


Open *Doors*

PRAYER DIARY | May/June 2025



**“He guides me
along the right
paths for his
name’s sake.”**

PSALM 23:3

MAY

Myanmar

Thursday 1 May

Pray for God's comfort and restoration for the thousands of people affected by March's devastating earthquake. Pray that aid agencies and NGOs will gain access to those who remain in need of aid, and that diseases will not spread.

Friday 2 May

Pray for Open Doors partners who are supporting persecuted believers impacted by the earthquake with spiritual and practical aid. Pray that the Burmese church will be strengthened to bring Christ's hope to others in the midst of this disaster.

Saturday 3 May

Last year, 40,000 Christians were internally displaced because of their faith, with many seeking refuge in places like forests and displacement camps where conditions are often deplorable and dangerous. Pray for safe, caring and well-resourced havens of refuge.

Sunday 4 May

Conflict has had a crippling impact on church life. Churches have been destroyed and, in places, attendance is down by 80%. Pastors have lost

income and fellowship has been disrupted, bringing disharmony and distrust. Pray for reconciliation and opportunities to gather.

Monday 5 May

Many Christians say they would've lost their faith were it not for the help of Open Doors partners. Support includes food, training and trauma care. Some displaced believers liken their presence to angels. Pray for the safety and equipping of our partners.

Tuesday 6 May

Christians must tread with extreme caution. Those who gather can be suspected of being rebels and social media posts can be seen as attempts to convert Buddhists. Pray for believers to be 'shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves' (Matthew 10:16).

Wednesday 7 May

"We learned about persecution and how to respond to it from the Bible," says Moe Moe* after attending persecution survival training. "It was timely spiritual food for us." Pray for the spiritual nourishment of believers across Myanmar.

For the latest prayer updates from Myanmar, go to [opendoorsuk.org](https://www.opendoorsuk.org)

Communist Asia

Thursday 8 May – Vietnam

A celebration at Vietnam Buddhist University in Ho Chi Minh City to mark United Nations Day of Vesak concludes today. Pray for opportunities for Christians to share their faith during this sacred Buddhist event.

Friday 9 May – Vietnam

Land, machinery and equipment owned by Pastor Bao* have been confiscated because of his faith. He also believes the authorities poisoned the shrimp he farms for his business. Pray for resilience and the return of all possessions.

Saturday 10 May – Laos

This month, local partners are hosting several Bible teaching and prayer events. Pray for safe travel and that people's faith will be strengthened.

Sunday 11 May – Laos

Lajor*, Kavia*, Jane* and Nacha* were imprisoned last year for leading a house church service. Each one is the family breadwinner. Pray for their release and for those supporting their families.

Monday 12 May – China

Praise God for the recent conversion of several people from Muslim backgrounds in north

west China. They need discipling, but 'the workers are few' (Luke 10:2). Pray for more leaders.

Tuesday 13 May – China

"We have heard cases where believers are unprepared for persecution, and when it comes, they don't know how to react," says Yingfei*, a partner. "Pray that our persecution survival trainings can help, so they can bring light into the darkness."

Wednesday 14 May – North Korea

Praise God for an elderly fieldworker who roams the woods in China to find North Korean escapees to help them and share the gospel. He recently fell ill and doctors gave up on him, but he's recovered enough to resume part of his ministry. Pray for continued fruit in old age (Psalm 92:14).

Thursday 15 May – North Korea

"If you could see what God is doing in my country, you would never have any doubts again," says a North Korean escapee. "The Holy Spirit is at work, thanks to your prayers." Ask God to continue moving in power in the country.

*Names changed for security reasons



Mob violence against Christians cancelled

A rally against Christians in Chhattisgarh in 2023; this year, your prayers helped avoid a repeat of this

When Christians in Chhattisgarh, India, were threatened with impending mob violence in March, they asked you to pray – and the impact was immediate!

