



# PRAYER DIARY

Praying in Christ's Name for His Suffering Church

August - September 2025



Join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

Romans 15:30

# August

## FRIDAY 1 AUG • NIGERIA (1)

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.* Revelation 21:4

About 200 Christians died on the night of 12-13 June when Fulani extremists attacked Yelwata village in Benue State. More are continuing to die from disease as an indirect result of the violence. The normal population of Yelwata (estimated to be 98% Christian) was swollen by people who had fled there after attacks on their villages. About 40 gunmen stormed the village shouting “Allahu Akbar”, shooting people and setting houses and food stores ablaze. Charred bodies were found in homes, streets, even churches. The dead were mainly women and children. Afterwards cholera and typhoid broke out amongst the survivors, whose water sources were contaminated. It was the fourth attack in Benue in three weeks. Pray for the survivors - hungry, sick (especially the children), bereaved and traumatised – that their faith in Jesus may not fail and that they will know the provision of their heavenly Father and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

“ *Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones. And all for your love’s sake. Amen.* Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

## SATURDAY 2 AUG • NIGERIA (2)

*Blessed are the peacemakers.* Matthew 5:9

Suspected Islamist extremists shot dead Pastor Emmanuel Na’allah Auta during an evening Bible study and worship service on Monday 7 July. The attack took place at Yaribori village, Katsina State. One of the worshippers, Gidan Taro, a well known convert from Islam, was also killed. A woman worshipper was kidnapped. The pastor had been working to reconcile the Muslim and Christian communities in Yaribori. Pray that these martyrdoms may bring forth the reconciliation that Pastor Emmanuel had longed for.

“ *God, teach us peacemaking, justice and love. Blessed by Christ’s teaching, we’re lifted above All thought of vengeance or envy of hate. Help us, your children, shalom to create.* Jane Parker Huber, USA (1926-2008)

## SUNDAY 3 AUG • SOMALIA

*The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.* Psalm 85:12

Thank you for your prayers for rain in drought-stricken Somalia. Confounding the forecasters, there were excellent rains in southern and central Somalia during the all-important Gu season (March to May, “the long rains”). But drought continues in the north. We are now in the Hagaa season, which is typically dry except for a little coastal rain. The next season, Deyr, will be October-December when patchy rain would be normal. But our God is in control. Drought causes immense suffering for all the Somali population. Pray for them all, and especially the tiny Christian minority who suffer with

everyone else and also endure much persecution as converts from Islam.

“ *Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.* James 5:17-18

**MONDAY 4 AUG • SOMALIA**

*Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.* Psalm 34:8

A 31-year-old Somali woman committed her life to Christ, a few weeks after a Christian worker showed her the Jesus film on Christmas Eve 2024. In March she decided to show the film to her parents. While she wept to see the Son of God suffering for her sins on the cross, her father said the film was from the devil and ordered her to leave the house with her children (aged 9, 7 and 5). Her father then phoned her husband to tell him what had happened. When she refused to deny Christ, her husband divorced her (an easy and instantaneous process in Islamic law). Two relatives have sent messages threatening to kill her. She is now moving from village to village trying not to be found. Ask the Lord she loves to watch over her and continue to fill her heart with His peace. Pray also for her mother who seemed for a short while to be open to the Christian faith but then denounced it.

“ *In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see, For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To*

*pardon and sanctify me.* George Bennard, USA (1873-1958)

**TUESDAY 5 AUG • ERITREA**

*I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten.* Joel 2:25

Please continue to pray for Eritrean Christians in prison for their faith. One is Meron Gebreselasie who worked as a hospital anaesthetist and was also a pastor in a network of churches that was banned in 2002. He has been in prison since 2004. Like so many imprisoned church leaders in Eritrea, he is being held incommunicado and without any release date set. The last news of him was over five years ago when it was reported that his health was stable. Meron (also known as Million) is not married and his parents have died. He has a sister in Canada. Praise God that He has not forgotten Meron and knows all that he has endured every moment of the last 21 years. Pray that He will make His presence very real to Meron to give him comfort and strength.

“ *Father, hear the prayer we offer: Not for ease that prayer shall be, But for strength that we may ever Live our lives courageously.* Love M.W. Willis, USA (1824-1908)

**WEDNESDAY 6 AUG • SUDAN (1)**

*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.* John 11:25

Three church buildings have been bombed in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State, killing at least five people including one of the church ministers, and wounding dozens more. One church was bombed on 9 June and

the other two on 11 June. The attacks came from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) who have been waging war against the Sudanese government since April 2023. The RSF have repeatedly attacked church buildings and also have a track record of trying to pressure Christians to convert to Islam. The RSF are seeking to consolidate their power in this western part of Sudan and have been besieging El Fasher since April 2024. Pray that the faith of Sudanese believers will not fail.

“*Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die, But live with Thee the perfect life Of Thine eternity.* Edwin Hatch, England (1835-1889)

#### THURSDAY 7 AUG • SUDAN (2)

*He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* Isaiah 9:6

Daily life has become a “nightmare” for Christians in Sudan. Since the October 2021 coup, Christians have experienced a resurgence of hate speech and arbitrary arrests. Islamic law (sharia) is a source of the anti-Christian persecution. In regions such as Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan there continue to be violent attempts at Islamisation. The current civil war – based on ethnic, religious and international factors – began in 2023 and has created an appalling humanitarian crisis and severe hunger. Christian schools and hospitals have ceased to function and even travelling to church for Sunday worship is very dangerous. Ask the Prince of Peace to intervene and bring peace and justice to Sudan.

