



PRAYER DIARY

Praying in Christ's Name for His Suffering Church

October - November 2025

We always thank God for all of you
and continually mention you in our prayers.

1 Thessalonians 1:2

October

WEDNESDAY 1 OCT • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) (1)

Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10 (ESV)

An all-night prayer vigil in the city of Komanda, in Ituri province, north-eastern DRC, was attacked by an Islamist militant group called the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) at around 2 a.m. on 27 July. Reports say that 43 of the praying Christians were killed. Some of the bodies were charred, some were headless. The militants also set ablaze homes, shops and cars in Komanda and abducted several people. Pray for the survivors – shocked and grieving, many of them injured or having lost all they owned. Pray that the knowledge that their loved ones died for Christ will bring them comfort.

“ *Tell them that I am dying because I am a Christian.* Isidore Bakanja, DRC (then called Belgian Congo) (c.1887-1909 martyred)

THURSDAY 2 OCT • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) (2)

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 46:9 (ESV)

A week of deadly attacks by the ADF in North Kivu province between 9 and 16 August claimed the lives of at least 52 civilians, including eight women and two children. In addition there were abductions and looting, with homes and vehicles set on fire. The population are mainly Christians. Pray for our Congolese brothers and

sisters, who were already living in dire humanitarian conditions, as they suffer further with the destruction of their property and as they grieve for their loved ones. Ask that the ADF fighters will turn from their violent ways.

“ *Let us help each other by our prayers, so that God and Christ and the whole choir of angels may come to our aid in our time of suffering, when we shall need their assistance the most.* Nemesian, Egypt (martyred in the 250s)

FRIDAY 3 OCT • SUDAN

It is I who answer and look after you.

Hosea 14:8 (ESV)

Darfur, in western Sudan, is a place of terrible suffering, especially for the Christian minority. It has been hard hit by cholera on top of war and famine. Torrential rains caused a landslide in the remote Tarsin area on 31 August, which aid teams described as one of the most tragic and large-scale natural disasters in the region's history. Hundreds of people died in the five villages of Tarsin. In one village, only one survivor was found. Christians in Darfur also face repeated attacks on church buildings by the RSF (Rapid Support Forces, who are fighting the Sudanese government) and there are violent attempts to force them to convert to Islam. Ask our heavenly Father to have mercy on the whole population of Darfur, acting in power to bring an end to their suffering.

“ *He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth; Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, Spring in his path to birth. Before him on*

the mountains, Shall peace, the herald, go, And righteousness, in fountains, From hill to valley flow.
James Montgomery, Scotland
(1771-1854)

SATURDAY 4 OCT • UGANDA

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
Matthew 16:24 (ESV)

Less than six months after his decision to leave Islam and follow Christ, Mohammed Nagi was martyred. A Muslim friend phoned him about 8 pm on 19 August, saying he had found Mohammed a job but Mohammed must come and meet him that night to get the details. Desperate to secure work, Mohammed went out immediately and never came home. His body was found the next morning, lying on a road, with various head injuries. Mohammed, his wife Katooko and their children had embraced Christianity after a pastor visited their home and shared the Gospel with them. They began going to church instead of to the mosque and were threatened about their conversion by Mohammed's brothers and parents. Please pray for Katooko and the five fatherless children, aged 4, 7, 9, 12 and 15, that their heavenly Father will protect and provide for them.

"When you kill me you send me to glory. Josef Tson, Romania (1934-2025)

SUNDAY 5 OCT • AFGHANISTAN (1)

My Lord and my God! John 20:28

Hundreds of thousands of Afghan

refugees have been deported in 2025 from Iran to Afghanistan. Some of them put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour while they were living in Iran. As converts from Islam they face grave danger now they are back in their homeland, which is ruled by the Taliban according to a very extreme version of Islam. They could potentially be executed as apostates, in line with Islamic law. They could also face violence and even death at the hands of relatives or zealous Muslims in their local community. Ask the Lord to send His angels to guard and protect them.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
John 20:29

MONDAY 6 OCT • AFGHANISTAN (2)

We will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved...
Psalm 46:2

A devastating earthquake hit the mountainous Kunar province of eastern Afghanistan on 31 August. At the time of writing, the death toll was estimated at 2,200. In some cases whole families perished together when their homes collapsed on top of them. This is a terrible blow to add to the suffering in a country where an estimated 75% of the population struggle to meet their daily needs. As you pray for the survivors, ask that Afghan Christians, although few in number and facing severe persecution, may be a source of peace, hope and courage to those around them.