Hindu extremists called for a large-scale rally against majority-Christian villages on 1 March, after two religious leaders made inflammatory speeches suggesting that ‘cow slaughterers’ were fair game for attack. In Hinduism, cows are sacred animals, and some Indian states ban the slaughter of cows.

Various Christian and human rights organisations

spoke out, and Christian leaders in Chhattisgarh had high-level meetings with government officials and other religious leaders. Believers from different denominations gathered in protest.

Praise God, the rally was cancelled and there were no reports of violence or persecution throughout the day.

PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks that the rally was cancelled
- For continued peace and harmony in the state
- For protection of Christians in India.

Joy and hope for Samila



Samila (right) was baptised last year

You might recall Samila* from Central Asia, who encountered Jesus through an Open Doors YouTube video. We asked you to pray for her in February and many of you responded to our invitation on Facebook to write her encouraging messages.

Samila has a skin condition that’s brought her much pain. Deemed cursed and unclean in her culture, her husband left her, relatives abandoned her and people avoid her on the street. But after seeing the video and connecting with our partners, she had a profound experience of Jesus’ love.

Samila is immensely thankful for your prayers and messages, and she and her son are doing well. She hosts weekly house groups for her church. Her son is involved in the youth ministry and his friendship with others is bringing Samila enormous joy.

There’s further good news, because treatment for

her skin condition has been scheduled. It involves three to four surgeries, with six months in between each for recovery. Samila and her son would value your prayers as she undergoes the treatment that they hope will bring the healing they long for.

PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks for what God’s doing in Samila and her son
- That they’ll keep growing in faith
- That the treatment will be effective.

*Names changed for security reasons

South West Asia

Friday 16 May – Afghanistan

Christians continue to be targeted by the Taliban, sparking fear and anxiety. One was captured as he travelled to meet believers, and another was attacked by a Taliban member who's also a mosque leader. Pray for peace and protection.

Saturday 17 May – Afghanistan

“Despite challenges, we continue to grow daily, and we often witness miraculous events,” says a partner. Pray for more miracles that encourage believers and lead others to Jesus.

Sunday 18 May – Iran

Families of imprisoned believers are facing immense pressures, with financial hardship and the threat of further government harassment compounding the pain of separation. Pray for strength, peace and provision.

Monday 19 May – Pakistan

Thousands of Christian families live in a cycle of debt, forcing them to work as modern slaves with no realistic chance of paying off what they owe. These believers are isolated and struggling in their faith. Pray for freedom, strength

and encouragement for these brothers and sisters.

Tuesday 20 May – Pakistan

A Christian girl continues to experience trauma, including nightmares, after enduring threats and violence for her faith. Pray for her healing.

Arabian Peninsula

Wednesday 21 May – Saudi Arabia

Before being killed by her brother, a believer left a note asking that Christians be allowed to follow Jesus freely. As the country tentatively embraces a more progressive form of Islam, pray that our sister's last wish will be granted.

Thursday 22 May – Yemen

During a visit to a Houthi-controlled area, a Christian was imprisoned. “We pray he's still alive and well,” says a partner. Pray for his release, the protection of secret believers and peace in the country.

Friday 23 May – Yemen

“God freed me from my fears,” says Zahra* (featured in the January magazine) after attending a conference run by partners. “The Holy Spirit washed away the difficult thoughts I'd been battling with for months.” Pray for spiritual refreshment for all secret believers.

Middle East

Saturday 24 May – Egypt

Dina (8) was publicly labelled an ‘infidel’ for being the only Christian in her class. She has felt abandoned and afraid, but her Sunday school teacher is offering her support. Pray that God would fill Dina with a sense of worth rooted in His unconditional love.

Sunday 25 May – Egypt

Jehan, a Christian teacher, was denied promotion by an extremist Muslim professor because of her faith. Please pray that Jehan will know God close to her in her pain and disappointment, and that He will open new doors for her future.

