

# Open *Doors*

PRAYER DIARY | September/October 2025



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

ISAIAH 60:1

## SEPTEMBER

### Ethiopia

#### Monday 1 September

Ethiopia plays a unique stabilising role in a volatile part of East Africa. Pray for Prime Minister Ahmed and the Ethiopian government to be peacemakers in the region, speaking into situations of conflict with wisdom and compassion.

#### Tuesday 2 September

Christians from non-traditional denominations are often targeted by local authorities, Islamic extremists and the Orthodox Church as they are seen as a threat. As violence increases, pray for God's grace to keep sharing the gospel no matter the cost.

#### Wednesday 3 September

Jemal\* lost everything when Islamic extremists attacked his home and destroyed his businesses (see Magazine p8). After receiving relief aid and trauma care from Open Doors, he bravely chose to return home. "Immediately after we returned, we began worshipping God again in our church," says Jemal. Praise God for his faith!

#### Thursday 4 September

With support from Open Doors, Jemal has

restarted his businesses. He asks for prayer for God to change his community: "In every place I go, I pray for God to give me boldness. Pray for us to have influence in our community."

#### Friday 5 September

Where Jemal lives, it is dangerous for the children to go to school by themselves. "[Other students] would call them 'infidels, truth deniers,'" Jemal says. "They are scarred mentally. We were forced to enrol them in a school away from our area." Pray for God's healing and protection.

#### Saturday 6 September

Despite the growing pressure Christians face, the gospel is spreading into areas that were once spiritually closed. Believers often ask for prayer so they can share their faith with their attackers. Pray for God's favour and guidance for evangelists and churches reaching out to these communities.

#### Sunday 7 September

Open Doors partners are strengthening the Ethiopian church through leadership and discipleship training and economic empowerment projects. Ask the Lord to make their work fruitful and guard them as they travel to dangerous areas.

## East Africa

#### Monday 8 September – Sudan

Fighting has intensified in the civil war between the official Sudanese Armed Forces, which have ruled Sudan since a military coup in 2021, and the Rapid Support Forces, a splinter group. Pray for negotiated solutions to the war and that peace will return soon.

#### Tuesday 9 September – Sudan

Since the war began, over 100 church buildings have been damaged, and Christians have been abducted and killed. Ask the Good Shepherd to strengthen and encourage church leaders as they serve the flock under their care.

#### Wednesday 10 September – Sudan

The conflict has exacerbated the persecution facing many believers. "People are extremely traumatised and this impacts our witness," says one church leader. "Pray for Christians to receive emotional and spiritual healing from what they've seen in the war."

#### Thursday 11 September – Sudan

Communities have been torn apart by the war. Pray that the church will

be salt and light in their communities and can help bring reconciliation between Sudan's many cultures and races.

#### Friday 12 September – Mozambique

At least 120 children have been abducted by Islamic militants since January. Ask God to protect Mozambique's children and pray that those who were abducted will be released and restored.