"Rock of ages, cleft for me, Let me

hide myself in Thee. Augustus
Toplady, England (1740-1778)

TUESDAY 7 OCT • AFGHANISTAN (3)

I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

Psalm 118:21

“After I got into an argument with others, somebody looked at my phone and reported me for having the Bible on it. The police took me for questioning. Finally, they released me. Now I can continue the Bible study that I started with you.” This was one of many messages to a ministry which shares the Gospel with Afghans and disciples Afghan believers. Converts from Islam are extremely vulnerable in Taliban-led Afghanistan. The ministry receives many messages from Afghans seeking the truth, or those who have found the Lord Jesus and long to learn more of Him or to meet with other Afghan believers. Pray for all those who take the telephone calls, reply to the social media messages or create the programmes that the Holy Spirit will give them the right words for each person they interact with.

“ *The Word of God is totally truth, no doubt about it. As I started reading the New Testament, my character changed... I understood that first God loved us, and so we learn to love one another... In Matthew’s Gospel I learnt what Jesus says about revenge; I saw that Jesus brings peace. Please pray for me. I want to learn more and grow in my spiritual life so I can live by the will of God.* An Afghan man describing his life as a Christian, 2024

WEDNESDAY 8 OCT • KYRGYZSTAN (1)

With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.

Mark 10:27

A Christian camp for children with cerebral palsy and their parents is held every summer. The lives of disabled people tend to be bleak in Kyrgyzstan and this camp brings great joy to the children. In 2023 and 2024 the camp faced difficulties because of some local Muslims were hostile and tried to prevent it taking place. The organisers feared it might not be possible to hold the camp in 2025. But many prayers were offered, God answered, and the camp took place. There is no church in the area, but a group of women and children who have put their trust in Jesus since the annual camps started now meet monthly, with visiting Christians to lead their meetings. Pray that they will grow in their faith and that God will protect them from persecution.

“ *God is good. God is alive. Taste and see. Search and find. God our only source of life. God is holy. God is love. Nothing is impossible. With God all things are possible.* Madlena Khaydarova, Kazakhstan (21st century)

THURSDAY 9 OCT • KYRGYZSTAN (2)

You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. Genesis 50:20 (ESV)

Plans for an annual Christian summer camp in a certain valley had to be cancelled in 2025 because the authorities confiscated part of the campsite and destroyed the fence and some of the buildings. Instead

the valley churches organised a family camp in the nearby mountains. The valley campsite had been well equipped with electricity, cosy rooms, a kitchen, dining-room, sports ground and more. But the mountains had none of these facilities. The campers had to set up yurts, tents and generators, fetch water from the river and cook over a fire. They loved it and the camp was a blessed time, bringing children and parents very close. "It was an edification for believers and a good witness for unbelievers," said one leader. Praise God that efforts to disrupt this ministry just made it more fruitful.

“ The Spirit raised Christ back to life. That Spirit now makes me alive. Nothing is impossible. Madlena Khaydarova, Kazakhstan (21st century)

FRIDAY 10 OCT • KAZAKHSTAN

The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? Psalm 118:6

When Kazakhstan became independent in 1991 the situation for Christians was quite good, even though the country had a heritage of Islam and communism. But with laws passed in 2011, 2018 and 2022 the restrictions on Christians have gradually increased. Pray that our brothers and sisters will have grace, wisdom, perseverance and hope to navigate this deteriorating context. They form a large minority of about 25%, mainly Russians and Ukrainians, but include some converts from Islam who typically face many extra pressures from family and society.