“*The saint never knows the joy of the Lord in spite of tribulation, but because of it.* Oswald Chambers, Scotland (1874-1917)

#### FRIDAY 8 AUG • SUDAN (3)

*Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered.* Psalm 108:6

Sudan appears to be heading towards de facto partition. Part of the country is controlled by the RSF, who are supported by Libya and the United Arab Emirates. The rest is controlled by the Sudanese Armed Forces, who re-took the capital Khartoum from the RSF in March 2025; this was achieved with help from the “Hunter Force”, an elite unit that includes Islamists close to the Muslim Brotherhood. The Christian minority of 2-3% is caught in the midst of this struggle between Muslim powers. Some Christians are waiting for the partition of the country to be established, hoping this will protect them from persecution. Others have fled to South Sudan, established in 2011 with the aim of being a place where Sudanese Christians can live free from harassment. Pray that the God of hope will fill Sudanese Christians with all joy and peace as they trust in him. (Romans 15:13)

“*We expect a bright tomorrow, All will be well. Faith can sing through days of sorrow, ‘All, all is well.’* Mary Peters, England (1813-1856)

#### SATURDAY 9 AUG • SOUTH SUDAN

*This is what the Lord says: ‘When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm*

*you, plans to give you hope and a future.*  
Jeremiah 29:10-11

The South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) has called on all Christians in the country to participate in 70 days of prayer and fasting for South Sudan. The 70 days will finish on 18 August, and marks 70 years since civil war in Sudan first broke out 18 August 1955. The theme of the prayer initiative is “Fulfil your good promises, O Lord!” focusing on Jeremiah 29:10-11. The aim is to help the impoverished and war-wracked nation towards peace, development and prosperity. The SSCC suggests people focus their prayers on family, church, governance, economy, education, media (including art and entertainment), and health. Please pray (and fast, if the Lord so leads you) with our South Sudanese brothers and sisters.

“ *My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.* Edward Mote, England (1797-1874)

#### **SUNDAY 10 AUG • RUSSIA**

*... the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 8:38-39

A Russian Christian asks us to pray that the Lord will open the door for more freedom of speech, that Russian people will discover the reality of a true and living God, and that every level of society will be enlightened by the Holy Spirit to the fact that Jesus is the God of love.

“ *The love of Christ – immeasurably great: There is no beginning and it flows like a river, And like the wave kisses the shores. It is deep and*

*bright and wide. And if there was no love, The love of Christ, we would not be able To have the hope of living forever And to love all people as a Saviour does. Oh if only those who live on earth knew The love of Christ! Everyone breathes it! And if God had taken away His love for a moment This world would have died long ago.* Russian hymn

#### **MONDAY 11 AUG • UKRAINE (1)**

*We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.* Acts 4:20

Forum 18 reports that many individual Christians and church communities in the part of Ukraine controlled by Russia have been punished under Russia’s Administrative Code for alleged “missionary activity”. Recent examples include Pastor Vladimir Rudomyotkin in the city of Donetsk. A whole parish in the same city was punished for allegedly failing to give its official full name “within the framework of missionary activity”. In Enerhodar, in the Zaporizhzhia region, a Christian called “S” was fined for “illegal” missionary activity because S organised “so-called religious services [which] were held on Sundays”. All these punishments were fines but the Donetsk Jewish Religious Community, which was found guilty in March of failing to give its full name, is now being officially liquidated. Pray that the Russian authorities will cease this harassment.

“ *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!* Timothy Dudley-Smith, England (1926-2024)

#### **TUESDAY 12 AUG • UKRAINE (2)**

*All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their*

*possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. Acts 4:32*

A container of aid sent by TBF Trust from Germany arrived in July at a church in Odessa, Ukraine, and was distributed to Christians in need. Thank the Lord for the generous donors, the hard-working packers, and the safe journey. The contents included rice, noodles, bulgur, lentils, beans, tomato paste blankets, toothpaste, nappies and much more. Pray that the sending of these items from German Christians to Ukrainian Christians will bring spiritual encouragement as well as practical help.

*“ Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way; Direct, protect and feed me From day to day. Julie von Hausmann, Germany (1826-1901)*

### **WEDNESDAY 13 AUG • UKRAINE (3)**

*We must obey God rather than human beings! Acts 5:29*

A congregation in Krasnodon, in the Russian-controlled Luhansk region, were celebrating Pentecost on Sunday 8 June when the deputy prosecutor and police raided its Sunday morning worship, reports Forum 18. The issue was that the church was unregistered, a choice made by the church so that the pastor would not have to report to the authorities about his church members. Another unregistered church in the same region was threatened on 30 May by a local police officer, acting on the instructions of the FSB (formerly KGB). The church ignored the threats and went ahead with their worship service as planned the following Sunday. Thank the Lord

for their obedience, courage and faithfulness.

*“ We will learn to do God’s will, If we will trust in Jesus. We will continually lift our gaze to Heaven, If we will trust in Jesus. Russian hymn*

### **THURSDAY 14 AUG • UKRAINE (4)**

*It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans. Psalm 118:8*

Since establishing the Donetsk People’s Republic in Ukraine in 2014, the Russian authorities have been seizing what they claim are “ownerless” property in Russian-controlled parts of Ukraine, including some places of worship. A church in Mariupol seized last year has been changed into a cinema. The Christians, Muslims and others who have lost their property in this way deny that the properties were ownerless. Ask the Lord to restore the properties, if it is His will. Pray that whatever happens, the Christians may testify to their Lord by responding to this injustice in a Christ-like way. (Forum 18)

*“ God has long been calling us to come to Him, Yet you remain bound to this world. With what are you repaying Christ for His suffering and death? For His shed blood, what are you giving? Ukrainian hymn*

### **FRIDAY 15 AUG • AFGHANISTAN (1)**

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12*

On 15 August 2021 the Afghan capital, Kabul, fell to the Taliban. The only

church building in Afghanistan, which was inside the Italian embassy, had to be closed. The Taliban's form of Islam is perhaps the most extreme in the world. "It's a perversion of the Qur'an, of course," says the Afghan ambassador to Italy, "And just hatred of Judeo-Christianity." One Taliban minister recently likened non-Muslims to "four-legged animals". The ambassador estimates that there are 26 or 27 terrorist groups in Afghanistan. Pray for Afghan Christians, trying to survive in this situation, that the Lord will guard them with His angels.

*“ I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for  
a crown. George Bennard, USA  
(1873-1958)*

#### **SATURDAY 16 AUG • ARMENIA**

*Be strong and courageous.* Joshua 1:6

Christianity has been a vital part of Armenian identity for 1700 years, but now there is a major clash between Armenia's prime minister and the Armenian Apostolic Church. The Church began to criticise the prime minister's actions after Armenia was defeated by Azerbaijan in 2020. The prime minister set up a coordinating group to choose a new leader for the Church. Then, on 25 June, government security forces arrested 16 people including a senior archbishop, accusing them of plotting a coup to seize power. The archbishop, who led anti-government protests last year, is now in pre-trial detention. He faces charges of planning terrorism and attempting to overthrow the state. A generous benefactor of the Church, one of the richest men in Armenia, has also been arrested and the prime minister

has announced that the billionaire's electrical business will be nationalised. Please pray for the leadership of the Church that they will be protected and strengthened by God's grace in this difficult time. Pray that religious freedom will be maintained.