Monday 26 May – Syria

Praise God for a well-attended youth event that recently took place in Aleppo. Around 250 believers aged 18-30 came to share their feelings and find support as they navigate an uncertain future.

Tuesday 27 May – Syria

Khajo, who attended the Aleppo youth event, says, “Today, through this gathering, I felt my relationship with God renew. It was as if God gave me a spark of light.” Pray that God's love would be a spark

of light for all young Syrian believers.

Wednesday 28 May – Syria

Due to the change in power after the fall of the Assad regime, Sunni Muslims can now publicly express their faith. They're calling others, including Christians, into Islam. Pray that Christians will stand strong.

Thursday 29 May – Iraq

Iraqi believers who are the first and only Christians in their family often face hostility and scrutiny. Please pray for inner strength and sensitivity to Spirit-led opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

Friday 30 May – Iraq

Ask God for discernment for local partners who consider project proposals for microloans for Iraqi Christians who are struggling financially. Pray that these loans will help believers to flourish.

Saturday 31 May – Palestinian Territories

Pray for hope and peace for the small number of Christians who remain in Gaza. Ask God to guide them and give them His hope for the future, and pray they will heal from the trauma and wounds of war.

*Names changed for security reasons

Ministering to the ministers in Myanmar

Your support is strengthening displaced pastors



Representative image

Pastor Myint* and his wife May* used to minister in a Buddhist-majority village in Central Myanmar. Although some Buddhist leaders were frustrated by their presence, the family enjoyed a good relationship with the head of the village and were protected.

But the military coup in 2021 changed everything.

THE FAMILY FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES

"After the coup began, Christians in our village became very vulnerable," Myint remembers.

The village head was ousted and replaced, and the family lost their protection. Local Buddhist religious leaders then began to incite hatred toward Pastor Myint and his family, accusing them of worshipping a foreign God.

"They gathered some young men and offered them alcohol, instructing them to kill me and my sons," Myint says. "Thankfully, some villagers notified me of their plan; the next moment, I took my sons and hurried out of the village."

May followed shortly afterwards with their daughters – but not before their would-be attackers retaliated by killing two other villagers who had shown an interest in Christianity. After the family fled, the attackers looted their house and burned it to the ground.

A CALLING TO SERVE OTHERS

Myint and his family have now settled in a new place where things are safer. However, like many other displaced believers in Myanmar, he has no stable source of income – and that impacts the whole family.

"We are so thankful to you for listening to our story and helping us."

Thanks to your prayers and support, local partners have been able to provide Myint and May with food aid and spiritual care, which is making a huge difference. "After we were displaced, no one else has even bothered to ask us about our welfare," May says. "We are so thankful to you for listening to our story and helping us."

Despite their circumstances, Pastor Myint is confident that God is in control and continues to serve Him. His burden is for the people he has been called to serve. "I still worry about the spiritual well-being of the believers who are displaced to various places because of the conflict and oppression," he says.

May is equally confident in God's power and love. "We have been in the ministry for many years, and we have seen many people come to Christ," she says. "Because of the war and persecution, many believers are displaced, and we have lost connection with them. Please pray that God will be with them and that they will remain faithful to Jesus."

PLEASE PRAY

- That God will continue to provide for Pastor Myint, May and their family
- For opportunities for Pastor Myint to minister to others
- Pray with May that God will be with displaced believers and that they will stand firm in their faith.

*Names changed for security reasons

JUNE

Displaced believers

Sunday 1 June – Mexico

More than 100 believers from Chiapas State were recently forced to flee their communities due to escalating violence from criminal gangs. Please pray for God's provision and direction for them.

Monday 2 June – Uganda

Jennifer fled to Uganda from DRC after her husband was killed in an attack by militants from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). Tragically, her son was then killed in an ADF attack on his school. Open Doors partners are supporting Jennifer in her grief. Pray for God's continued healing.