“ Fear not for Christ is with you. He won all your battles, Cast out the demons, Healed all the sick ones. Freely you’ve received. Now freely give! Madlena Khaydarova, Kazakhstan (21st century)

SATURDAY 11 OCT • CENTRAL ASIA (1)

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. Ephesians 6:19

Pastor A was very ill in 2013 with cancer, tuberculosis and diabetes simultaneously. He prayed for healing and promised God that he would plant a church in each village of his area. Since then he and his team of Christians have planted at least 31 village “home churches” of converts from Islam. Praise God! But the new believers face severe challenges and need your prayers. Currently only 11 of the “home churches” are active, and the rest do not gather together. One of the main reasons for this is persecution. There are five villages that Pastor A himself cannot visit because of threats to kill him if he shows up there.

“ Christianity is greatest when it is hated by the world. Ignatius of Antioch, Syria, but now in Turkey (martyred c.107)

SUNDAY 12 OCT • CENTRAL ASIA (2)

Feed my sheep. John 21:17

The persecution of Christian converts from Islam in the above area includes discrimination, threats, bullying, stone-throwing and in 2024 a 13-year-old boy was murdered. Often the

persecution focuses on the local Christian leaders. Many leaders have been unable to withstand the pressure and have moved away from the area. The leaderless groups are visited twice a month by believers from the 11 active “home churches”. Please pray for more local Christian leaders, courageous and mature in the faith, to teach and pastor the believers. TBF Trust has funded some small agricultural income-generation projects for some of the leaders, so that they can support themselves financially. Pray that the projects will thrive.

“ He did not say, “You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be work-weary, you shall not be discomforted.” But he said, “You shall not be overcome.” Julian of Norwich, England (1342–1416 or later)

MONDAY 13 OCT • INDONESIA (1)

A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:18 (ESV)

“Reject! Reject! Demolish!” These were the shouts of Muslim demonstrators when Christians in Depok, West Java, laid the first stone of their new church building on 5 July. Two days earlier church leaders had met with village and district leaders and asked them to inform the community about the construction of the new church building. Church leaders also showed the community leaders all the necessary documentation and permits which they had obtained and said they would donate a portion of the church land to be used as access roads for villagers. Pray for good and harmonious

relations to be restored between Christians and Muslims in Depok.

“ Above all Christians are not allowed to correct by violence sinful wrongdoings. Clement of Alexandria, Egypt (died 215)

TUESDAY 14 OCT • CHINA

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. James 3:17 (ESV)

A Chinese Christian asks us to pray for continued church growth in China and also for pure Biblical teaching among the registered churches. The registered churches are watched and controlled by the government, sometimes very closely, and for some churches the content of sermons is carefully scrutinised to make sure it is in line with the beliefs of the Communist Party of China. Many churches are not registered and therefore are not monitored like this, but they may be persecuted instead. Pray for courage and discernment for all Christians in China.

“ If you would test the character of anything, you only need to enquire whether that thing leads you to God or away from God. Watchman Nee, China (1903-72)

WEDNESDAY 15 OCT • NORTH KOREA (1)

Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16:25 (ESV)

This secretive, hungry and isolated communist nation remains the place of greatest persecution for Christians

in the world. News has come recently of an increase in the use of the death penalty in North Korea, including for watching and sharing foreign films and TV dramas. Executions are by firing squad and are carried out in public to instil fear. In the midst of this, are North Korean Christians, some of whom have been executed in the past just for owning a Bible. Pray that the Lord will protect and keep His faithful people in North Korea and for an easing of the suffering of the whole nation.

“ When the need is greatest, God is nearest. Justine Schmidt

**THURSDAY 16 OCT •
NORTH KOREA (2)**

Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power, preserve those doomed to die! Psalm 79:11

Please pray today for Christians in North Korea's notorious prison camps, where many people are held for years or simply disappear. But the Lord knows them and what they are enduring for His sake. The conditions in the camps are harsh beyond imagining and prisoners die from ill treatment, overwork and malnutrition. Christians are reported to be treated even more severely than others. According to some reports there has recently been “a slight decrease in violence by guards”. Pray that the Christians may be enabled to respond in a Christ-like way to their ordeal and thus testify to their Lord and Saviour.

“ The purified righteous man has become a coin of the Lord, and has the impress of his King

stamped upon him. Clement of Alexandria, Egypt (died 215)

FRIDAY 17 OCT • THE WEST (1)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

Many social commentators suggest we are living in a period of great turbulence, producing uncertainty which leads to fear. Some predict social conflict and violence. Societies in the West, and also in some other countries, are increasingly vulnerable to populist movements which could de-stabilise governments and cause great harm to Christians and other segments of society. Please pray that the voices of reason, moderation and peace will prevail.