#### Saturday 13 September – Mozambique

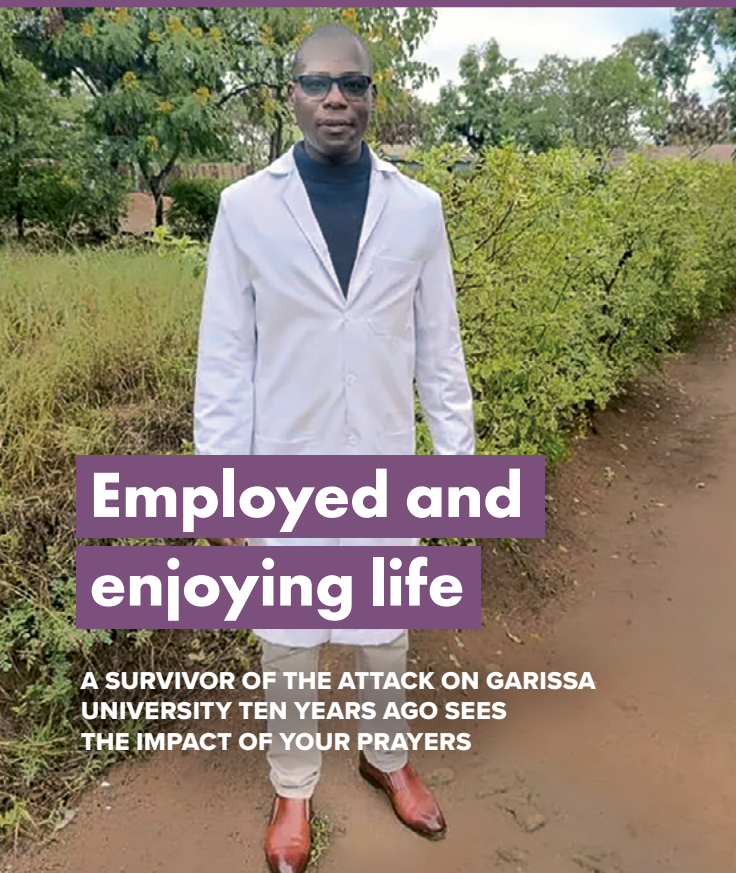
Pray for an end to the Islamic insurgency which is sweeping across the country. Ask the Lord to empower the government to do more to protect its citizens.

#### Sunday 14 September – Eritrea

Pray for Eritrean believers in prison, many of whom have been detained for years. Ask God to strengthen them to persevere in their faith, and to comfort and provide for their families.

#### Monday 15 September – Eritrea

"We all live in fear of who will be arrested next," says church leader Paulos.\* "Pray that persecution will cease. Pray earnestly for us, so we can have the freedom to preach the gospel in peace."



# Employed and enjoying life

**A SURVIVOR OF THE ATTACK ON GARISSA UNIVERSITY TEN YEARS AGO SEES THE IMPACT OF YOUR PRAYERS**

**Ronald (PICTURED) in Kenya is happy and at peace, doing a job he loves – teaching – and excited for the future. He's come such a long way since being severely injured in the attack on Garissa University ten years ago – and he puts it down to answered prayer.**

Morning prayers were just about to begin at the university on 2 April 2015, when four gunmen from the Somali militant

group al-Shabaab roamed through buildings and dormitories, singling out Christians. The devastating assault lasted 16 hours, killing 148 people, mostly students.

**“He blessed me with the job I asked for.”**

Since then, Open Doors local partners have come alongside many of the affected students, supporting them through trauma care, livelihood

projects, prayer and presence ministry.

This includes Ronald, who we've specifically requested prayers for. He survived being shot, but he suffered hearing loss and three amputated fingers – injuries that initially kept him from being employed as a teacher. “Now you are disabled, how are you going to manage the class?” he was asked.

These experiences had left Ronald feeling forgotten – but it's a different story today. “I'm doing good and am thankful for what the Lord has done for me,” he says. “He blessed me with the job I asked for, which I now enjoy, serving the children, sharing my skills and knowledge, helping them to overcome daily challenges.” Ronald has completed different courses and is enrolling on another one this year.

The attack also took a huge emotional toll on Ronald. “I find myself overthinking, that is the main issue,” he shared three years ago. “Pray for me so that I overcome this problem.” It's another prayer that's been answered. “I'm emotionally stable

now – no anger issues, full of peace of mind.”

As he reflects on his journey, Ronald has a special message for you. “I'm grateful for your continuing support and prayers, and concern for my wellbeing. My parents are also doing well and they're thankful for your prayers.”

**“I'm grateful for your continuing support and prayers.”**

“His injuries are healed but the scars are there,” says a local partner. “He has managed to live with his missing fingers. He still strains to hear. Private institutions wouldn't hire him, but the government finally did. Ronald believes that God has called him to serve children and to sharpen them before they go to university. Overall, he enjoys life.”

### PLEASE PRAY

- Praise God for the beautiful things He's done in Ronald's life
- That he will keep growing in his faith and profession
- For healing for all those still recovering from the attack.