Tuesday 3 June – Ethiopia

After becoming a Christian, Tesfaye* was kicked out of home and is being supported by local partners. "I have learnt that the Lord is greater than all my problems," he says. Please pray that Tesfaye will continue to grow in faith.

Wednesday 4 June – Kyrgyzstan

When Leyla's* brother found her secret Bible, he was so angry that he threw her out of their home. Pray for Leyla's

safety, and that her family – especially her brother – will come to know Jesus.

Thursday 5 June – Nigeria

Boko Haram militants carried out attacks in various Christian-majority villages in Chibok in January, displacing many people. A local pastor says, "Brethren, we are praying that you should help us in prayer, that these attacks will stop, so that our people can go back to their various villages."

Friday 6 June – Cameroon

Believers living in the Tourou region leave their houses every night to sleep in the mountains to avoid being attacked by Boko Haram militants. This causes them immeasurable stress. Ask God to protect His people and give them peace.

Saturday 7 June – Cameroon

Open Doors partners are assisting Christians from Tourou with trauma care and relief aid. One believer says, "This aid proves that you understand our suffering." Pray for an end to the violence.

Sunday 8 June – Volunteers Week

Join us in thanking God for all who serve our persecuted family as volunteers by speaking,

leading prayer groups, helping at events, or as Church or Advocacy Reps. Ask God to minister to and through them as they build up His church.

Latin America

Monday 9 June – Nicaragua

The government are increasingly denying or revoking legal recognition for churches, preventing them from operating lawfully. Many pastors have been forced to limit their gatherings. Pray that God will strengthen them and give them wisdom.

Tuesday 10 June – Nicaragua

Local partners have been supporting pastors with legal and financial training. Viviana* says, "Through these trainings, we have learned to move forward with confidence." Ask God to show these pastors the next steps in continuing their ministries.

Wednesday 11 June – Cuba

Carolina* is a church leader and runs a women's Bible study. Their gatherings are likely to be under surveillance by the government, but she says, "God's purpose is greater than any barrier." Pray that these women will be rooted in God's Word and flourish.

*Names changed for security reasons

Thursday 12 June – Mexico

When they abandoned indigenous rituals for Christianity, Irma* and her family were expelled from their community. Praise God that she and her husband were helped to set up a stable business by local Open Doors partners.

Friday 13 June – Mexico

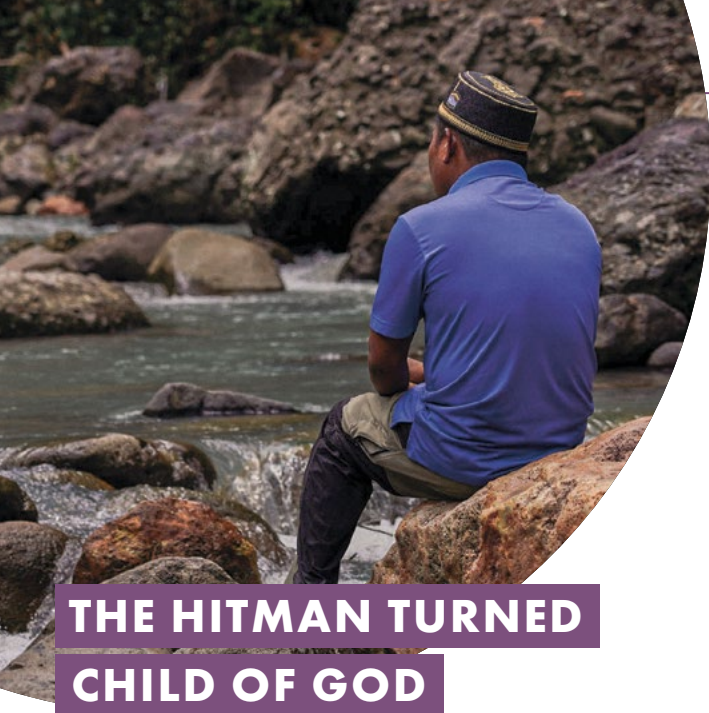
Irma was also invited to take part in training which helped her to process the trauma she'd experienced. "The workshops and teachings helped me forgive my aggressors," she says. Pray that Irma will continue to experience God's healing.

