

January 2022 prayer calendar

NORTH KOREA

1. John* is an Open Doors worker serving North Koreans in China. Part of his work involves giving practical aid such as food and medicine to North Koreans who are heading back into the country. Thank God we are able to serve the North Koreans this way!

2. Open Doors worker John* says as he serves North Koreans in China, "When we give them something, they just start to well up. They weep, and they try to say thank you, but we know that some things are not possibly delivered through words, and we see that on their faces. Lots of tears are shed." Please continue to pray for all ministries serving North Koreans.

3. As covid-19 has struck North Korea hard both in terms of health of the people and the economic system, many North Koreans risk everything to make the illegal journey outside of the country in search of basic items, just to survive. Pray for those who have fled to encounter Christ through Christians and be of help to them.

4. Please pray for the Open Doors workers as they listen to God's voices for guidance. Pray that God will prepare all their journeys and meetings, and that they will be able to find those who are most in need of help.

5. Please pray that God will touch the hearts of the North Koreans that our workers meet, and that the North Koreans will accept the Gospel of Jesus as they hear about it for the first time. Pray for protection for North Koreans as they travel across the border, and that God will provide for all their needs.

CHINA

6. Most residents of Chinese towns and cities these days live in apartments in gated communities called 'Xiaoqu' (literally 'Small District'), surrounded by walls and have a main gate with one or more guards to monitor the flow of pedestrians, bikes and cars. Pray that ministries happening inside will be protected against prying eyes.

7. Many Xiaoqu have cameras installed at the gate. Only residents of the Xiaoqu are allowed free access (using a digital smart card), and visitors must sign in or be accompanied by a resident. This makes house church meetings even more difficult for believers who wish to enter a home from outside the Xiaoqu. Pray for these house churches.

8. Xiaoqu management will quickly call the police if a house church meeting is reported or discovered. Please pray for Christians as they navigate the many restrictions that hinder the freedom of worship.

9. It is true that Chinese Christians must 'count the cost' of following Jesus on a daily basis, making them committed and bold, but others tire of the constant pressure and fall away. Please pray for God's wisdom, joy and resilience.

10. The believers from Muslim and Buddhist backgrounds in China are in what can sometimes feel like a war of attrition. The effect of covid-19 travel restrictions, limitations on the number of people allowed to gather, occasional detention of Christian leaders, and recent uptick in the control of Christian posts on the internet means it has become very difficult for Open Doors staff and even local church leaders to visit and disciple believers. Many of these ethnic minority Christians live in remote regions of the country. Please pray for our church family here.

How can I help my persecuted family?



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to help where it is most needed.

Any excess funds will help strengthen persecuted Christians around the world where there is urgent need.

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11. Please ask the Holy Spirit to teach isolated believers from God's Word every day. Pray that none are lost, and that they experience Father God visiting and discipling them Himself. Pray that this time is turned into a testimony of God's promise to never leave or forsake them.

12. Pray that the contextualized discipleship materials produced by Open Doors and newly translated Bibles will reach these remote, isolated communities. Ask God to protect those who distribute and use these precious materials.

INDIA

13. Please continue to pray for the covid-19 crisis in India. Many people are still being infected. Pray for God's healing on the sick and His protection on the country. Pray that India's healthcare system will be able to meet the needs of all those who are sick.

14. Pray for Christians who have been displaced because of their faith, especially those who live in remote areas. As winter approaches, they often do not have enough warm clothes and proper housing to keep them warm. Ask God to provide for their needs, and change the hearts of the communities who have rejected them.

15. Open Doors partners often work with displaced believers to provide emergency aid – pray that they will be able to reach those who are most in need of help and support this winter.

SYRIA

16. Pray for the Believers from Muslim Background churches in Syria. Druze in the south and Kurds in the north are coming to Jesus despite all the persecution they face from their families and community. Pray that God will strengthen them and protect them.

17. Thank God for the impact of our training and activities among different churches. It is becoming more influential. Pray for unity between the churches in Syria. Pray for God's love to overshadow the differences between denominations.

18. Praise God for the many Iraqi's who continue to call Iraq their home, whereas many other believers have felt forced over the years to leave Iraq and seek for a better place elsewhere. The body of Christ has gone through so many hardships already for decades. Please pray for the Syrian people.

MYANMAR

19. Pray that God will touch the hearts of the believers and comfort them as they face uncertain times. Pray that God will provide food and shelter for displaced believers.

20. Pray for wisdom, strength and discretion for pastors and leaders as they shepherd believers. Pray for peace in Myanmar.

MALDIVES

21. The Islamic Ministry will be conducting a special program to raise awareness of extremist ideology, aiming to eliminate the extreme ideology that is terrorizing the country. Pray that this program will promote peace within the Island of Maldives.

22. The above program targets individuals that have been detained for being part of large illegal organizations, for them to be rehabilitated before being released back into society. Pray that this new initiative will not be misused nor abused for the benefit of all citizens.

INDONESIA

23. A sister named Sarah was once challenged by her eldest son, who said, "I want you to choose between me and your ministry." Heartbroken with the demand, she said, "Son, I love you, but your father and I cannot forsake our ministry. God has placed those people in our hands." Her son left their house that night. Praise God that years later, after so many prayers, God changed his heart and now Sarah's son is also involved in church ministry.

24. Praise God for His great gift to His people in Sigi. Pray for God's protection, because terrorist threats still linger in the area. Pray comfort for the believers as memories of the attack in 2020 resurface. Pray for healing, restoration, and spiritual growth for the believers, and that they will be able to begin to move on from their horrific past experience.

LEBANON

25. Many Christians living in Lebanon treasure the fact that Christianity has been there from the time of the apostles. Although, even by then, followers of Jesus had been martyred. A Lebanese Christian said: "When we cry out to Jesus for the Lebanese today we must remember that each one is facing the daunting task of surviving at a time of scarcity when we are called to carry one another's burdens!" Please stand next to these believers in prayer.

COLOMBIA

26. Pray for the legislative and presidential elections that will take place in the first half of 2022. It is a time of great pressure and anxiety for residents, especially in rural areas. Pray for the protection of the church.

SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

27. Open Doors local partners currently serve believers from Muslim backgrounds from the seven Muslim majority tribes in the southern Philippines. They now intend to begin research to broaden the scope of their work and reach out to other groups of Christians who may face persecution in northern parts of the country as well.

28. Despite the pandemic and stricter travel protocols and requirements, the team intends to continue God's mission. Please pray that God will allow them to travel to the area safely. Please also pray that the people they are going to meet will be available during the visit. Pray for God's provision and protection for the team.

NEPAL

29. Pray for Open Doors local partners as they travel to mountainous areas to meet with believers. Please pray for their safety and good health. Pray that their visit will bring encouragement to believers who are often isolated.

CENTRAL ASIA

30. Please pray for young brother named Amiel*, 22y/o, who was persecuted by his family when he became a Christian. Pray that as he tries to flee his country, he will find a new family in Christ and a new community. Thank God that he's safe now but please pray that he will be able to find a job to support himself. Pray for his family, that they will become Christians too.

31. A training seminar was recently held in one of the Central Asian countries for 25 young believers from six house churches. Praise God that the training was successful.

**names changed for security reasons*