*“ On Christ the solid rock I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
Edward Mote, England (1797-1874)*

#### **SUNDAY 17 AUG • CHINA**

*I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.* 2 Timothy 1:5

Since 1 February 2018 it has been forbidden in China for under-18s to attend church services. Many congregations therefore run informal classes for children in private homes. Pray for the Christians who teach those classes, and for the parents of the children, that they may be able to bring up the children to trust and love the Lord Jesus Christ, becoming mature believers ready to face whatever pressure or persecution may come to them in the future.

*“ O Jesus, I have promised To  
serve Thee to the end; Be Thou  
forever near me, My Master and  
my Friend. John Ernest Bode,  
England (1816-1874)*

#### **MONDAY 18 AUG • LAOS**

*I am the way and the truth and the life.*  
John 14:6

"I am not sure why they killed him, but I believe that it must be because he serves Jesus Christ ... One thing

that I am sure of is that there are some groups of people who dislike what Thongkham does as Christian pastor." This is what a relative said about the murder of Pastor Thongkham Philavanh, who was shot on 22 July in his home in north-west Laos and died in hospital soon afterwards. The attackers were described as being two men, masked and dressed in black. Pray for Thongkham's widow and all the shocked and sorrowing local Christians. Ask the Lord to raise up and equip another leader to take his place.

*“ Last night, our community was shattered by the tragic loss of our beloved pastor, who was senselessly taken from us in an act of violence ... His profound wisdom, unwavering faith, and boundless compassion touched the lives of so many. Laos Christians on Facebook, 23 July 2025*

## **TUESDAY 19 AUG • INDONESIA**

*Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that binds and the sin that so easily entangles. Hebrews 12:1-2*

At least 17 Christian graves at three cemeteries in the Yogyakarta Special Region of Java were vandalised between 16 and 19 May. In one cemetery the damage included breaking the wooden and concrete crosses on the graves. Similar incidents occurred in the area in 2018 and 2019 with the crosses on graves being cut, pulled out or burned. After the first attack, some in the local community expressed a desire that only Muslims should be buried in the cemetery. Pray that these attacks will cease. The ones

in May this year seem to have all been done by a single individual acting on his own. Pray that his hatred of the cross will be turned to love.

*“ Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew, That I may love what Thou dost love And do what Thou wouldst do. Edwin Hatch, England (1835-1889)*

## **WEDNESDAY 20 AUG • INDONESIA**

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. 1 Peter 2:2*

A Christian youth gathering in a private home in West Java was stormed by a mob of around 200 Muslims after Friday mosque prayers on 27 June. The attack appeared planned, not spontaneous, and the banner-carrying mob shouted, "Destroy that house, destroy that house." Police and soldiers watched without intervening, while the protestors damaged the buildings, garden and a car. One man climbed a wall, removed a wooden cross from it and used the cross to break a window. Eventually the police evacuated the 36 Christian young people. The protestors claimed that their action was merely because the venue for the youth retreat was not an official place of worship, but an Indonesian religious freedom activist describe it as an example of "Christian-phobia". Pray that this experience will strengthen the faith of the young people.

*“ You cannot bless without bleeding, and you cannot succour until you have suffered. Selwyn Hughes, Wales (1928-2006)*

**THURSDAY 21 AUG • SAUDI ARABIA**

*The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Isaiah 35:1-2*

Saudi law lays down a death sentence for leaving Islam, although, as far as is known, it has not been applied in recent years to Muslims who have become Christians. Nevertheless their lives are in danger from zealous Muslims amongst their family, friends and community. Female converts are especially vulnerable. Most Saudi Christians are therefore secret believers, and only the Lord knows how many there are. Pray for them, as they try to nourish their faith and find fellowship with other believers despite the grave dangers they face.

“ *And we for the sake of Christ all things bear. May the Lord Jesus guide you, O Muslims, And enlighten your hearts that you might love others. ... We worship the Lord Jesus, the Light of the worlds.* From a poem by Fatima al-Mutairi, Saudi Arabia (martyred 2010)

**FRIDAY 22 AUG • EGYPT**

*An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt.’ Matthew 2:13*

Although the general situation of Christians in Egypt is greatly improved, thanks to President al-Sisi, sometimes there is still hostility at a societal level. In May there was mob violence against Christian homes in Abu Qurqas (Minya province). It is unclear what triggered the violence but some think it was the fact that one Christian family was

about to have a mobile network booster installed on their roof. The issue of the relative height of Christian and Muslim buildings was part of early Islam (Christian buildings must always be lower) and is still a sensitive point for some Muslims in Egypt today. Pray that Egyptian Muslims will follow the example of their president and treat Christians as equal members of society.

“ *You laid aside your majesty, Gave up everything for me, Suffered at the hands of those you had created.* Noel Richards, Wales (born 1956)

**SATURDAY 23 AUG • LEBANON**

*The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life. Psalm 121:7*

“Please keep us in your prayers. We are scared of what’s to come. Keep us in your prayers so the Lord keeps us and our people safe.” This was a WhatsApp message to TBF Trust from a Christian leader in Lebanon on 21 June. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Lebanon that the Lord will fill their hearts with His perfect peace in the midst of the tumult which is affecting the Middle East.

“ *Though we pass through tribulation, All will be well. Ours is such a full salvation, All, all is well. Happy, still in God confiding, Fruitful, if in Christ abiding, Holy, through the Spirit’s guiding, All must be well.* Mary Peters, England (1813-1856)

**SUNDAY 24 AUG • WEST BANK**

*He withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephratim, where he stayed with his disciples. John 11:54*

The last remaining Christian village in the West Bank is Taybeh, near Ramallah and overlooking the desert. Its people earn a living from their field crops and olive trees. It is believed to be the Biblical village of Ephraim where Jesus retreated after raising Lazarus from the dead, which triggered plots against his life (John 11). On 26 June homes in Taybeh were attacked by extremist settlers, who also lit a fire at the village's eastern entrance. For over a year settlers have been encroaching on Taybeh's agricultural land. The settlers graze their sheep and cows on the wheat and barley planted by the Christian farmers of Taybeh. Pray that our heavenly Father will protect and provide for His faithful people in the village where Jesus and His disciples found refuge.

