

Open *Doors*

PRAYER DIARY | March/April 2025



“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.”

PROVERBS 31:25

MARCH

Persecuted women

Saturday 1 March

Around the world, women are persecuted for both their faith and gender. Pray for Open Doors workers helping women discover their identity in Christ, and pray that our sisters will accept and believe the truth of God's Word.

Sunday 2 March

– Bangladesh

Jorina was attacked and humiliated by women in her community when she chose to follow Christ (see Magazine p8). Yet she longs for her persecutors to know Jesus. Pray that her love will soften their hearts and open their minds to the gospel.

Monday 3 March

– Bangladesh

Jorina and her family face ongoing threats from their community for their faith. Pray Deuteronomy 31:6 over her: "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God goes with you."

Tuesday 4 March

– North Africa

When a woman is the only believer in her household, being part of a local church often requires secrecy, putting her at great risk. Pray for

the freedom for women to worship and practise their faith openly.

Wednesday 5 March

– North Africa

Pray for Christian couples who live in the husband's parents' home. In-laws may make it difficult for the wife to attend church or live out her faith. Pray that Christian couples can find independent housing where they can have autonomy.

Thursday 6 March

– North Africa

Young Christian women who keep their faith secret often feel pressured by their families to marry a Muslim man. Some courageously choose celibacy rather than compromise their faith; others struggle with the intense pressure. Ask God to provide them with suitable Christian partners.

Friday 7 March –

North Africa

After facing rejection from her mother and sisters for following Christ, Batoul* started a ministry for young women like her. "Pray they would not be afraid but resilient, able to pray and read the Bible freely, and stand strong against the persecution they face."

Saturday 8 March

On International Women's Day, ask God to bless

Open Doors programmes that help women to know their great worth in His eyes. Pray that women would believe in their talents, abilities and gifts and have the courage to use them for God's glory.

Bangladesh

Sunday 9 March

Extremist groups have used the chaos following last year's riots as a cover to attack Christian communities. Pray for political stability and that Christians will have courage to be salt and light in society.

Monday 10 March

After the recent political unrest, Kulsum* and her family have faced immense pressure to renounce their faith. Local Islamic leaders are trying to ban their children from attending school. Ask God to watch over Kulsum's children and protect them from threats and pressure.

Tuesday 11 March

Kulsum's husband is in hiding. Ask God to give him protection and peace so he can return home without fear. Pray that they will sense God's presence guiding them through this adversity.

Wednesday 12 March

Some churches faced heightened opposition

over the Christmas period. Pray for wisdom for church leaders as they lead their congregations, especially over the Lent and Easter season.

Bhutan

Thursday 13 March

Believers who convert from Buddhism often face rejection from their family and community. Ask God to provide isolated believers with a new family in Christ to stand with them.

Friday 14 March

Pastor Rajen wants to worship with his congregation in Bhutan without persecution, but his church registration was denied. Pray for God's strength and courage to keep meeting together.

Saturday 15 March

When Pastor Rajen held services, his electricity and water were cut off. He's taking his case to the government. Pray that his case would be heard fairly and that he will find favour with the authorities.

Sunday 16 March

Please pray for Pastor Rajen's family and their tenants who are struggling without water and electricity. Ask God to provide for their urgent basic needs.

*Names changed for security reasons



“We can clearly see God at work”

Believers in Afghanistan see God move in extraordinary ways, thanks to your prayers

Re-enactment image

Read full interviews with Hila, Medina, Khada and Dina at opendoorsuk.org

It might seem surprising to hear a Christian from Afghanistan talk about being ‘excited for what lies ahead’, given the challenges of life under Taliban rule. But that’s exactly how Hila* feels as she shares what the Holy Spirit is doing in her country – and how, at its heart, is faithful, fervent prayer.

Hila is one of several Afghan women whose stories we shared in last year’s Secret Believers campaign. “I’ve been able to share the gospel with other women and seen lives transformed

and faith ignited in ways I couldn’t have imagined,” says Hila. “We constantly feel God’s presence and authority in our lives. Despite the difficult circumstances, we are empowered by our faith.”

“I’ve seen lives transformed in ways I couldn’t have imagined.”