“ Come on, O world, when is your madness ending? When will you hear afresh His “It shall be!”? You are the Lord's, and all that is within you. Come to the cross that life be yours at last! Albrecht Hauser, Germany (born 1938)

SATURDAY 18 OCT • THE WEST (2)

But our citizenship is in heaven. Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

Intolerance, hatred and violence are growing in Western society. Increasingly anyone with a different opinion is seen as an enemy who must be destroyed. The use of political violence as weapon to silence alternative viewpoints is occurring more frequently. No one wants to be a peacemaker or to find a middle way on which both sides can agree. Pray that Christians will be a model of

love, forbearance, understanding and forgiveness, which others in society may follow. Christian nationalism is also on the rise in the West; pray that all Christians will remember that we are citizens of God's heavenly Kingdom and that this must take precedence over love for earthly nations.

“If you enrol as one of God's people, then heaven is your country and God your lawgiver. Clement of Alexandria, Egypt (died 215)

SUNDAY 19 OCT • SYRIA

Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

“We need prayer. Pray for us. Pray for the Druze people. Pray for our churches.” This was what Christians in Sweida, southern Syria, said when they were asked “How can we help you?” They are mourning the death of Pastor Khaled Mazhar and many members of his extended family in a terrorist attack on 15 July. Sweida has a large Druze community and Pastor Khaled was from a Druze background himself. His testimony and death deeply impacted both the Christian and the Druze communities in Sweida. At the time Sweida was wracked by extreme violence and was effectively under siege with no electricity, water, food or medical supplies, but a few days later a ceasefire was declared. Pray for the body of Christ in Sweida, which includes Druze-background believers and historic Christian families, that they will be strengthened in unity and faith. Pray for those grieving the loss of Pastor Khaled and his family, that their

testimony may not be in vain, and that God would use their sacrifice to bring healing and revival.

“Khaled Mezher's life serves as a poignant reminder of the quiet courage it takes to follow Jesus in a land ravaged by violence. His death underscores that the body of Christ suffers together... Let us not remain silent. Let us not forget. Let us pray without ceasing. communiomessianica.org
16 July 2025

MONDAY 20 OCT • IRAQ

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you. Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)

Three new church buildings were opened in Iraq earlier this month, one in Erbil, one in Dohuk and one in Mosul. Pray that these will be an encouragement to Iraqi Christians who have suffered much in recent years, many being displaced from in and around Mosul by Islamic State (ISIS) Islamist fighters in 2014. ISIS has (apparently) gone now, but has left behind an increased hostility to Christians amongst Iraqi Muslims. Pray that the new church buildings, which will also serve as centres of the Christian communities, will make Christians feel more stable and established.

“Prayer is the deliberate and persevering action of the soul. It is true and enduring and full of grace. Julian of Norwich, England (1342–1416 or later)

TUESDAY 21 OCT • LEBANON (1)

Peace! Be still! Mark 4:39 (ESV)

Lebanon and its Christian community “stand at a crossroads of tragedy and resilience” writes TBF Trust’s Lebanese project partner. The economic collapse which began in 2019, the Beirut Port explosion of 2020, the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel (2023-24) have left “scars that are visible not only in shattered buildings but in the strained faces of parents who cannot afford to feed their children, and in the silent suffering of a generation of children forced to grow up too quickly”. Political gridlock, financial mismanagement and huge inflation have plunged more than half the country below the poverty line. Pray that the faith of the Christians will sustain them and that they will be a channel of blessing to the non-Christian majority.

“*Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while he lived below.* Katharina von Schlegel, Germany (1697-1777) translated by Jane Northwick, Scotland (1813-1897)

WEDNESDAY 22 OCT • LEBANON (2)

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 1 Peter 4:7

“The compounded crises have woven together to create a humanitarian emergency that touches every aspect of daily life, from the empty shelves of pharmacies to the crowded, makeshift classrooms where displaced children try to learn amid trauma and loss,” say TBF Trust’s project partner. They are particularly concerned about high levels of

anxiety and depression amongst children who have been exposed to violence and displacement. Pray for all who are suffering in Lebanon, especially the family of faith, traumatised children and worried parents. Pray also for our project partners, worn out by their struggle to give practical help to Christians so they can stay in their land despite all the challenges. Pray that the Lord will give them the strength and resources they need.