## Middle East

### **Tuesday 16 September** – Syria

Continue to pray for those affected by June's suicide bomb attack on Saint Elias Church in Damascus, which killed 25 people and injured many more. Pray that God's Word will be an anchor.

### **Wednesday 17 September** – Syria

A church near Tartus narrowly escaped a similar bomb attack in July, heightening fear among Christians adjusting to life under the new regime. Pray against further attacks, and that the government will take steps to provide greater protection for all religious groups.

### **Thursday 18 September** – Iran

Aida Najaflou, a convert, was among some 60 women transferred to Qarchak Prison following the airstrike on Evin Prison in June. They're without clean water and proper food. In a voice note, she said, "We're suffering... entangled and helpless." Pray for physical and spiritual nourishment.

### **Friday 19 September** – Iran

In the weeks after the ceasefire with Israel came into effect, 43 believers were arrested. Some cases

involved possession of a Bible. Pray for their release, and for God's protection and blessing over all secret house churches.

### **Saturday 20 September** – Iran

Despite challenges, believers are persevering. "Take heart, for the Risen Christ is our strength," wrote a believer to partners outside Iran. Pray for their shining example to draw others to Jesus.

### **Sunday 21 September** – Iraq

Douglas, a farmer in the Nineveh Plains, received a microloan from partners to provide electricity to fund irrigation. His farm helps 55 Yazidi people, with some working for him. Douglas is immensely grateful and requests prayer for a good harvest next year.

### **Monday 22 September** – Iraq

A pastor has plans for a football pitch and café to bring young people together and introduce them to Jesus. Pray for the project's completion, and for strength and protection for the pastor and his family.

### **Tuesday 23 September** – Egypt

Young women involved in leading ministries in Upper Egypt are highly vulnerable as they travel

to and from meetings. They're afraid and families pressurise them to stop serving altogether. Pray for protection, wisdom and courage.

### **Wednesday 24 September** – Egypt

This year marks ten years since 21 believers were martyred by so-called Islamic State in Libya. They were all Copts, except a Ghanian who gave his life to Jesus after seeing the unwavering faith of the others as they faced death. Pray that their witness even in death will continue to bring life (John 12:24).

### **Thursday 25 September** – Turkey

Michal Geske – a German student whose father, Tilmann, was among three people killed at a Christian publishing house in eastern Turkey in 2007 – has been told to leave the country, with no reason given. Pray that she can stay and complete her studies.

### **Friday 26 September** – Israel/Gaza

Pray for spiritual unity among Messianic Jews and Palestinian Christians. Pray that these believers will be channels of Christ's love and forgiveness, reconciling their communities to God and to one another.

### **Saturday 27 September** – Palestinian Territories

"We're still light and we spread that light," says Rami, a church leader in Bethlehem. "Hard moments make the church stronger. More than before, Christians come to church, searching for hope and comfort from the Bible." Pray for this light to shine ever brighter.

### **Sunday 28 September** – Yemen

A coordinated media campaign targeting Christian leaders has sparked renewed fear of attacks. Pray for protection and peace.

### **Monday 29 September** – Middle East

"It's a unique course; it changed my life," says Juliette, one of 400 women involved in a Bible course run by partners. "It empowers women to be stronger mentally and spiritually." Pray that the course will help more women discover their calling.

### **Tuesday 30 September** – Arabian Peninsula

Despite living there for years, several Christians have been asked to leave their respective countries, without clear reason. Some are new to faith. Pray against fear and for fellowship with other believers.





# HOPE AND HEALING FOR HAKURI IN NIGER

**YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS ARE HELPING  
DISPLACED BELIEVERS KEEP GOING**

**Hakuri\* (PICTURED) from Niger remembers the attack that killed her husband. When they heard the gunfire, she and her family ducked for cover – but ran when the extremists began burning houses. “That’s when the jihadists started shooting at the men,” Hakuri says.**

The militants eventually herded the rest of the community’s women and children – both Muslim and Christian – into the school, including Hakuri and her children. The extremists explained they weren’t going to harm them, but warned that if they found any men, they would kill them.