Saturday 14 June – Cuba

After a series of hurricanes at the end of 2024, local Open Doors partners have been providing relief aid to believers who have suffered both physically and emotionally. Pray that this aid will bring encouragement, sustenance and hope.

Sunday 15 June – Father's Day

Kebede* was left completely deaf after he was caught up in a dispute between members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and a local evangelical church. He dreams of hearing his youngest son call him 'Baba' (father). Ask God to restore his hearing.



THE HITMAN TURNED CHILD OF GOD

Once a dangerous man, Tarik now embraces a dangerous faith.

When Tarik* in southern Philippines went to a programme run by Christians, it was partly to hide from the police. As a drug lord and hitman, he was ‘wanted’. But he couldn’t hide from God, and unusual things began happening, sparking an astonishing transformation.

Within weeks of beginning the programme, Tarik – who’d suffered with a persistent stomach condition – prayed for the first time. “If you are truly Isa al-Masih [Jesus Christ], heal me,” he said. “After three minutes,

the pain was gone.” But given his Muslim background, Tarik resisted becoming a Christian.

Tarik then had the same dream three times. “I dreamt about Jesus, and that I cast out evil spirits in His name. Those dreams didn’t change my view, though. I still stubbornly believed He was a prophet.

“Until one day, it wasn’t a dream any longer,” he continues. A local boy was demon possessed. “I said the name of Isa, and he was healed.” The same happened with a

woman, who was also healed. News spread that Tarik had powers – powers he knew weren’t from him. “From then, I began to seek Jesus.”

After attending a literacy class where God’s Word was taught, Tarik asked for a Bible. “One night, God woke me up. I didn’t know how to open the Bible, but I did, and the first thing I read was: ‘To those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.’ (John 1:12).

“Having you journeying alongside us has impacted us significantly.”

“I never experienced being a child – I had no father figure. When Christ said that, if I follow Him, I’d become the Father’s child, I cried. The Holy Spirit worked in my heart so that I finally understood who Jesus is.”

Since becoming a Christian, Tarik has survived attempts on his life by Muslim extremist groups. “Believing in Jesus where I live can lead to death,” he says. But amazingly, extremists are

exploring Christianity, and some have come to faith. “Despite persecution, we’re growing deeper. It doesn’t mean we want it, but through persecution, we experience God’s grace, love and power.”

Key to this is the role of Open Doors local partners, through initiatives including persecution survival training, food programmes and literacy classes.

“Having you journeying alongside us has impacted us significantly,” says Tarik. “We’re not alone. We know that there are people who pray for us. When challenges arise, we’re not ashamed to talk to them. Before, there was none of that. We were afraid we had no one with us. I’m very thankful.”

PLEASE PRAY

- For the health and protection of Tarik and other believers in his community
- For more locals to encounter Jesus
- For the work of Open Doors partners to have an even greater impact.

*Name changed for security reasons

Arise Africa

Monday 16 June – DRC

In February, 70 people (including Christians) were kidnapped. At the time of writing, at least ten bodies have been found. “We don’t know what to do or how to pray; we’ve had enough of massacres,” says a church leader. Ask Jesus to meet with the hurting in their grief and questions.

Tuesday 17 June – Ethiopia

Pastor Docho’s* church has experienced terrible violence. However, a school has been built that’s helping bridge the divide between Christians and Muslims, slowly bringing peace to the area. Pray for more peace-building initiatives in Ethiopia.

Wednesday 18 June – Sudan

Civil war has killed 150,000 people and displaced 12 million. It’s the world’s largest humanitarian crisis and magnified the suffering of Christians, who are often deemed second-class citizens. Pray for peace, and for hope to shine in and through the lives of believers.