“*Will not the End explain The crossed endeavour, earnest purpose foiled, The strange bewilderment of good work spoiled, The clinging weariness, the inward strain, Will not the End explain?* Amy Carmichael, Northern Ireland (1867-1951)

THURSDAY 23 OCT • EGYPT

My tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long, for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt. Psalm 71:24 (ESV)

Egypt has about 10 million Christians. Under President al-Sisi, their situation is much improved, although extremists in this Muslim-majority country are still hostile so Christians suffer frequent discrimination and occasional violence. Pray for the protection of Christians in rural areas where they are more vulnerable. Pray that the Lord will enable them to earn a living despite the discrimination they often face. Ask that they will hold on to the Lord Jesus, in the land where the Christian faith has been handed down through the generations for almost 2,000 years.

“ *Prayer that runs its course till the last day of life needs a strong and tranquil soul.* Clement of Alexandria, Egypt (died 215)

FRIDAY 24 OCT • NIGERIA (1)

The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness. Jeremiah 31:2 (ESV)

Naomi Sabo’s hand was cut off with a machete during a Fulani extremist attack in late August. Her 16-year-old son Emmanuel also sustained machete wounds and their companion, Esther Amos (aged 58), had her ear cut off. The three Christians were on their way home to Pyekman village in Bauchi State after working on their farm. Pray that the Lord will pour into them His grace, enabling them to forgive those who have maimed them permanently in this life and to keep their thoughts focused on the life to come.

“ *Be still, my soul! the hour is hastening on When we shall be forever with the Lord.* Katharina von Schlegel, Germany (1697-1777) translated by Jane Northwick, Scotland (1813-1897)

SATURDAY 25 OCT • NIGERIA (2)

Urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)

“Operation Enduring Peace” is the name of a new initiative by the Nigerian military to bring an end to the Islamist-inspired violence in north-central Nigeria. Christians

and symbols of Christian identity are amongst the main targets of the militants. Pray that “Operation Enduring Peace” will succeed and end the violence in which at least 45,000 Christians have died since 2009. Many Islamist groups are involved in perpetrating the violence. One of the newest is Lakurawa, which came to prominence about a year ago. It started some years earlier by helping local people to fight bandits, but soon began to impose a harsh version of Islamic law wherever it could. Pray that it will fade quickly away again.

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

SUNDAY 26 OCT • MAURITANIA

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV)

Pray for Mauritanian Christians – all of them former Muslims or their children – who worship the Lord Jesus in secret and at great risk. Pray that their faith will be unshakeable and their hearts filled with the peace that passes understanding. Ask that the Lord will protect them with His angels, as they live for Him in a country where the law lays down a death sentence for leaving Islam. Thank the Lord that this law has not been implemented in recent years.

“ *Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.* Helen H. Lemmel, USA (1863-1961)

MONDAY 27 OCT • MOROCCO

I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more. Psalm 71:14 (ESV)

The Moroccan authorities consider that all citizens are Muslims, so the only Christians in the country are supposedly foreigners. Thank the Lord that for many years a blind eye has been turned to Moroccan Christians who practise their faith discreetly. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give wisdom to His people as they live for Him in this North African country.

“ Through the love of God our Saviour, All will be well. Free and changeless is his favour, All, all is well. Precious is the blood that healed us, Perfect is the grace that sealed us, Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us, All must be well. Mary Peters, England (1813-1856)

TUESDAY 28 OCT • RUSSIA (1)

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

Churches from the Council of Churches Baptist denomination in Russia are coming under increasing pressure. They refuse on principle to register with the government because they consider that registration would mean believers had to submit to the lawless, if not godless, demands of the state. Since the start of 2024, at least five churches have been banned or faced lawsuits for refusing to register. One is the church in Kurganinsk in south-west Russia, which officials sealed in

May 2025. The congregation of about 600 continued to meet for worship in the open air, in front of their church building. As the Russian winter approaches, this will become more of a challenge. Their pastor Aleksandr Chmykh has been fined. Pray that Pastor Chmykh and his church members will be empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit in this situation.