## **BOYS DISGUISED AS GIRLS**

The women were suddenly filled with fear for their sons; so they enacted a plan. “We removed the clothes of our boys and put female clothes on them,” Hakuri remembers. “We clothed them with head coverings, skirts and wrappers and then we took to the road.”

## **“I see changes in my life.”**

As they left the village, Hakuri counted 18 corpses scattered around. She didn’t know if her husband was among them – but soon found out he had been killed in the attack.

The extremists became suspicious and started following them, but Hakuri and the other women bravely stuck to the same story. “We said, ‘The boys have scattered and we don’t know where they are.’”

## **TRAUMA CARE BRINGS CHANGE**

Eventually, the extremists left them alone. After an arduous journey, Hakuri, her 11 children and her mother-in-law found a room to rent in a Muslim man’s house. She currently sells cakes made of beans to make ends meet. Like most women in this part of the world, she used to rely on her husband

to provide economic security. “We have to buy firewood, water, food and so on; living in this town demands money, and I don’t have a husband,” she says. “Life has become so difficult for me.

“I will not say that God has rejected me, God forbid. But I can say that I am paying the price of following Jesus.”

Thanks to your prayers and gifts, local Open Doors partners provided some practical assistance to cover Hakuri’s immediate needs, including food and money for housing. And after everything she’s been through, they also offered her trauma care. “I have been thinking about my late husband day and night, but now that I have received trauma training, I see changes in my life,” Hakuri says. “I have enough sleep now and no more worrying about the absence of my husband.”

## **PLEASE PRAY**

Hakuri and her family are still displaced, but because of you, she feels they can continue. She says, “I beg Christians around the world to pray for us – we need peace; pray so that God will make our faith to be strong in Christ in order to endure persecution.”

## OCTOBER

### Wednesday 1 October

The church in sub-Saharan Africa is under siege from violent extremism but often feels alone in her struggle. Pray that the *Arise Africa* campaign will awaken the global community to act against this rising violence and support the church to be resilient in her witness for Christ.

### Thursday 2 October

The narrative in the media about the violence in sub-Saharan Africa is often oversimplified, giving insufficient attention to the targeting of Christians. Pray for increased opportunities for Open Doors to speak up and for wisdom as we do so.

### Friday 3 October

Governments in countries affected by the violence often do not do enough to protect communities or bring perpetrators to justice. Pray for Open Doors partners as they raise awareness of the impunity that allows violence to continue and engage with people in power on how to counter this shocking reality.

### Saturday 4 October

Pray for Boko Haram, ISWAP, al-Shabaab and other extremist groups who persecute Christians

in sub-Saharan Africa. Ask God to shine His light into their hearts so they can see the glory of Christ and turn away from hatred to receive His mercy.

## Nigeria

### Sunday 5 October

Over 200 people were killed and thousands displaced in a wave of brutal attacks in Benue State in June (see Magazine p12). Open Doors partners are offering ongoing support to those affected. Pray God's comfort for those who mourn and His provision for those who are displaced.

### Monday 6 October

Pastor Barnabas in Benue State shares a thank you message: "My children are now back to school because of the support I received. Thank you for the encouragement." He is also due for surgery to remove shrapnel from his arm. Pray for a job and a secure home for his family.

### Tuesday 7 October

#### – Middle East

Keep praying for an end to conflict and for a just and lasting peace across the Middle East. Pray for courage and protection for God's people and that many will encounter Christ through the witness of His people.

### Wednesday 8 October

Rifkatu\* in Nigeria was kidnapped just four weeks after her wedding (see Magazine p18). After enduring unimaginable violence from her captors, she was released. She is receiving trauma care through Open Doors' trauma centre. Pray for continued healing and release from nightmares.

### Thursday 9 October

"Pray that God will strengthen my husband to be able to provide for the needs of our baby," asks Rifkatu. She desperately wants to relocate for the family's safety. Ask God to provide.

