

Open *Doors*

PRAYER DIARY | May/June 2026



**“The Lord is
my light and
my salvation.”**

PSALM 27:1

MAY

Syria

Friday 1 May

Violence continues to erupt in waves across Syria. Christians are often caught in the crossfire, with increasing numbers of Christians and churches attacked. Pray for much-needed peace and stability and that those in positions of power will work together to solve tensions.

Saturday 2 May

The new president of Syria, Ahmed al-Sharaa, has promised reforms that would offer greater inclusivity and reconciliation for all Syrians. Ask God to give him wisdom and strength to deliver on this promise.

Sunday 3 May

Elias (see Magazine p6; BELOW) lost seven family members in last year's church bombing in Damascus. He shares: "We ask you to pray that we can resist every enemy, seen or unseen, and every thought that keeps us from glorifying God."



Monday 4 May

Pray for comfort and healing for Elias' wife, Hanan, and their children. Hanan asks: "Pray for us to feel safe, to see our children growing up, and to be happy here. We need to live a beautiful life, not a life of fear."

Tuesday 5 May

There is real fear of increased Islamist radicalisation in parts of Syrian society. Pray that God's love will cast out all fear, and that Christ will draw potential extremists to Himself.

Wednesday 6 May

Many Christian leaders don't seek to be shielded as a religious minority. But they do hope to stand as equal participants in their country's future. Ask God to turn this hope into a reality.

Thursday 7 May

Pray for Open Doors partners providing Christians in Syria with much-needed trauma support. Pray for wise words that bring God's healing, and that more believers can be reached with this vital care.

Iran

Friday 8 May

Ask the Lord to have mercy on the people of Iran dealing with the

devastating impacts of war. Pray for healing for the nation, for an end to violence and for lasting peace.

Saturday 9 May

Pray for the country's leadership. Ask God to raise up just, compassionate leaders who will govern with wisdom and righteousness, and to protect the country from descent into further conflict and bloodshed.

Sunday 10 May

Pray for protection over Christians in detention, especially in places like Evin Prison and other facilities where conditions are worsening. Ask God to protect them physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Monday 11 May

Pray that Christians in Iran will continue to be beacons of hope, bringing the light of Christ to their neighbours. Pray that Iranian communities will be transformed by the faithful witness of the church.

Tuesday 12 May

Praise God that, despite fear and uncertainty, the church in Iran remains united in prayer, trusting God for a future when Iranian believers can practise their faith freely. "We trust that the birth of a new future for Iran is coming, in

His perfect timing and will," shares Behzad*.

Yemen

Wednesday 13 May

In the wake of a government crackdown on Yemeni Christians, many believers have been arrested and imprisoned. Pray for God's strength for those facing interrogation or imprisonment for their faith in Jesus.

Thursday 14 May

There is a very real risk of spies infiltrating Christian networks to blackmail or extort the church for money. Pray for insight and discernment for church leaders in Yemen. Ask the Holy Spirit to nurture and protect their churches and ministries.

Friday 15 May

An underground church network asks: "Pray for our social media ministry and for the team working hard to make this all happen. Pray for strength, protection, wisdom and creativity."

Saturday 16 May

Pray for encouragement and hope for Yemeni believers who have chosen to remain in their land amid intense scrutiny and persecution. Pray they will clearly see the hand of the Lord at work in their lives.



Church leader released from prison in North Korea

Thank you for your faithful prayers for Christians imprisoned for their faith in North Korea. Your prayers have contributed to the wonderful news of a church leader's release after more than a decade in prison.

Deacon Jang* is an ethnic Korean-Chinese citizen from Changbai, a town on the Chinese side of the border with North Korea. He was known for providing humanitarian assistance to North Koreans who crossed into China for food, medicine and temporary shelter. He also shared his Christian faith with people.

Jang was last seen in November 2014. After receiving phone calls from North Koreans requesting assistance, he went to the border river to meet them, but he never returned. Jang was

abducted from Chinese territory and taken into North Korea. He was later sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment on charges including 'defaming the regime' and 'attempting to incite subversion'.

“NOT EVERYONE SURVIVES”

It's believed that Jang was released on 5 November 2025, with no official explanation given. However, his release is notable, because those detained for religious reasons — especially foreign-linked Christians — are rarely freed early or returned to their home

countries. Jang is recovering with his family in China, but is mentally and physically exhausted.