“ May people see the beauty of Christ in me, All His purity and love always there be. O Spirit of God, come, Change everything in me. Russian hymn

WEDNESDAY 29 OCT • RUSSIA (2)

Thou shalt not kill. Exodus 20:13 (KJV)

Pray for Pastor Nikolay Romanyuk who was sentenced by the city court in Balashikha on 3 September 2025 for a sermon he preached in September 2022 in which he spoke against “military, albeit forced, murder”. His sentence is four years in a labour camp plus a three-year ban on administering websites. Pastor Nikolay (aged 63) has several serious health conditions and experiences headaches, periods of temporary paralysis, and loss of consciousness. He intends to appeal to the Moscow Regional Court. Pray that the Lord will sustain him in the labour camp and, if it His will, cause him to be released early. (Forum 18)

“ The people who are unfairly and illegally tormenting him probably think that they are depriving him of something. And, of course, they are depriving him of freedom,

communication, medical care, participation in communion, depriving him of the opportunity to continue serving people. There is much to list. But true freedom cannot be taken away from him.
Svetlana Zhukova, daughter of Pastor Nikolay Romanyuk, writing on Telegram, 4 September 2025

THURSDAY 30 OCT • UKRAINE (1)

Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. James 5:8

On Sunday 10 August police and anti-extremism police raided the morning worship of a church in Sverdlovsk in the Russian-controlled Luhansk Region. Officers filmed those present and after the worship service searched the home where the church meets, saying that they had been given a search warrant because it was suspected the church had weapons. They photographed Christian literature which they found and finally left about 4 pm. (Forum 18) Pray that the Christians of this congregation will not be fearful but will rejoice to be counted worthy to suffer for Christ's Name.

“ Overcome the whirlwinds of life with God. It's easy, because he will support you in trouble. Mikola Ilyuchyk, Belarus (21st century). Translated from a poem in the Belarusian language.

FRIDAY 31 OCT • UKRAINE (2)

My word ... shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

According to a district court in Russian-controlled Donetsk region,

Christian books and literature belonging to Oksana Volyanskaya were destroyed by the authorities on 12 August. She had been found guilty of violating Russian Administrative Code Article 5.26, Part 3 by issuing or distributing missionary literature without an official label to show that it came from a registered religious organisation. Oksana was also fined, reports Forum 18. Pray that our sister will not be discouraged but will boldly continue to testify to her Lord and Saviour.

“ God's promises become brighter, If we will trust in Jesus. Grace will fill the heart evermore, If we will trust in Jesus. Russian hymn

November

SATURDAY 1 NOV • UKRAINE (3)

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1

Please continue to pray for the congregation in Krasnodon, Luhansk Region, whose worship service was raided by police on 8 June, and especially for their pastor, Vladimir Rytikov. Forum 18 reports that on 14 July he was found guilty of “missionary activity” because he was leading an unregistered church. He was fined a month's average local wages, although he is a pensioner, not earning a salary. Pastor Rytikov was a prisoner of conscience in Soviet times and cares for his 36-year-old son who was physically and mentally injured when a Ukrainian shell fell near their home ten years ago. Pastor Rytikov refuses to register his church because

that would mean he, as pastor, would have to report to the authorities on his church members. "Betrayal ... is a great sin before God," he said. "Judas betrayed Christ and died. I do not want to be a traitor." Pray that the authorities will cease this harassment.

“ I remembered how they tried and falsely accused our Saviour Jesus Christ!!!” And He prayed to His Father: ‘Forgive them, Father, for they do not know what they do’. I said to the judge and the prosecutor, may the Lord forgive you and I forgive you!” Vladimir Rytikov, writing after his appeal against the fine was turned down by Luhansk Supreme Court on 29 August 2025

SUNDAY 2 NOV • PAKISTAN (1)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble Psalm 46:1 (ESV)

Heavy rainfall and some flooding is normal in Pakistan during the annual monsoon season (July- September) but both rain and floods were extreme in 2025. At least 881 people died in monsoon-related incidents and 1,176 were injured. Nearly a million people had to be evacuated. Not only houses but also crops such as rice, sugarcane, maize and cotton were destroyed, and many livestock perished. Densely-populated Punjab province had its worst monsoon floods in nearly four decades. Punjab is also where the majority of Pakistani Christians live. One of them is Pastor Riaz Masih, who said, "Even though the flood took away our home, God's mercy kept us alive. I believe He will restore us again." Pray for all affected

by the floods and especially our Christian brothers and sisters that this adversity may strengthen their faith.

