

# OPEN DOORS HONG KONG

# DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

*\*Names changed for security purposes*

## 1 Lebanon

Several Christian producers of radio and TV content operate from Lebanon, reaching into the rest of the Middle East. Pray for the Lord's blessing over the development of these content, such that people will be drawn to the love of Jesus through every broadcast.

## 2 Iraq

Some displaced children in Iraq are able to return to school – pray that they will grow from strength to strength. Pray also for other displaced children who are not yet able to return to school, and have serious gaps in their education.

## 3 Syria

In some areas of Syria, rebuilding is happening, but restoring one house does not restore a city, let alone a country. Pray that the international community will help with Syria's rebuilding efforts.

## 4 Yemen

Join this Yemeni believer in prayer, "Lord, our God... [We are] in this land to honour You, to be a witness of Your love and forgiveness. Give us courage and determination to continue standing in Your name and on Your promises... Amen."

## 5 Saudi Arabia

Peter\* is a Christian and lives in a remote area in Saudi Arabia. There are times when he doubts his faith. Pray that he will be especially aware of the Lord's presence and glory during those times of doubt.

## 6 Iran

Even though alcohol and drugs are illegal in Iran, addiction to these substances is a major problem. Other forms of addiction are also becoming increasingly common, especially amongst those under 30. Pray that addicts will find freedom and healing in Christ.

## 7 Libya

Pray for African believers who live in Libya, some already for decades. They are under great pressure both because of their skin colour and their Christian faith. Pray for their protection in this difficult situation.

## 8 Algeria

Since the end of 2017, the church in Algeria has experienced an ongoing wave of pressure, which weighs heavily on church leaders. Pray for strength and wisdom for these church leaders.

## 9 Central African Republic

In September, 14 Christians, including a pregnant woman, were brutally killed by Muslim ex-Seleka militia. Pray for strength and comfort for the bereaved and the affected Christian community who continue to be terrorised by ex-Seleka factions.

## 10 Niger

Pastor Saidou was recently taken to court and accused of abducting and brainwashing a young man whom he led to Christ. Thankfully, he was found innocent. Pray for the Lord's encouragement for the pastor and his family after the trouble they experienced.

## 11 Uganda

Esther\* (13) was born to a Muslim family and gave her life to Christ after attending a Christian conference for children. Her Muslim uncles make life difficult for her and have put her in a Muslim school. She sneaks out weekly to attend church services. Pray for protection over Esther and for the salvation of her uncles.

## 12 Cameroon

Neighbours and friends, Sarah and Hannah, lost their husbands when Boko Haram attacked their village earlier this year. Pray for God's comfort, healing and provision for them and their children.

## 13 Ivory Coast

Elie, a young Christian man, was attacked by some youths after he refused to participate in his community's traditional religious rituals. Pray for his recovery and that those who persecute him would, through his testimony, come to follow Jesus.

## 14 Ivory Coast

When Sidoine became a Christian, his aunt and others were furious and accused him of betraying them. They have tried many times to kill him. Pray that he will experience the Lord's protection and that he will not be ruled by fear but grow in his faith.

## 15 Tanzania

In Zanzibar, Tanzania, the influence of radical Muslims is growing. Five pastors are facing legal action due to this growing influence. Pray that each of these pastors will be vindicated and that the church will flourish despite opposition.

## 16 Malaysia

Let us continue to pray for missing Raymond Koh, Amri Che Mat, and Joshua and Ruth Hilmy to be reunited with their loved ones. Pray for breakthrough in the ongoing public enquiry into their disappearance.

## 17 Indonesia

Please continue to pray for physical and emotional healing for all the victims of the November 2016 church bombings in Samarinda and the May 2018 Surabaya bombings. Pray for strength and patience for families and friends who are walking with the injured – may all experience God's comfort.

## 18 Brunei

Christians fear losing their freedom and material wealth if they reach out to Muslims in Brunei. Meanwhile, Islamisation is depleting the number of Christians in the country. Both are threatening the survival of the church. Pray for pastors and leaders to wake up and prepare for the coming storm.

## 19 Bangladesh

Razaul (35) is a church leader who recently attended Open Doors sponsored leadership training to increase his effectiveness in ministry. Pray that God will build His Kingdom through Razaul, and many like him.

## 20 Bangladesh

Believers from a Muslim background who live in remote and rural areas are most prone to persecution and isolation in their community. Pray for strong lay leaders in their small congregations so that the church can endure and grow despite difficult circumstances.

## 21 Southern Philippines

Pray for Christians in the Southern Philippines amid threats of kidnapping and bombings. These occur so frequently that many people have grown numb to the dangers – pray that they will stay alert and discerning, but without giving in to fear.

## 22 Bhutan

Pray that the oppressive spiritual walls surrounding Bhutan will crumble and fall. May the spiritual eyes of the Bhutanese be opened, and their hearts be softened and readied to hear and receive the gospel.

## 23 Vietnam

Most Christians from a tribal ethnic background are poor and illiterate due to limited access to basic government services, exacerbated by geography and prejudice. This makes it difficult for them to receive an education, find employment, and access other

government social services. Pray for strength and provision for them.

## 24 Laos

The Laotian church faces two dangers: weak leadership and susceptibility to false doctrines. Open Doors trains Hmong church leaders so that they can disciple their congregations and protect them from false teachings. Pray that these efforts will strengthen the church and help produce mature Christians.

## 25 Laos

Thank God for His provision of 200 MP3-players with Bible teachings and worship songs, which were distributed earlier this year to Christians in Laos. Pray that those who received these devices will use it as a tool to nurture their faith and to advance the gospel in their country.

## 26 Myanmar

Daw Seng\*, an internally displaced Christian and recipient of a Bible, through our Bible distribution efforts, said, "I consider it a source of my life and hope." Pray that many more will be able to receive a Bible to be strengthened in their faith.

## 27 Nepal

Pray for Srijana\* from Nepal whose parents banned her from going to church and tortured her for her faith. She has left home, but is going through a very difficult time. Pray that God will provide all her needs.

## 28 India

Pray for pastors Kiran\* and Ramesh\* from the east of India. Earlier this year, while leading a worship service, some Hindu extremist attacked them and caused panic amongst the churchgoers. Pray for these pastors' protection as they continue to serve the Lord and the church amid growing persecution.

## 29 East Asia

Ma\*, a believer from a Buddhist background, endures constant persecution from her family and community. She gets blamed for any misfortune that the village experiences. She feels misunderstood and alone. Pray that God will connect her with other believers and that she will experience His encouragement.

## 30 Tajikistan

Missionaries hold weekly services at a centre for the handicapped who have no one to care for them. When many at the centre accepted Christ, the new Muslim director of the centre threatened to kick out those who attended the meetings. Pray for wisdom for those who want to attend but are fearful of being kicked out.

## 31 Maldives

Praise the Lord for ministry opportunities among Maldivians living outside their country. Pray that the Christians around them will have a burden to reach these Maldivians with the gospel.