### Friday 10 October

Pray for wisdom and stamina for trauma care givers helping Christians like Rifkatu to recover from persecution. Ask the Lord to give them 'the tongue of the wise that brings healing' (Proverbs 12:18).

## West Africa

### Saturday 11 October

#### – Cameroon

Many Christians are kidnapped in northern Cameroon – often for ransom payments that have a crippling effect on families and church communities. Pray for an end to these abductions, that the kidnappers will turn from violence

to God, and that God's justice will be done.

### Sunday 12 October – Niger

Niger is witnessing a surge in jihadist activities, particularly in the west and south east regions. Pray for courage and protection for Christians – those who meet together are at risk of violent attacks.

### Monday 13 October – Niger

Pray for those who have been displaced by the violence. Ask the Lord to provide for their physical and spiritual needs and pray that they will not lose hope despite their circumstances.

### Tuesday 14

#### October – Niger

Open Doors works through church partners to train pastors and lay leaders in how to respond biblically to persecution. Pray that church leaders will experience support and fellowship, and will be equipped to persevere in their call to shepherd God's people.

### Wednesday 15 October

#### – Burkina Faso

Continue to pray for Pastor Soré (see Magazine p14). His Muslim father has come to live with him on the land Soré's family settled on after they were displaced. "Pray for the conversion of my father and his family," Soré asks.



## "GOD SPARED ME TO WORSHIP HIM"

**When Adam\* in Cameroon was kidnapped by Boko Haram, he was willing to die for his faith. But then he saw God intervene – not once but twice.**

**Adam (PICTURED) became a Christian when friends took him to church. Then he had a dream that would sustain him through the challenges ahead: "Jesus told me I should not worry, for He is with me."**

After finishing school and starting a family, Adam became a fishmonger. One day, while working on an island in the far north of Cameroon, he and his colleagues were surrounded by Boko Haram militants. "We

had no idea that territory belonged to Muslims! They said Christians should stand on one side, and Muslims on the other." Adam and seven other Christians were forced onto a canoe and made to paddle with their hands through the night. They then walked for several days, reaching a Boko Haram hideout.

After five weeks in captivity, they escaped by capitalising on a power struggle amongst the

militants. "We ran away while there was tension," recalls Adam. "God did it, God helped and we fled."

But a worse ordeal was to come 18 months later. Adam was asleep in his home when there was a loud knock. "Open the door!" someone yelled. When he stepped outside, Boko Haram fighters tied him up, alongside other members of his family. "They shot my little brother and my father's little brother. They kidnapped eight of us."

**"With God's help, you have comforted me; I no longer have weight in my heart."**

The militants asked Adam and others if they were Christians. "We said, 'Yes, we are.' I knew Jesus would perform His miracle, because we were praying."

Despite attempts to break their spirits, they persevered in bold prayer. "If they will kill us, let them kill us. But if we're going to be free, show us, because we're tired of suffering. I didn't see a sign either way."

Six weeks later, a sign came. The guards at the entrance of the camp fell asleep, leaving the door open, and the group fled. "God spared us!"

Adam was reunited with his family, but they were now displaced. He had nightmares and struggled to find work. But your support showed Adam that he's not alone – providing him with practical support and trauma care to help him forgive his persecutors. "With God's help, you have comforted me," he says. "I no longer have the weight in my heart."

"I was kidnapped twice, but I wasn't killed. I don't know why it happened this way, but the Lord is the One who has let me live for His glory. Maybe He spared me to worship Him."

### PLEASE PRAY

- That those held captive by Boko Haram will be freed
- For provision for displaced believers and opportunities to gather safely for worship
- For peace to return so that Christians can return home.

## Asia

### Thursday 16 October – North Korea

A small number of believers have access to hidden Bibles – buried in the ground and concealed in walls. Pray that these hidden Bibles will be preserved and used to build up the body of Christ.