“Not everyone survives imprisonment in North Korea,” explains Simon Lee*, Open Doors' coordinator for ministry among North Koreans. “We must thank God that Jang survived, and we need prayer that God will help him recover.

“What happened to Deacon Jang proves that helping North Koreans is extremely risky. You could lose your life, especially if you are sharing your Christian faith. North Korea has dispatched many spies in China. Their job is to identify people who help defectors and to infiltrate those networks.”

Open Doors estimates that between 50,000 and 70,000 North Korean Christians are currently imprisoned across the country's vast system of labour camps, detention facilities and closed-off villages. Most were arrested simply for owning a Bible, meeting secretly for worship, or having contact with Christians



OPPOSITE A North Korean prison camp
© Google Earth
ABOVE A North Korean prisoner

outside the country. Conditions are widely described as harsh and often lethal, with many prisoners not expected to survive their sentences.

“The release of Deacon Jang must give a boost to our prayers,” Lee says. “We never thought he would survive his sentence, yet he has returned home. Let us pray that many Christians currently imprisoned will be released too.”

PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks for Deacon Jang's release, and pray for him and his family as they reunite and recover
- For the release of more Christians imprisoned for their faith in North Korea
- That the Holy Spirit will supernaturally strengthen believers who are currently detained.

Iraq

Sunday 17 May

Iraqi pastors who work with converts take great risks for their ministry. One pastor shares, “Please pray for me and my family, that God will strengthen our faith to persevere.”

Monday 18 May

Pray that the church of Muslim-background-believers will continue to grow in Iraq – both in places where a secret church already exists and where Christians have no other brothers and sisters to meet and grow with.

Tuesday 19 May

Praise God for the blessing of rain last winter in Iraq after so many dry seasons. For many Iraqi people, including generations of Christians, farming is their livelihood. Pray for an abundant harvest and that God would meet the needs of the vulnerable.

Gulf

Wednesday 20 May

– Oman

Any Christian who shares their faith can face harsh consequences. Ask God to sustain believers and to help them to wisely and courageously live out the gospel. Pray for opportunities to witness and protection from harm.

Thursday 21 May – Qatar

Native Qataris are unable to freely convert from Islam. Pray that there would be freedom of faith, and that God would protect secret Christian converts in Qatar from harm or arrest.

Friday 22 May – Qatar

Conversion from Islam is not officially recognised by authorities in Qatar. Pray for believers attempting to change their legal status, that God would grant them favour with the law and that they would be able to live out their faith in peace.

Saturday 23 May

– Saudi Arabia

Even though there are more than two million Christians in Saudi Arabia, there are no legal, public churches. Pray that God would make a way for believers to find fellowship with one another, and that He would soften the hearts of authorities towards the church.

Asia

Sunday 24 May

– Afghanistan

Pray for Christians in Afghanistan who still endure after almost five years of Taliban rule. As we celebrate Pentecost, ask the Lord to fill Afghan believers ‘with all joy and peace [...] so that [they]

may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit’ (Romans 15:13).

Monday 25 May

– Afghanistan

In January 2026, the Taliban issued a new penal code permitting domestic violence against women and children. Pray for justice for the vulnerable and for the eyes of the Afghan government to be opened to the gospel.

Tuesday 26 May

– Pakistan

Pakistan’s recent conflict with India left believers in both places filled with fear. Thank God that a ceasefire has held and pray that God’s perfect peace will reign. At this time, pray that the church will be a light of hope to communities.

North Africa

Wednesday 27 May

– Egypt

Many Christians are thought of as second-class citizens in Egypt, especially in rural areas, and many believers are left with access only to dangerous jobs. Pray that these believers would not be discouraged but would know their value in the eyes of the Lord.

Thursday 28 May

– Tunisia

While foreign Christians are often allowed to worship freely, Tunisian Christians don’t share that same freedom. Pray that believers would find fellowship and grow as disciples of Jesus, and that greater religious freedom would be established in Tunisia.

Friday 29 May – Morocco

Moroccan church leaders have expressed the need for leadership training and growth. Ask God to answer these needs abundantly and build up His church in Morocco.

