doors supporters which has strengthened so many persecuted believers this year. As we look to 2025, ask God to awaken more of His people in the UK and Ireland to pray, give and speak out.



IDOP ONLINE 2024

UNITING IN PRAYER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024 | 7.30-8.30PM

We're excited to be joining once again with our friends at the Evangelical Alliance, CSW and Release International to pray for our persecuted family on the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP).

This year, Open Doors will be sharing stories from Burkina Faso, where violence against Christians is escalating. Without a stable government to keep this violence in check, more and more Christians are being kidnapped or forced from their homes.

We will also pray for believers from North Korea and Egypt.

"The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer." PSALM 6:9

Please join us as we unite in prayer to make a difference in the lives of millions of Christians who courageously risk everything to follow Jesus.

Register your free place at opendoorsuk.org/idop



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