### Friday 17 October – North Korea

Kim Jong-un's government has launched an internal investigation into its own harsh punishments, raising fragile hope that some prisoners could be released. Pray that this will become a reality and lead to greater freedom for North Korea's citizens.

### Saturday 18 October – Sri Lanka

Pray for Pastor Duminda\* who recently received persecution survival training through Open Doors partners. "Because of this programme, we gained courage to be with the Lord even through the opposition in the village," he says.

### Sunday 19 October – Central Asia

A church was recently deceived by a spy who feigned interest in Christianity. Police raided the church and detained believers for two days without food. The congregation is

traumatised; please pray for peace and healing.

### Monday 20 October – Vietnam

Authorities banned 17 Hmong Christian families from church and stripped their government benefits. Despite hardship, these believers continue to worship in secret. Pray that their faith will remain strong.

### Tuesday 21 October – Vietnam

Praise God for a local partner's satellite Bible school programme that reaches people from rural areas. Ask God to raise up more servants in His church.

### Wednesday 22 October – *Arise Africa Online*

*Tonight, we're gathering online to respond to the call to prayer from Christians in Africa. Please pray that God will strengthen our persecuted family across sub-Saharan Africa and wake up more Christians in the West to stand with them.*

### Thursday 23 October – Bangladesh

Nahid recently finished a youth discipleship programme led by local partners. Now he can respond to questions from family and friends. Pray for courage to continue to serve the Lord faithfully.

### Friday 24 October – China

Pray for the senior leader of a house church who was taken from his home by police officers and unjustly accused. One field partner shares, "Your urgent prayers are needed to support the church and its members who are suffering for their faith."

### Saturday 25 October – Bhutan

A church that was previously forced to vacate its rented building is still struggling to find a suitable place to hold worship services. Pray for provision and wisdom as they seek a stable and safe location.

### Sunday 26 October – Bhutan

Three families who have recently accepted Christ are currently facing persecution from their extended families and communities. Pray for strength, courage and the comforting presence of God in their lives.

### Monday 27 October – Indonesia

Local authorities have advised the pastor of a church in West Java to temporarily stop meeting after a mob protested and hurled stones at the building. Please pray that God's wisdom will guide this pastor in finding a solution.

### Tuesday 28 October – Laos

Church leaders and Open Doors partners in Laos are gathering to reflect on ministry efforts for children, youth and women. Pray for a fruitful gathering which will help local and house churches grow and stand firm amid persecution.

### Wednesday 29 October – Pakistan

Rashid\* moved to minister in Jaranwala with his family after violence broke out there in 2023. "Two years on, we regularly hear testimonies of God's amazing work in people's lives," he says. Pray for God's continued healing in the region.

### Thursday 30 October – Pakistan

Maliha\* is a university teacher in Jaranwala. "Jesus allowed these attacks to draw us closer to Him," she told Rashid. "We've learned to fill our hearts and minds with His words and hope." Pray that Jesus will continue to draw near to believers there.

### Friday 31 October – Brunei

Praise God for eight individuals who were baptised earlier this year! Please pray for these new believers and for the local pastor who is eager to equip them to grow in their faith.



# IDOP

## PRAYER VIGIL

**International Day of Prayer  
for the Persecuted Church**

**Saturday 15 November**



**You're warmly invited to join us in prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters on Saturday 15 November for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP).**

This year we're hosting a 12-hour prayer vigil, in-person, at our office in Witney, Oxfordshire. There will be eight different themes to help shape and direct your prayers throughout the day, including *Arise Africa*, India and The Next Generation. You can come for the whole 12 hours, or drop in and out as you wish.

The final hour, focusing on Mission and Unity, will be available online.

Pastor Jean Paul from Cameroon says, "I ask all the Christians of the world to support us in prayers. We believe that by the grace of God, everything will be fine."

You can find more information and book your free place at **[opendoorsuk.org/idop](https://opendoorsuk.org/idop)**

**Date:** Saturday  
15 November 2025

**Time:** 8am-8pm

**Place:** Witney,  
Oxfordshire

\*Names changed for security reasons