“I’ve been able to share the Word of God with three of our female neighbours, and I will continue sharing my faith with two relatives,”

‘feel a sense of freedom and love from God that they never felt before’.

“I’ve become spiritually stronger, knowing that my brothers and sisters in faith are standing with me,” says Dina*, who has also had opportunities to share her faith with other women. “I offer my heartfelt thanks to those who stand with us in every circumstance, supporting us through their prayers and partnership. I urge you to continue praying for Afghanistan.”

PLEASE PRAY

- **Hila:** “Please pray for the continued growth of our spiritual work, for the safety of our brothers and sisters, and for healing for those who are sick.”
- **Medina:** “We would appreciate prayers for our economic situation, as many believers are unemployed.”
- **Khada:** “Please pray for those suffering from poverty and hunger.”
- **Dina:** “We ask for prayers to lift the oppressive laws burdening Afghan women and girls.”

shares Medina*. “In the past few months, we have prayed fervently for our country and its people. Some people are growing weary of Islam and turning to Christ.”

“Spiritually, we’re very strong,” says Khada*, whose story was the main feature in the July 2024 Magazine. “We see God is always at work, and the Holy Spirit is our guide and protector.” Her family gave their lives to Jesus after she shared the gospel with them and now, she says, they

*Names changed for security reasons

Asia

Monday 17 March – Sri Lanka

A local Buddhist monk has been harassing Pastor Sarith*, even pressuring his landlord to evict him. The pastor is now looking for a new place to live. Pray that he will find a new home and that his ministry will continue.

Tuesday 18 March – Pakistan

Pray for those who facilitate programmes that teach hundreds of women about their health. Pray for the women who attend, especially expectant and new mothers, and for those who run the training, that their teaching will be effective.

Wednesday 19 March – Pakistan

Pray for an education programme for young people, which takes in children who have been rejected by their schools because of their Christian faith. Ask God to strengthen the children in their faith.

Thursday 20 March – Maldives

The Maldives is considered to be 100% Muslim, but there are a small number of Christian converts. Please pray that they will have access to God's Word.

Friday 21 March – Nepal

Pastor Manoj Pokhrel's church building was attacked by Hindu extremists. His church members have been threatened; many have stopped coming. Pray that God will encourage Pastor Manoj and his church.

Saturday 22 March – North Korea

As the secret church continues to grow, ask God to provide protection for those who smuggle Bibles across the border, and for those who will receive them to encounter God in His Word.

Sunday 23 March – India

As an increasing number of states tighten anti-conversion laws, more Christians are facing false arrest. Pray for the immediate release of these believers, and that house church leaders will not be attacked or imprisoned.

Monday 24 March – Laos

Amphon*, his wife Veena* and their three children have been repeatedly forced to move because they are determined to follow Jesus. When Amphon's relatives cut off his family's electricity, Open Doors partners provided emergency relief. Please pray for the family to stand firm in their faith.

Tuesday 25 March – Indonesia

Pray for Rani* and David*, two believers from different parts of Indonesia whose families put them under house arrest after they discovered their Christian faith. By the grace of God, they were able to escape. Pray for their resilience and protection.

Wednesday 26 March – Ramadan

Tonight, Muslims celebrate the Night of Power in Ramadan – when Muslims believe that the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the prophet Muhammad. As Muslims pray and fast, ask God to reveal Jesus, the true Word, to them, and open their eyes to His love.

Thursday 27 March – Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's parliament is considering an amendment to the current Religion Law which would further tighten regulations on religious activity. Pray that this does not go through, and that the government would recognise the blessing of freedom of religion in the country.

Friday 28 March – Uzbekistan

Pray for protection for several house church leaders who are being watched and must be careful in their activities.

Ask God to give them courage, and that He will strengthen the Uzbek church as they meet together.

Saturday 29 March – Bhutan

Pastors and leaders in Dagana district have been warned by the local government not to gather for fellowship without official permission. Please pray for wisdom and creativity in how they gather for worship.

Sunday 30 March – Mothering Sunday

Latasha*, a mother of three young children, is going through a court trial in Malaysia to change her religious status to non-Muslim. Her children (aged one, three and five) currently have no official documents because they aren't registered as Muslims. Pray for strength and wisdom for Latasha.