“ We will win with hope. We are Palestinian Christians. We resist with our faith. Bashar Basiel, a church minister in Taybeh, speaking after the 26 June attack

**MONDAY 25 AUG • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) (1)**

*He leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.* Psalm 23:2-3

On 14 June torrential rains caused terrible damage in Kinshasa, the capital of DRC, affecting many tens of thousands of people. As June is in the dry season, such weather was unusual. Homes were swept away, roads were flooded, widespread power cuts occurred and around 30 people died. Fatal flash flooding had also happened in Kinshasa in April, after which TBF Trust funded food and utensils for Christian

families made homeless by the floods. Christians in DRC thank the Lord for His provision and for the prayer time that the flood-affected families spent together in the midst of their hardships. Pray that the needs of our brothers and sisters who lost their homes, food, possessions, and businesses will be met.

“ *The privilege of every believer is to bring good news to a lost soul.* Jacques André Vernaud, a Swiss-background pastor in DRC (1932-2011)

**TUESDAY 26 AUG • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) (2)**

*Epaphras ... is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God.* Colossians 4:12

Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) which is affiliated to Islamic State (ISIS) claims to have conducted an intensive preaching campaign in Christian areas of Ituri province, DRC, for a few weeks in April-May, gaining more than 50 converts from Christianity to Islam. According to ISIS, the ISCAP preachers approached local people in their fields, homes and workplaces to explain “the purpose of Allah’s creating his servants” including monotheism and faith. They warned that “Allah’s punishment” awaits non-Muslims after death whereas Muslims will go to paradise. Wrestle in prayer for Christians anywhere who are facing these pressures that they may stand firm and not deny Christ. Pray for those in DRC have become Muslims (and would now face severe punishment or death if they left Islam) that they will have courage to return to Christ, whether publicly or only in their hearts.

*“ There is no place where earth’s sorrows Are more felt than up in heaven; There is no place where earth’s failings Have such kindly judgement given. F. W. Faber, England (1814-1863)*

**WEDNESDAY 27 AUG •**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) (3)**

*Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. Psalm 98:1*

Christians in DRC have asked TBF Trust supporters to pray for the impact of two agreements recently signed. The first was a peace agreement between DRC and Rwanda, signed on 27 June. A Congolese rebel group called M23 engaged in separate negotiations with the DRC government, which led to the signing of a ceasefire agreement on 19 July. The agreements were mediated by the USA and Qatar and, it is hoped, will bring an end to decades of conflict which have caused immense civilian suffering. The causes of these conflicts are primarily ethnic and about access to important mineral resources. Pray that Christian believers in DRC will be channels of peace for every kind of conflict in their nation.

*“ Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love. Francis of Assisi, Italy (1181/2–1226)*

**THURSDAY 28 AUG • UGANDA**

*I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13*

Thank you for your prayers for Esther,

the Christian woman whose hands were cut off by her Muslim husband after he had tried in vain for years to persuade her to convert to Islam. On 5 July church leaders delivered to her a freezer and an assortment of general merchandise to enable her to set up a business, which she will run with the help of relatives. These items were paid for by TBF Trust, which also provided funds for renting a small house for Esther and her children with a room for the shop. A specialist charity will provide Esther with prosthetic hands. Praise God for the net of connections which has made all this possible. Continue to pray for Esther that our loving Lord, for whose sake she lost her hands, will comfort and strengthen her.

*“ Let the beauty of Jesus, shine in me! Let purity and love be shown completely! Spirit of love and fire, revive me too, To make the image of Jesus shine in me. A Russian hymn*

**FRIDAY 29 AUG • MOZAMBIQUE**

*I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. Psalm 77:11*

A new wave of attacks by Islamist extremist groups in northern Mozambique was reported in May after it had been running for several weeks. The primary targets are local Christians and the methods involve shooting, beheading, kidnapping, looting and arson of houses and churches. “The people are in despair,” said a church minister. Pray that Christians in Mozambique will take heart as they call to mind how the Lord miraculously delivered His people in the past.

“ Let fire, or the cross, or wild beasts, or the breaking of my bones, or the cutting of me to pieces, or the shattering of my whole body, yea, all the tortures of the devil - let them all come upon me, only let me enjoy my God. Ignatius of Antioch (martyred c.107)

**SATURDAY 30 AUG • PAKISTAN (1)**

*You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.*  
Psalm 139:1-2

Rejoice with Pakistani Christians that our brother in Christ, Anwar Kenneth, has been acquitted of “blasphemy”, after 23 years on death row. The decision was announced by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on 24 June, which cited his mental illness as the basis for the acquittal. There is a mandatory death sentence for “defiling” the name of the Islamic prophet (Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code). Anwar, a former civil servant, was arrested in 2001 for allegedly writing blasphemous letters and sentenced to death the following year. Pray for the Lord’s healing touch to be on Anwar (now aged 72), who has spent nearly quarter of a century behind bars, much of it in solitary confinement and expecting to be hanged.

“ And Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, My Master and my Friend! John Ernest Bode, England (1816-1874)

**SUNDAY 31 AUG • PAKISTAN (2)**

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*  
Revelation 22:13

Pakistan’s Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has published figures for 2024 on the abduction and forced conversion to Islam of girls and women from the minority communities (i.e. non-Muslims). The CSJ is aware of at least 83 cases of which 63% were Hindus and 37% were Christians. About three-quarters of the victims were under the age of 18 including at least twelve girls under the age of 14. This figure is substantially lower than the 136 known incidents in 2023. Pray that such abuse will completely stop.

“ O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come. Isaac Watts, England (1674-1748)

## September

**MONDAY 1 SEP • PAKISTAN (3)**

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.* Psalm 23:4

A magistrate awarded custody of a 16-year-old Christian girl to the Muslim man who had abducted her from her home and married her. In the courtroom Jessica Iqbal recorded a statement that she had converted to Islam and married her abductor of her own free will. But she was unable to answer any questions on Islam which she was asked. Jessica’s parents begged her to change her statement, which they knew could not be true, but she kept telling them that she feared for their lives unless she stuck to her statement. Now her parents are in an agony of fear for her. “I’m unable to focus on my work, as my mind is always thinking about Jessica. This mental anguish is

killing me with each passing day," said her father, a house painter. Pray that a higher court in Pakistan will overrule the magistrate's decision and that Jessica and her parents will be strengthened to cope with their respective ordeals until that decision is made.