Saturday 30 May – Libya

In Libya, Christians are forced to keep their faith a secret because of intense persecution. Pray that believers will be able to meet in safety and enjoy fellowship, and that those who have endured violence will find healing through trauma centres and other means.

Sunday 31 May – Algeria

Pray for church leaders who are facing court cases for their commitment to the gospel. Pray they will be acquitted and able to continue to minister without harassment, and that God would protect the congregations under their care.

Finding healing in Syria



Watch Jenny's story at opendoorsuk.org/videos

Your support put Jenny on a path to healing after her father was killed. Now, she's helping other believers traumatised by persecution.

Jenny was chatting with a friend outside her home, enjoying the warm evening, when an explosion ripped through the quiet – and her world changed in an instant.

Suddenly, messages started flying around. The blast was at Mar Elias Church, where a suicide bomber had attacked. She knew her father had been at the service, but he wasn't answering his phone.

"At that moment, I felt everything ceased to exist," remembers Jenny.

"I was shaking all over. I sat down because I couldn't stand."

Jenny raced to the church in the Dweila area of Damascus. It was a scene of chaos and desperation. Unable to find their father, Jenny and her sister went to the hospital. He was in surgery, badly wounded. But soon the news came: he had not survived.

Jenny was shocked, numb with grief. But in the darkness, God met with her through your prayers and support.

THE PATH OF HEALING

"We were shown affection by everyone, including all churches worldwide," says Jenny, when she

thinks back to the days after her father's death. "We knew there were people who loved us, who shared our sadness, who were affected by what we'd been through."

"God is all goodness. When we go to Him, there is no better place."

Your support has helped to train trauma counsellors in Damascus, and Jenny is one of them. The techniques she learned helped her process her own grief. "I knew I was experiencing trauma and post-traumatic stress," says Jenny, "so I tried to help myself using methods that would support me."

Now, strengthened by your support, she is volunteering as a counsellor to help other victims. "It's my duty to

PICTURED Jenny remembers her father who lost his life in the church bombing of June 2025



stand beside them and support them, just as I received support along the way," she says.

Your generous gifts mean trauma healing is available to children and adults, through group or individual sessions. The programme mixes biblical teaching with counselling methods, and the focus is on bringing people back to God (see magazine p11). Faith can help people heal – but persecution, like the church attack, can spark doubts.

"The fear people faced needs time, but time heals," says Jenny. "God is all goodness. When we go to Him, there is no better place. I hope the churches will go back to being full to the brim.

"Prayers are what we need most right now. We need divine help to get through what we are facing."

PLEASE PRAY

- That Jenny will continue to heal from the attack
- Give thanks for Syrian Christians trained by Open Doors to provide trauma healing
- Jenny says, "Pray for the children to be strong. It is hard for them to forget what they saw at Mar Elias Church."

JUNE

Middle East

Monday 1 June – Syria

Dozens of Christians in Syria recently started or expanded small businesses with a microloan from Open Doors partners, such as Salim from Aleppo (BELOW), who has been able to expand his business selling glasses. Pray that their businesses will flourish and be a blessing to their community.



Salim

Tuesday 2 June

– Palestinian Territories

“As a Christian community, we worry about being forced to leave our land, not knowing what the future may hold. Yet our hope remains in Jesus,” says Julia, a Palestinian believer. Pray for the protection and perseverance of believers amid conflict.

Wednesday 3 June

– Jordan

Pray for the safety and perseverance of believers

being affected by conflict in neighbouring countries. Pray that God would help them to be bold witnesses.

Thursday 4 June – Jordan

Under the leadership of King Abdallah, many believers in Jordan can worship openly. Thank God for this and ask Him to continue to make the monarchy aware of how the Jordanian church is a force for good in society.

Friday 5 June – Turkey

Many Kurdish Christians not only face serious oppression by the Turkish authorities and population, but also by their own people after having become Christians. Pray that they will know joy in their walk with Christ.

Saturday 6 June – Turkey

Pray for Christian children who face bullying and harassment at school because of their faith. Ask God to encourage them and provide Christian friends for them.