Monday 31 March – Central Asia

Alim* (16) had to leave college because he was being pressured by his classmates and teachers because of his Christian faith. His parents found another school for him, but in a city much further away. Pray that God will comfort Alim and bless him in his studies.

*Name changed for security reasons

Taking the lead in Bangladesh



Thanks to you, Shompa Roy is strengthening the women in her church

Nothing can stop Shompa Roy from sharing her faith. Despite social isolation, discrimination and physical persecution, she continues to tell people about Jesus – and your prayers and support enable her to build up other women in their faith too.

Raised as a Hindu, Shompa's curiosity in Jesus was sparked by an evangelist. They began to meet to discuss faith. "I enjoyed listening to the Word of God and the story of Jesus Christ," she remembers. "I realised

that, unintentionally, Jesus was occupying my heart."

Shompa told her husband, and he too believed. Together, they began to share the gospel – with Shompa taking the lead – and within a year they had baptised 70 people from 4 different villages!

THE PERSECUTION BEGINS

But these amazing testimonies came with persecution. Their neighbours effectively excommunicated Shompa and her family from the village by blocking the

only path to her home. When they passed her in the road, they would insult and mock her.

One day, some Hindu women tied her up in a neighbour's house and tried to shave her hair, which is seen as an act of repentance – and shame – in Hinduism. "By doing this they wanted me to renounce my faith," Shompa says. "I was screaming and asking someone to rescue me. There were many Hindu men outside the house; they did not help me."

Fortunately, another man was passing by and intervened. Shompa was rescued – but her troubles did not stop there. She bought some land and built a church. When the local community tried to evict them, the man who sold her the land beat her and her daughter. Since then, her husband's taxi business has suffered, and their animals have been poisoned.

THE EVANGELISM CONTINUES

But Shompa and her family are not alone. Thanks to your prayers and gifts, Open Doors partners have stood with them with persecution survival training and prayer support.

"I have forgiven the enemies who harmed and persecuted us," Shompa says. "When I fall in trouble and feel sad, I pray and sing worship songs: 'Lord, light Your light in me, fulfil Your will in me.'"

"Women in my church are growing spiritually."

Shompa is seeing more Christian women step up in their local church too. "Women in my church are growing spiritually. They are getting more active in the church. I want the women to be effective in leading the church.

"You have prayed and supported my family and church," she adds. "We are very thankful for your support."

PLEASE PRAY

- That Shompa's ministry will continue to bear fruit, and that she will walk more closely with Jesus
- That the women that Shompa ministers to will be courageous in their faith
- For the gospel to continue to flourish in Shompa's community.

APRIL

Persecuted women

Tuesday 1 April

Pray for women who convert to Christianity after marriage. Fear of being divorced and losing custody of their children often forces them to hide their faith. Pray for courage and protection, and ask God to work in their families.

Wednesday 2 April – Egypt

Girls and women, especially in the slum areas of Upper Egypt, are sometimes pressured to convert to Islam. Pray that they will find safe spaces and supportive communities, and ask God to eradicate Islamisation techniques that target Christian women.

Thursday 3 April – Egypt

Pray for Open Doors local partners who run awareness programmes for women. Pray that those who attend will find healing and understand their true worth in Christ.

Friday 4 April – Arabian Peninsula

Pray for female believers in the Peninsula. Ask God to heal them physically and emotionally, free them from wrong ideologies, and help them grow in their faith journey.

Saturday 5 April – UK

Pray for a women's prayer breakfast being held in the Open Doors UK office today, where a sister will share about our work with women in Asia. Pray that her stories of courageous faith will stir many to pray regularly for persecuted women.

Sunday 6 April – Iran

Many women in Iran struggle with shame, insecurity and fear. Ask God to set them free to see the importance of their role in family and society, and become positive influences in their communities.

Monday 7 April – Iran

Pray for Iranian women imprisoned for their faith and ministry. Ask the Holy Spirit to sustain, strengthen and encourage them to share God's hope with those around them.

Tuesday 8 April – Saudi Arabia

Pray with a Saudi sister: "May God help us through the problems and pressures we face from family members, especially new believers who face very harsh spiritual warfare. May God open the door for us to meet other believers to pray together."