*“ Bring justice to our land, That all may dwell secure, And finely build for days to come Foundations that endure. R.B.Y. Scott, Canada (1899-1987)*

#### **TUESDAY 2 SEP • AFGHANISTAN (2)**

*He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Psalm 40:2-3*

Poverty, hunger, unemployment, lack of health care, a weak economy, declining international aid, growing regulations - life in Afghanistan is a daily ordeal. For women, almost everything is forbidden. The hardships create depression, bitterness and despair in many Afghans. Others are too busy trying to survive and make ends meet to think about deeper things. For some, however, the mental pressures cause them to seek a spiritual reality that they do not find in Afghan Islam. Pray that they may find hope, peace and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*“ He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth, And love, joy hope, like flowers, Spring in his path to birth. James Montgomery, Scotland (1771-1854)*

#### **WEDNESDAY 3 SEP • IRAN (1)**

*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44*

Iran has been much in the news recently. Please pray for Iran according to the current situation remembering especially the believers. They are a vulnerable and persecuted minority comprising Armenian and Assyrian historic Christian communities and newly formed Christian communities of indigenous (Persian) converts from Islam. While mighty military matters are conducted at one level, at a societal level there is reported to be a crackdown by Islamic religious leaders on women who do not cover their heads properly according to Islamic law. This indicates that the attitude to Christians is likely to become stricter too. Iranian Christians no doubt feel they are surrounded by enemies of all kinds. Pray that they will not give way to fear.

*“ Lord Jesus, you prayed for those who placed you upon the cross and told us to pray for our enemies... Lord, bring to faith those who persecute us and put us to death and do not count this against them as a sin. May they come to the knowledge that you are God. Shimun (Simeon) Barsabba'e. He was martyred on Good Friday 341 AD at Ctesiphon, which was then the capital of the Iranian empire*

#### **THURSDAY 4 SEP • IRAN (2)**

*... trained and skilled in music for the LORD... 1 Chronicles 25:7*

After Mehran Shamloui, an Iranian Christian convert from Islam, was sentenced to ten years in prison for his house-church activities, he fled to Turkey. But he was caught and detained in Istanbul as he tried to

travel on to Europe, and on 3 July was deported back to Iran. He is now serving his sentence in the Greater Tehran Penitentiary. Mehran had been arrested in November 2024 when his home was raided by intelligence agents who confiscated Bibles, crosses and musical instruments. A court hearing found him guilty of crimes including “propaganda activities contrary to Islamic law” and “membership of an opposition group”. The “opposition group” was a house church. Pray that Mehran, who is a musician, may be able to use his musical gifts to strengthen his own faith and witness to other prisoners, as Paul and Silas did (Acts 16:25)

“ *Christ’s hand touches the strings of my soul, And my soul ecstatically sings. Another song is being born, A song about the One Who gives us happiness.* Russian hymn

#### **FRIDAY 5 SEP • TURKMENISTAN (1)**

*This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.* Revelation 14:12

Turkmenistan is the most closed country in Central Asia. For over 20 years, no church has been able to register. However, in recent years, there has been no pressure on churches from the state. In cities, unregistered churches can gather in the buildings of registered churches for worship. Please pray for freedom of religion in the country, for the registration of churches, and for importing and printing Christian literature to be allowed. Especially ask God for believers to have boldness in preaching the Gospel, for the growth in faith of new

believers and for the education of a new generation of church ministers.

“ *O morning Star and evening Rest, we know that you are with us always, throughout all our days, nights and years.* The Moravian Church in America (2024)

#### **SATURDAY 6 SEP • TURKMENISTAN (2)**

*... men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ ...* Acts 15:26

Persecution in Turkmenistan occurs at the household level, especially in cases where Muslims have become Christians. Recently two young men who had converted from Islam were subjected to severe violence by their fathers, in an effort to force them to renounce Christ. They were badly beaten and then doused with petrol. Praise God that other relatives intervened at this point to save their lives. Give glory to God for the steadfast endurance of these disciples of the Lord Jesus.

“ *Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; ‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.* John Newton, England (1725-1807)

#### **SUNDAY 7 SEP • KYRGYZSTAN (1)**

*Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him?* Acts 4:19

When a new Religion Law was introduced in January, there was a moratorium put on its implementation, a moratorium which came to an end on 1 August. According to the new law, congregations must be registered and their buildings must be registered as religious buildings. Fire and safety

regulations have made this more complicated and several churches did not have time to complete the process of transferring and registering their buildings as required by the new law. Therefore any worship or prayer meetings now held in those church buildings are illegal and the Christians could be fined. Pray for our brothers and sisters that the Lord will give them courage and wisdom in this difficult time.

*“ In heavenly love abiding, No change my heart shall fear. Anna L. Waring, Wales (1823-1910)*

#### **MONDAY 8 SEP • KYRGYZSTAN (2)**

*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us? Luke 24:32*

According to the new Religion Law (see above), a family can pray together in their own home but apart from that it is illegal for more than two people to gather in a private home for prayer and worship. Any gatherings with any religious aspect are also caught by this law. For example, a birthday party with any Christian literature involved would be illegal. Pray that the Lord will guide pastors in Kyrgyzstan, whose flocks used to meet weekly at church and in home groups, how to care for them in this new situation.

*“ Infinity, beyond all reach, Breath of God, put to speech, That ears may hear, That hearts may burn, That we may know for whom we yearn! Catherine Reilly, USA (born 1997)*

#### **TUESDAY 9 SEP • KYRGYZSTAN (3)**

*He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3*

Church leaders in Kyrgyzstan ask prayer “that we may continue to lead a ‘quiet and peaceful’ life, that we may continue to preach and spread the Good News, ... that those in power would not interfere in the life of churches ...” These prayer requests are prompted by the passing of the new Religion Law which, amongst other things (see above), prohibits the involvement of children in religious activities and requires preachers to have certain academic qualifications. If Kyrgyzstan’s authorities start to implement the law rigorously, many churches will find themselves in an illegal position. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide these leaders and fill them with wisdom from above as they respond to their new situation.