Sunday 7 June – UK

This volunteers' week, ask God to stir the hearts of those who could volunteer with Open Doors across the UK and Ireland. Pray that our volunteers will be encouraged by the faith of their persecuted family, spurred on 'towards love and good deeds' (Hebrews 10:24).

Arise Africa

Monday 8 June

– Burkina Faso

Binta* (BELOW) was expelled from her family home when she left Islam to follow Jesus. “Pray that the Lord will permit a reconciliation between me and my family,” she asks.



Binta

Tuesday 9 June – Nigeria

In February, nine men were charged for involvement in the attacks on the Christian community in Benue State last June, which killed more than 200 people and displaced thousands. Pray for the ongoing procedures, that the Lord would bring about justice.

Wednesday 10 June

– Nigeria

Earlier this year, the eighth anniversary of Leah Shabiru's disappearance was remembered by her family. Pray that God would deeply comfort Leah where she is and bring her home.

Thursday 11 June

– Mozambique

Josephina* is a Christian who is grieving the loss of her husband and four children who remain missing after extremist

attacks. She and hundreds of others are displaced. Pray that God would comfort and restore them.

Friday 12 June – Ethiopia

In February, at least 27 believers lost their lives when extremists stormed a market and a church in two separate attacks in the Oromia region. Pray for God's healing of the community and for peace in Ethiopia.

Saturday 13 June

– Eritrea

Praise God! Several Christian prisoners were recently released from Eritrea's notorious prison system. Continue to pray for the release of seven prominent church leaders.

Sunday 14 June

– Mozambique

Pray for Ernesto*, a Christian who was brutally attacked by Islamist extremists when they invaded his village. Pray that God would continue to heal his physical and mental wounds and bring him deep comfort.

Monday 15 June

Pray for the ongoing impact of the *Arise Africa* campaign, that international governments would act on behalf of the vulnerable in sub-Saharan Africa and bring about justice.



Omar proudly wears Jesus on his t-shirt; on the back, it says “Jesus is my only true love”

“When I became a believer, I thought I was the only one,” says Omar*. It’s a feeling felt by many Moroccan Christians, such is the expectation that all citizens are Muslim. But the church in Morocco is growing, as courageous believers like Omar defy hostility to share Jesus.

Like many Christians in North Africa, Omar first encountered Jesus through the internet. He saw the words “God loves you” on a website, leading him to John 3:16. “That verse touched me,” says Omar. Eventually meeting with other converts gave him the impetus to grow in his faith. “It is wonderful to

praise God together with other Christians,” he says.

Initially, Omar kept his new faith secret from his family, even creating a fake Facebook page to talk about Jesus – that was until it was discovered by his brother, who told their father. He was kicked out of home. Omar has since reconciled with his father. “He asked forgiveness for all he had done. Our relationship is now very good.”

Today, Omar has a YouTube channel, bringing together his skills as a videographer and his passion for the gospel. “It is an open channel, as far

as I know the only such in Morocco,” says Omar, who stresses that his aim is not to criticise Islam but to share Jesus. It features apologetics, testimonies, Bible teaching and worship songs.

“Now God has given me big courage to talk about Jesus.”

Offline, Omar frequently travels all over Morocco – which is number 23 on the World Watch List – to meet with isolated believers for Bible study and prepare them for baptism. His own experience of persecution enables him to identify with the challenges many are facing.

He also meets with seekers, often in coffee shops. In one encounter, he was talking to someone who said that his mother and sister also wanted to become Christians. He went to their home and all three gave their lives to Jesus!

To equip himself, Omar is doing an online theology course, which your support is funding. “It’s a real blessing for me,” he says.

“I was a shy and fearful boy,” says Omar. “Now God has given me big courage to talk about Jesus. That doesn’t come from me – God is doing that. The most important thing is knowing that I am loved by God. Through what I do, I glorify His name. I feel His love when I talk about Him.”

PLEASE PRAY

- That many more will encounter Jesus through Omar’s ministry
- Against the spiritual warfare that is felt by Omar and other Christians in Morocco
- That Christians in Morocco will be encouraged to ‘step out of being underground’, asks Omar.

Asia

Tuesday 16 June – Indonesia

“I could read God’s words with my own eyes,” says Eseitadi*, overjoyed at receiving a Moi New Testament. Ask God to accelerate the translation and distribution of the Bible in local languages.