*Names changed for security reasons

Arise Africa

Wednesday 9 April – Mali

"Pay an Islamic tax – or flee." This is the choice facing believers in a region where Islamist militants have taken over many communities. Ask God to be with these believers, giving them comfort and hope – especially those displaced by the militants.

Thursday 10 April – Sudan

The civil war has made it increasingly dangerous for Christians, most of whom live in the capital city, the epicentre of the conflict. Open Doors teams say these believers are facing an additional layer of suffering because of their faith. Pray for protection and bold faith.

Friday 11 April – DRC

In January, the rebel group M23 – backed by the Rwandan Defence Force (RDF) – took control of the city of Goma. Even before this attack, the people in eastern DRC have lived amidst ongoing insecurity. Pray for an end to this incursion.

Saturday 12 April – Cameroon

Médéké's son Joseph (10) was kidnapped by Boko Haram militants in 2023. He is one of at least 14 children taken from the region since 2014. "I feel so much pain whenever I think of him," Médéké

says. Pray for the safe return of Joseph and the other missing children, and that God will give Médéké peace (PICTURED).



Sunday 13 April – Uganda

When Rashida's mother put her trust in Jesus, her father abandoned the family, forcing them to leave their home. Thanks to your support, Rashida and her siblings can go to school, and the family has received relief aid. Ask God to bless Rashida's education.

Monday 14 April – Nigeria

Today marks 11 years since more than 276 girls were kidnapped from their school in Nigeria's Chibok village. Pray for comfort and strength for the families of the 91 girls – now women – still missing, and that God will bring them safely home.

Tuesday 15 April – Nigeria

In Niger State, thousands of Christians have been killed and displaced from their homes by extremist groups. "Stand for us fervently," Pastor Simon asks, "that we will be strong and will overcome at the end."



A STRANGER TO HER CHILDREN, BUT NOT TO CHRIST

Bhumika is being strengthened by her church family

“I used to get up early in the morning to worship my Hindu god, and I chanted the mantras,” Bhumika* says. Now a widow in her early 60s, she grew up in a Hindu family in Nepal and was greatly devoted to her faith.

It was her niece who introduced her to Jesus. Bhumika was sceptical. “I asked, ‘If the god whom I had been worshipping for years couldn’t heal me, how would your Jesus, a god I have never heard of before, do good to me?’”

Even so, she started to go to church every week – and through the kindness of other Christians, God slowly softened her heart towards Him. She became a Christian one day in June 2022. “He is my God and forgiver,” she says. “I committed my life to Jesus, and today I still have the same determination.”

REJECTED BY HER CHILDREN

Her niece discipled her for eight months, and then Bhumika returned home – but she was not

welcomed back. “After I embraced Christ, I became a stranger to my sons,” she says. “They verbally and mentally persecuted me. They kept threatening me either to leave Jesus or leave the house, so I chose to leave the house.”

“My God was with me. He gave me comfort and strength.”

She finds the separation hard. “They are my children, but they disowned me. Nevertheless, my God was with me. He gave me comfort and strength.”

Bhumika moved into a house by herself, but she struggles with day-to-day activities like food shopping because of her health. Thankfully, Open Doors partners heard about her situation through a local pastor, and they helped her to open a small shop that she can manage from home.

BLESSED BY GOD

She says, “God blessed me with this shop through you. Now, I am able to buy medicines for myself, and also groceries. I also help other believers

who are in need. I feel satisfied to help them with the blessing I got from the Lord because Jesus showed that example to us and I want to follow His steps.”

Bhumika cannot read or write, so she listens to the audio Bible provided by her pastor. Her favourite verse is Matthew 28:20: “This verse makes me feel I am not alone in this world since God says He is with me till the end of the age.

“Thank you so much for your presence and for standing together with me in my difficulties,” she adds. “I will continue to pray for you.”

*Names changed for security reasons

KEEP PRAYING WITH THE WORLD WATCH LIST TOP 50

You can find more Eyewitness stories to inspire your prayers in the *World Watch List 2025 Top 50*. Order your free copy at [opendoorsuk.org](https://www.opendoorsuk.org) or call **01993 460015**.



Easter

Wednesday 16 April

This week, millions of Christians worldwide will celebrate Easter in the shadow of persecution. Church services are especially vulnerable to attack. Pray for God's peace and protection over gatherings.