*“ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4*

#### **WEDNESDAY 10 SEP • BELARUS**

*You are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God. 1 Corinthians 1:30*

Christians in Belarus are thankful that in general there is freedom of worship, freedom to share the Gospel and freedom to choose one’s faith. This is despite the fact that they live in a country often described as “Europe’s last dictatorship” where freedom of expression is severely curtailed and any form of dissent towards

the government is repressed. Join Belarusian Christians in thanking the Lord for their current situation and pray that they will continue to make good use of it.

“ *It is only with Christ that we find the answers. If you have a question, he will always advise you.* Mikola Ilyuchyk, Belarus (21st century). Translated from a poem in the Belarusian language.

#### **THURSDAY 11 SEP • UK (1)**

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us ...*  
Ephesians 3:20

A survey conducted by YouGov for the Bible Society showed a rise in church attendance in England and Wales over the last six years. The greatest area of church growth is among young adults, especially young men. The survey also showed that the Church is becoming more ethnically diverse. The church growth figures have greatly surprised statisticians because the general perception in the UK is of a decline in church attendance. One possible reason, says a Bible Society researcher, is that people are lonely, struggling with mental health and find life meaningless. “Church appears to be offering an answer. We found that churchgoers are more likely than non-churchgoers to report higher life satisfaction and a greater feeling of connection to their community than non-churchgoers. They are also less likely to report frequently feeling anxious or depressed.” But ultimately it is the work of the Holy Spirit. Praise God for what He is doing.

“ *The right hand of God is healing in our land, Healing broken bodies, minds, and souls.* Caribbean Conference of Churches (1973)

#### **FRIDAY 12 SEP • UK (2)**

*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.* Acts 3:19

London mosques are full of worshippers, especially young adults. Many in this generation of British Muslims have grown up attending after-school madrassas to learn their Islamic religion and the Arabic language. Imams are teaching a strict form of Islam, like the Wahhabi Islam of Saudi Arabia, and are telling British Muslims to reject the more moderate Islam of countries such as Bangladesh. Pray that these devout Muslims, so committed to the religion they have been brought up in, may find the joy of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

“ *O Lord of Calvary, Imprint your name, remould all lives, Into a melody of love and peace for you, O Christ, our Lord!* Albrecht Hauser, Germany (born 1938)

#### **SATURDAY 13 SEP • MEXICO**

*The testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*  
James 1:3-4

Last year a group of 151 Baptist Christians in Hidalgo state were forced out of their villages by the village authorities who cut off their electricity and water, vandalised their church

building and even blocked access to some of their homes. At one time their children were excluded from the local primary school. The majority religion in the area is a blend of Christianity with the ancient Mayan religion and its festivals involve pagan practices and heavy drinking of alcohol. Families who refuse to participate in the festivals are often persecuted. The Baptist Christians have moved to another state and are settling there, naming their new community "Peace". Pray that they may be allowed to live and worship in peace and that their lives and lifestyle will be a powerful witness.

*" Loving God, you continually whisper to us not to be afraid. Still, our very human selves often give in to fear. Tune our ears to hear your voice of assurance. Embolden us to serve bravely. Open our hearts to receive your peace. Amen. The Moravian Church in America (2024)*

### **SUNDAY 14 SEP • WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL**

*My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me. Psalm 31:15*

Islamic State (ISIS) have released figures showing their "harvest of soldiers" for the Islamic year 1446 (7 July 2024 to 26 June 2025 AD). They claim that they made 1,141 attacks of various kinds in 12 countries in which 4,943 people were wounded or killed including 1,480 Christians, whom they call "Crusaders". The majority of the attacks and casualties were in Africa. In a list of damage to buildings, vehicles

etc. the report notes that ISIS set fire to 20 church buildings. The largest number of attacks and victims was in ISIS's West Africa Province (Nigeria, Cameroon and Niger) with 445 attacks causing 1,552 casualties. The Sahel region had the most destructive attacks with an average of more than 13 casualties per attack. Pray that these men of violence, who sincerely believe they are pleasing God by what they do, will meet the Prince of Peace and put their faith in Him.

*" I would rather die for Christ than rule the whole earth. Ignatius of Antioch (martyred c.107)*

### **MONDAY 15 SEP • NIGERIA (3)**

*What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

A van carrying several Christians along with its load of mangos blew up when it struck an improvised explosive device, apparently planted by Boko Haram militants. The attack occurred near Damboa in Borno State. Blessing Luka and Gideon Bitterleaf, described as "devoted Christian educators" working with the Damboa Local Education Authority, were killed. The other passengers were injured. The incident came two months into an intensified Boko Haram campaign of bombing and abduction, which often targeted Christian communities, farmers and women. "Blessing and Gideon served with love and courage in one of the most dangerous regions in the country," commented a local Christian. A pastor said, "Our Christian communities are exhausted from burying loved ones." Pray for daily strength for the weary and grieving Christians of northern

Nigeria that each may continue a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ, who will eventually share their Master's happiness (Matthew 25:21)

“ O Jesus, Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee That where Thou art in glory There shall Thy servant be. John Ernest Bode, England (1816-1874)

**TUESDAY 16 SEP • NIGERIA (4)**

*Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming.* James 5:7

“Villagers have grown weary of calling for help no one intends to send,” wrote a Nigerian church leader to TBF Trust about a Christian village in northern Nigeria that had been attacked yet again. “It is a silence that screams - one of abandonment, not oversight. When the state refuses to protect its citizens, especially its Christian communities, silence becomes complicity.” Pray that the Nigerian authorities will take effective action to protect vulnerable Christian communities in the north, especially communities, like the above village, which straddle the boundary between two states so that each state can say the other is responsible.

“ All shall be Amen and Alleluia. We shall rest and we shall see. We shall see and we shall know. We shall know and we shall love. Behold our end which is no end. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

**WEDNESDAY 17 SEP • NIGERIA (5)**

*You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.* Matthew 1:21

Nigerian Christians of the Erigwe tribe are repeatedly targeted with violence by Fulani extremists. The Christians see two motives at play: an effort to displace them from the fertile lands they farm so they can be used for grazing by the Fulanis, and a religiously-motivated jihad. But “the result is the same – an erasure of a people from their ancestral soil through fire and fear,” concluded a Nigerian church leader, writing to TBF Trust. Pray that Erigwe believers will be given grace to forgive their enemies and that the more they suffer, the closer they will cling to Jesus.