Wednesday 17 June – China

“The enemy does not rest, and the spiritual battle grows ever more intense,” says Matian*, a local partner, adding that ten co-workers in his region have been arrested recently. Ask God to strengthen, protect and grow the Chinese church.

Thursday 18 June – Laos

Praise God for a fruitful gathering of 20 local partners. “Please pray for this year’s activities and for the smooth implementation of ministry in Laos,” says Mr Seng*. “Our region is at risk of persecution, so we need guidance and protection.”

Friday 19 June – India

A 20-year-old woman has died two years after being severely abused in the Manipur conflict. “The survivors of sexual violence continue to carry physical hurt and mental trauma,” says a local partner. Pray for healing and justice.

Saturday 20 June – Philippines

Praise God for the adult literacy programmes run by local partners. “My dream was simple: to read the Bible on my own. Now, I can slowly read God’s Word, and it gives me strength every day,” says Sheira*.

Father’s Day

Sunday 21 June

Persecution affects many believers’ relationships with their fathers. Younes* from Morocco was beaten and rejected by his father, but he draws strength from the church. “We now have spiritual fathers and mothers.” Pray that God will raise up more spiritual fathers for our persecuted family.

Impossible faith

Monday 22 June – Yemen

Zaid* (COVER IMAGE) WAS thrown out of his home when he became a Christian – but his love for Jesus sustains his bold hope for the future: “My vision is to have 40,000 active churches, one for every 1,000 Yemenis,” he says. Pray his vision comes to fruition.



Tuesday 23 June – Bangladesh

Tuli* teaches at a Madrasa (Islamic school), where she faces hostility and pressure. “I want to show Christ through my character, so that others may know Him,” she says. Ask God to fulfil her desire.

Wednesday 24 June – Philippines

Pria’s* husband, a drug user, has stopped her from hosting a house church and forbidden their children from church involvement. “She’s tired, but holding onto the Lord,” says a partner. Pray for resilience and her husband’s salvation.

Thursday 25 June – Central Asia

Yura* was at a youth camp when he decided to get baptised. “I realised that I didn’t want to hide myself anymore,” he says. “When I came out of the water, I felt incredible joy and freedom.” Pray for his light to shine (Matthew 5:16).

Friday 26 June – North Korea

“The believers I know accept the Word of God as absolute truth,” says a secret believer. “We carry out the Great Commission. Our hearts are truly into it.” Pray for the fruit of their witness.

Saturday 27 June – Cuba

“There is still a church in Cuba. We are here,” says a pastor amid economic, political and spiritual challenges. “Pray that we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, so that our faith will not falter.”

Sunday 28 June – Syria

Sarah* gave her life to Jesus after attending a 14-week discipleship course run by local partners for those interested in Christianity. “People see that I am changed, so they are curious, they ask questions,” she says. Pray for the course’s continued impact.

Monday 29 June – Eritrea

Whilst Hiwot* was in prison, a Bible was snuck in for her and other believers. “We divided it among many. We had to hide it inside our clothes once we finished reading,” she says. Pray that the unfolding of God’s Word will lighten imprisoned believers’ hearts (Psalm 119:130).

Tuesday 30 June – Myanmar

It’s more than a year since earthquakes devastated the country. “After it, the doors for evangelism opened. People were amazed at the love shown by Christians,” says Pastor Joshua. “Pray for new believers to remain faithful to the end.”



COULD YOU LEAD AN OPEN DOORS PRAYER GROUP?

Do you have a heart for mobilising others to pray for persecuted Christians? Are you passionate to see God's Kingdom come through the prayers of His people? If so, could you start your own prayer group or commit your current group to interceding for our persecuted family?

No expertise is required – all you need is a

passion to bring people together to pray for persecuted believers, and we will provide you with resources to fuel your prayers.

Whether you're looking to start a new group, register an existing group or find a prayer group in your area, just call the team on **01993 460015** or email **contact@opendoorsuk.org**

“Praying is a powerful way to support our persecuted family as we knock on heaven’s doors and see God move on their behalf. By equipping others, we are ensuring that more people are empowered to pray informed prayers.”

- TEENY AND CLAIRE, PRAYER GROUP LEADERS, SCOTLAND

*Names changed for security reasons



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