Thursday 17 April – Maundy Thursday

Today, we remember Jesus at Gethsemane, where His anguish was such that His 'sweat was like drops of blood' (Luke 22:44). An angel strengthened Him. Pray that persecuted believers facing their own dark nights will be strengthened by divine encounters with God.

Friday 18 April – Good Friday

"Surely he was the Son of God!" That's what the centurion said as Jesus died (Matthew 27:54). As our persecuted family persevere amidst suffering, pray that onlookers, including persecutors, will meet Jesus.

Saturday 19 April

In John 20, the disciples were gathered with the doors locked when the risen Jesus arrived, saying, "Peace be with you!" Pray that believers meeting secretly over

Easter will experience the peace of Christ.

Sunday 20 April – Easter Sunday

"I've been saved, because Jesus is no more in the grave," says Tanko* (19) from Niger, after celebrating his first-ever Easter last year. "He proved that He is Lord, and He rose from the grave, hallelujah!" Pray for joy for all our persecuted family today.

EYEWITNESS

Monday 21 April – Afghanistan

Hours before being baptised, a new believer felt low. "But when my head was in the water, I saw another world that was lovely to me," he says. "When I emerged, I felt reborn." Pray for boldness as he shares his faith.

Tuesday 22 April – Cuba

Juan Pablo* has been bullied by peers and had his grades lowered. "My goal is to keep winning others to Jesus even amidst restrictions," he said after attending training by Open Doors partners. Pray for a fruitful ministry.

Wednesday 23 April – Sri Lanka

After returning home from church, Sneha* (18) was beaten by her mother. "She

called me in tears," says Pastor Vikum*, "but she said she will never leave Jesus." Pray for salvation for Sneha's family.

Thursday 24 April – Burkina Faso

"I couldn't pray, because when I prayed, I wept," says Brother John, whose son was killed by Islamist extremists. After attending trauma care, he says, "We've been given new hope and new faith." Pray for continued resilience.

Friday 25 April – Iran

Praise God that Melika* (17) became a Christian through a ministry run by partners. "We, who were once superstitious Muslims and lived in fear of death, are now free from fear." Pray for more young Iranians to encounter Jesus.

Saturday 26 April – North Korea

Fearing the consequences, a North Korean man kept his faith secret from his wife. Eventually, he told her. "She cried," he says. "She'd been a secret believer all her life and had desperately wanted to tell me." The couple help others, but it's dangerous. Pray for protection.

Sunday 27 April – Vietnam

"I accepted Christ after hearing my son's

testimony" says Cuong*, a former village leader. Others have come to salvation through him, but it's brought persecution. Pray for healing, strength and protection.

Monday 28 April – Central Asia

During a visit from her brother, Oxana* was asked her to pray an Islamic prayer. She refused. Asked why she became a Christian, she said Jesus loves her. Her family is threatening to take away her children. Pray this will not happen.

Tuesday 29 April – Asia

When Lily* heard Dhea*, a local partner, pray for her friend's grandmother, she asked questions that led to her becoming a Christian. "It was the Holy Spirit's power that broke through the lies she was taught about Christianity." Pray for Lily's faith to grow.

Wednesday 30 April – Asia

When Lily told her husband Max* she was getting baptised, he gave an ultimatum – him or Jesus. That night, he had a dream. "He said 'a holy man' came to him and told him not to divorce me," says Lily. He attended her baptism. Pray for Max's salvation.

*Names changed for security reasons

WORLD WATCH LIST CHILDREN'S PRAYER PASSPORT AND MAP

This year's *World Watch List Prayer Passport* is crammed with information and ideas to help children connect with their persecuted church family!

For each World Watch List country, there is information, a flag to colour in and space for children to write their own prayers. There are also stories of how persecution affects children, helpful explanations of key terms and even a child-friendly look at what the Bible says about persecution.

And on the interactive, fold-out Activity Map, children can record what they've discovered during their prayer journey around the world.



It's a great way for families, children's groups and Sunday schools to engage with the persecuted church. So why not encourage the children in your life to grab their *Prayer Passport*, spread out their Activity Map and head off on a journey of prayer?

Order today at
opendoorsuk.org/children



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