“ How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear! It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, And drives away our fear. John Newton, England (1725-1807)

**THURSDAY 18 SEP • SYRIA (1)**

*The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore* Psalm 121:8

At least 25 people were killed when a suicide bomber attacked a church in Damascus, the capital of Syria, during the evening service on Sunday 22 June. Reports say he began by firing some shots and then detonated himself. At least 63 were injured. Please pray for the Lord's loving presence to comfort the bereaved and for His protection of His people in Syria, which since late 2024 has been ruled by an Islamist government.

“ We will not be silenced by the sounds of explosions and the fire of hatred will not frighten us - our faith

*in the Lord Jesus is stronger than death and stronger than evil!* Samuel Gümüs, Turkey/Germany (born 1966) commenting after the attack at the church in Damascus on 22 June

**FRIDAY 19 SEP • SYRIA (2)**

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.* 1 John 5:14-15

Pray that some good may come out of the 22 June suicide attack on a Syrian church service (see above). It was the first attack of its kind in Syria for many years and occurred when the Islamist government had been in place for six months. The position of the many minorities (i.e. all the communities who are not Arab Sunni Muslims) hangs in the balance. There are concerns about “sleeper cells” of terrorist groups such as Islamic State (ISIS) remaining after nearly 14 years of civil war. The government's Information Minister condemned the blast, saying, “This cowardly act goes against the civic values that bring us together ... We will not back down from our commitment to equal citizenship...” This is a precious affirmation from a government whose ideology would normally see Christians as less important than Muslims. Pray that the government will live out this statement in reality.

“*The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures.* John Newton, England (1725-1807)

**SATURDAY 20 SEP • SYRIA (3)**

*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.* Acts 4:29

A poster appeared on the wall of a church in Tartus in May calling on Christians to convert to Islam or pay jizya. Jizya is a tax which, according to classical Islam, should be imposed on Christian and Jewish minorities in an Islamic state. Paying it is a sign of their subjugation to the ruling Muslims. The poster finished with the statement “The Umayyads passed through here.” The Umayyad dynasty of caliphs (661-750) led a vast Islamic empire created by conquering non-Muslim nations. The threatening poster caused consternation amongst Tartus's Christians. Pray that Syria's former harmonious mosaic of many different religious groups may be restored and that no minority will feel intimidated.

“*We rest on thee, our shield and our defender!* Edith G. Cherry, England (1872-1897)

**SUNDAY 21 SEP • IRAQ (1)**

*You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.* Psalm 77:14

For hundreds of years Iraqi Christians lived in the major city of Mosul and the smaller towns and villages of the nearby Nineveh Plains. They fled these areas when Islamic State (ISIS) militants took control in 2014. ISIS was later ousted, but few Christians have returned to live in Mosul, with its painful memories. Furthermore their properties are being handed over to Muslims. In the Nineveh plains,

powerful Shia Muslim militias in the Iraqi army are gradually taking territory and establishing Shia settlements in traditionally Christian areas. Christians are often harassed and intimidated until they sell their land. Even in Iraqi Kurdistan, which has generally been more welcoming to Christians than the rest of Iraq, land-grabs are occurring. Powerful Kurdish families or tribal chiefs are seizing Christian-owned land, even forging documents to achieve it. Pray also that the international community will take notice of their plight and give effective help.

“When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me. Henry F. Lyte, Scotland/Ireland (1793/1847)

#### MONDAY 22 SEP • IRAQ (2)

*Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.* Isaiah 40:31

“We’re living almost like refugees in our own country,” said a senior Iraqi church leader in May. This is ironic as well as tragic, because the historic Christian communities of Iraq are the indigenous peoples of the land, descended from the inhabitants of ancient Mesopotamia. The Christian minority has drastically shrunk over the last 25 years, as many have fled the growing hostility they encounter in everyday life, seeking safety in Western countries. The remaining Christians face discrimination in education, the workplace, access to public services and political representation. Some live in Kurdish-majority areas and are caught in the middle of the armed conflict between

the Kurds and Turkey, with Christian villages sometimes bombed. The continuing trauma caused by the ISIS invasion in 2014, the feeling of being second-class citizens with no one to protect them, and anxiety about the future are wearing down Iraqi Christians. “There is deep exhaustion from all these security, legal and social pressures,” said one. Ask our merciful Lord to give them grace to cope with all they are facing.

“Bring to our troubled minds, Uncertain and afraid, The quiet of a steadfast faith, Calm of a call obeyed. R.B.Y. Scott, Canada (1899-1987)

#### TUESDAY 23 SEP • INDIA

*When I was in distress, I sought the Lord.* Psalm 77:2

Chengu Hansdah, who was involved in the 1999 murder of Australian missionary Graham Staines, has left Hinduism to follow Christ. Chengu, who served nine years in prison, was only 13 at the time that Graham and his two sons (aged 10 and 6) were burnt to death. He said that his conversion came about because of personal grief and soul-searching and has given him peace. Many of his close family members died in the years after his release from prison. Chengu heard an inner voice urging him to renounce violence if he truly wanted to live in peace. He returned to the Christian community in Odisha state which he had previously persecuted and eventually gave his life to Christ, thus finding the peace he longed for. Praise God for Chengu’s decision and the way it has transformed his life. It has been

reported that his conversion is part of a quiet trend among Hindu hardliners who have renounced violence.

“Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin? The blood of Jesus whispers peace within. Edward H. Bickersteth, England (1825-1906)

**WEDNESDAY 24 SEP • PAKISTAN (4)**

*Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.* James 5:13

Pakistani Christians are encouraged that a magistrate has refused to hand over a 14-year-old Christian girl to the Muslim man who abducted her, converted her to Islam and married her. Taking note of Elishba's birth certificate, the magistrate ruled on 3 July that her alleged marriage was illegal as she was a child and that her abductor had therefore committed statutory rape by having sexual relations with her. Elishba went missing on 11 June. Her father, a “sanitation worker”, doing the dirty and despised jobs typically performed by Christians in Pakistan, visited the police station repeatedly for 11 days, before the police would take action. Alluding to the acceptance of child marriages in Islamic law, the magistrate commented that “while traditional interpretations may permit marriage at puberty, modern Islamic scholars and judicial precedents emphasize the principle of welfare.” Thank the Lord for this brave Muslim magistrate. Pray that Elishba and her family will be kept safe from further persecution. Pray that truth and justice may prevail and protect vulnerable Christian women and girls.