Thursday 19 June – Cameroon

Pastor Jean leads a church in Far North Cameroon.

He’s aware of at least 14 Christian children abducted since 2014. The families don’t know if their children are alive. “We want peace in our hearts, in our village, in our country,” he says. “Pray for us.”

Friday 20 June – Nigeria

“God has transformed my life,” says Grace, who received trauma care from local partners after seeing her husband murdered by militants. “I’m now filled with joy. I was encouraged to forgive. I felt a sense of calm, and I was finally able to let go.” Praise God for His healing power.

Saturday 21 June – Mozambique

Islamic extremism is rising in the north. Much of the violence affecting Christians has come as a surprise, with many feeling ill-prepared for it. Pray for comfort, and ask God to guide leaders and pastors who are responding to the crisis.

Eritrea

Sunday 22 June

Last month marks 23 years since the closure of all churches that aren’t Orthodox, Lutheran or Catholic. Pray for opportunities for the church to engage with the government about religious freedom.

Monday 23 June

Believers continue to be arrested. Sometimes they’re released, but many are held for years. Some prominent pastors have spent nearly two decades in prison. Pray for prisoners and their families to be sustained by God’s grace, and pray for their release.

Tuesday 24 June

Despite the dangers, Christians still plan secret gatherings, with times, locations and even the number of people who can attend often changing. Pray for protection, courage and discernment.

Wednesday 25 June

“While the persecution is intensifying, the number of believers increases,” says Paulos*, an Eritrean Christian. “Pray that the Lord will empower the church, so that we will be strong internally.”

EYEWITNESS

Thursday 26 June – North Africa

Despite the dangers, remarkable numbers of young girls and women are choosing to follow Jesus. This includes Suhu* (20), who became a Christian through a YouTube channel. Pray for her to thrive in her God-given calling.

Friday 27 June

– Sri Lanka

A bus carrying Janani* and others to a healing service was sabotaged by Buddhist extremists – one of many tactics used to thwart Janani’s ministry. However, Janani is persistent and recently her husband was baptised! Pray for opposition to cease.

Saturday 28 June – North Korea

A contact was able to enter North Korea and meet with a group of secret believers. “The Christians find it hard to survive, but their faith is so strong,” she says. Pray that God will protect and bless them.


Sunday 29 June – Bhutan

Suman* is a former drug addict whose faith has brought persecution from his stepfather. “Despite this, I have joy in my heart,” he says. “Through my testimony, many young people have turned to Jesus.” Praise God for his boldness.

Monday 30 June – Nicaragua

Pastor Dana’s* church lost its legal status after supporting protestors in 2018. “We continue to spread the gospel,” she says. “God has not abandoned us.” Pray for the Nicaraguan church to grow in faith and number.

*Names changed for security reasons



Looking for more fuel for your prayers?

Your prayers make a huge difference to our persecuted family. Alongside the prayer diary, here are some more ways to fuel your prayers for our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER GROUPS

Praying in community is a powerful way to intercede. There are 194 Open Doors prayer groups across the UK and Ireland – please get in touch with the Supporter Relations team to find out about joining or starting one. Find out more by calling **01993 460015**, or emailing contact@opendoorsuk.org

PRAYER NEWS

Prayer News is an online video resource designed to bring you face-to-face with your persecuted family. There are new videos every two

months; they're free to download and you can use them individually or as part of a group.

“We thank you so much and we ask you to pray for us. Without prayers, we cannot make it, but with your prayers, we will be ok.”

BELIEVER IN CAMEROON

WEEKLY EMAIL

The weekly email is a convenient way to receive up-to-date information and stories to help you pray for persecuted Christians. Sign up at opendoorsuk.org/prayer

SOCIAL MEDIA

For more urgent prayer requests, you can find the latest posts on our social media channels – particularly Facebook, X and Instagram. Find us: [@opendoorsuk](https://www.instagram.com/opendoorsuk)



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