“Beauty for brokenness, Hope for despair. Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer. Graham Kendrick, England (born 1950)

**THURSDAY 25 SEP • PAKISTAN (5)**

*Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.* Psalm 119:97

“I felt like God has heard my prayers and given me a chance to study once again... I learnt how to read and write. Now, I can read verses from the Holy Bible, as well.” These were the words of Nabila, one of the students attending adult literacy classes in Pakistan, which are run with funding from TBF Trust. Currently there are 150 students, mainly women, at five adult literacy centres. Each centre is located in a community where Christian brick kiln workers live. The teachers help their students grow in their Christian faith as well as teaching literacy and numeracy, and at the end of the course each student is given a Bible. When they can read, write and do simple sums, the women will be less vulnerable to exploitation. Praise God for His blessing on this project and how thrilled students and teachers are to be involved.

“I can now read Bible verses that once felt so far away.” Robina, studying at an adult literacy centre (2025). Her childhood prayer, whenever she heard someone reading from the Bible, was “Lord, I want to learn. I want to read your Word with my own eyes.”

**FRIDAY 26 SEP • PAKISTAN (6)**

*The Lord is my strength and my defence.* Psalm 118:14

A Muslim found guilty of abducting and raping a Christian girl was given a life sentence in July. He was also ordered to pay her 50,000 Pakistani rupees (£130) for the mental anguish and physiological damage she suffered. The girl was 12 years old when she was abducted at gunpoint in September 2023. Her abductor was accompanied by three other men; together they tortured and gang-raped her multiple times for over a month until the police found and rescued her. The other three perpetrators escaped and have not been arrested. While in captivity, the girl was forcibly converted to Islam and a fake Islamic marriage certificate was created to try to validate the situation. The marriage registrar testified in court that his signature and thumb prints on this document were forged. Thank the Lord that this precedent has been set, sending the message that non-Muslim girls and women are of equal value to Muslim men.

“ He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free; To take away transgression, And rule in equity. James Montgomery, Scotland (1771-1854)

#### **SATURDAY 27 SEP • VIETNAM (1)**

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. Psalm 138:7*

Pastor Yich was released from prison in May, at the end of a 12-year sentence for “undermining national solidarity policy”. This “crime” consisted of spreading the teachings of the Tin Lanh Dega church, communicating online with Vietnamese Christians in the USA, and meeting

former prisoners of conscience. The Tin Lanh Dega church combines evangelical Christianity with aspirations for religious freedom, protection of ancestral lands and, for some, autonomy or self-rule for Montagnard people in Vietnam’s Central Highlands. Pastor Yich (now 59) is currently on probation and will be closely monitored by the Vietnamese authorities. Pray especially for his health as he recovers from the long ordeal. He was reportedly beaten and tortured in prison and as a result, says his son, has no teeth left. He also suffered many bodily ailments but was denied medical treatment. When his daughter brought medicines for him, the prison authorities refused to give them to him.

“ Take me and make me, O Lord of Creation, Take me and make me, What you want me to be. Albrecht Hauser, Germany (born 1938)

#### **SUNDAY 28 SEP • VIETNAM (2)**

*Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13*

Vietnam has a communist government, a Buddhist culture and its own unique national religion called Cao Dai, which combines Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. Some Christians are persecuted, while others are given the religious freedom specified in Vietnam’s constitution. All religious groups in Vietnam need government permission to operate and some are refused that permission. These banned groups are harassed by the police and treated harshly. Since 2001 the authorities have reportedly forced thousands of followers

of banned Christian groups to renounce their faith. Mrui, the adult son of Pastor Yich (see above) has experienced strong pressure by local authorities, trying to make him deny Christ. "Village, district officers continuously visit our home to monitor us, they invited [meaning summoned] me five, six times, threatened to bash me and kill me, forcing me to abandon my faith," he said. Pray that Vietnamese Christians will stand firm and refuse to deny Christ, no matter what happens to them.

*" Mine is an unchanging love, Higher than the heights above, Deeper than the depths beneath, Free and faithful, strong as death. William Cowper, England (1731-1800)*

#### **MONDAY 29 SEP • INDONESIA (3)**

*Every day they continued to meet together.*  
Acts 2:46

A congregation in Bulukumba Regency, South Sulawesi, have been trying for 45 years to get permission to construct their own church building. They have just been turned down for the third time. Each time the rejection is because of opposition from local Muslims. An Indonesian law requires the ID of a minimum of 90 users of the proposed place of worship with written support from at least 60 local residents. But it also specifies that if there are enough users but not enough supportive local residents, the local government must step in to provide a solution for the worshippers. Thank the Lord that this seems now to be happening in Bulukumba. Pray that the voices urging fairness and reason will be heeded and this congregation will be able to have a suitable meeting place.

*" Take heed often to come together to give thanks to God and show forth His praise. For when you assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith. Ignatius of Antioch (martyred c.107)*

#### **TUESDAY 30 SEP • INDONESIA (4)**

*For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him. Philippians 1:29*

An 8-year-old Christian boy died from internal injuries soon after he was severely beaten by five older Muslim pupils at his school in Sumatra. The beating, which took place on 19 May, was part of a pattern of bullying that young Khristopel had been enduring. "The perpetrators speak about his ethnicity, his religion," said his father, explaining the reason for the bullying. Khristopel died in hospital on 26 May. The parents of the bullies attended his funeral and expressed their condolences. This tragic incident has prompted many expressions of concern by the Indonesian authorities. Pray that the bullies will repent and turn away from their bullying, that Christian-Muslim relations will be improved and that other good will come from Christopel's death, bringing comfort to his family.

*" My dear Jesus, my Saviour, is so deeply written in my heart, that I feel confident, that if my heart were to be cut open and chopped to pieces, the name of Jesus would be found written on every piece. Ignatius of Antioch, (martyred c.107)*



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