“ Our mud house fell in the flood yet God Himself became our shelter. He is truly our refuge in this hard time. Mrs Robina Niamat, a Pakistani Christian who received food aid from TBF Trust after the floods

MONDAY 3 NOV • PAKISTAN (2)

Join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Romans 15:30

After Shamraiz's father died in early 2025, the 14-year-old had to go out to work to help support the family, who are Christians and very poor. He got a job repairing motorcycles but disappeared on 21 July. His brothers searched for him and told the police he had been abducted. Then they were informed that Shamraiz had been seen entering a madrassa (Islamic seminary) accompanied by his Muslim boss from the motorcycle repair workshop. At the madrassa the brothers were told that Shamraiz had converted to Islam of his own free will and therefore was no longer part of their family. A magistrate supported this position, but the family believe it was a forced conversion. Although very poor, the family plan to appeal to a higher court. Please pray that Shamraiz, a member of the local Presbyterian church in Sargodha, will keep his faith in Christ strong in his heart and be enabled to return to his family.

“ This name, Jesus, fasten it so in thy heart that it never comes

out of thy thought. Richard Rolle,
England (c.1300–1349)

TUESDAY 4 NOV • NEPAL

The promise of entering his rest still stands.
Hebrews 4:1

When the government of Nepal blocked access to several social media platforms in early September it sparked a wave of anti-corruption protests led by “Gen Z” youth in which over 50 people died. The prime minister resigned and the social media ban was lifted, but the protests continued, with government ministers and their families being beaten and burned. The protestors stormed government buildings and also freed 1500 inmates of a prison in Kathmandu. The army were mobilised to restore order; travel was banned and a nationwide curfew was imposed. “We deeply appreciate your continuous prayers for the country,” wrote one of TBF Trust’s project partners. Eventually a new prime minister was appointed, accepted by the Gen Z protestors. Please pray for harmony, honesty and stability in Nepal and that the Christian minority will not be targeted in the unrest.

“ O Thou Who art my quietness,
my deep repose, My rest from
strife of tongues, my holy hill.
Amy Carmichael, Northern Ireland
(1867-1951)

WEDNESDAY 5 NOV • BANGLADESH

*We always thank God for all of you and
continually mention you in our prayers.*
1 Thessalonians 1:2

“Like a light in the darkness” said

Shoyon Majumdar, describing the impact of a small scholarship provided by TBF Trust though the Bible Students Fellowship Bangladesh (BSFB). Shoyon is studying nursing but his father is a “day labourer” who struggles to earn enough for the basic needs of the family, let alone the cost of higher education. Shoyon is one of ten Bangladeshi college students whom TBFT is assisting. The ten were chosen by BFSB because their families were in real financial need and the students were actively involved in student ministry and showed commitment both to their academic journey and their spiritual growth. Pray for all ten that they will glorify the Lord Jesus in their studies and that He will strengthen them to face the discrimination and harassment they are likely to encounter as Christians.

“ First and foremost, I give thanks to God, who is our Provider and who hears our prayers. I also sincerely thank BSFB, through whom God has worked to bless me. Their support has encouraged me deeply, and I feel more hopeful for the future. – Shoyon Majumdar, Bangladesh, 2025

THURSDAY 6 NOV • THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Power belongs to God. Psalm 62:11 (ESV)

In the current age of autocracy, extremism and intolerant identity politics, authoritarianism is on the rise. This is linked to nationalism and is prompting the rebirth of religious ideologies which pose a grave threat to Christians. Christianity is viewed as

a foreign religion and inappropriate for the people of the land. Using economics and using narratives that Christians do not belong, there are increasing efforts to marginalise, suppress or eradicate Christianity and Christian communities. Pray that a Christian presence and witness will survive despite these efforts.

“ *Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ.* Ignatius of Antioch, Syria, but now in Turkey (martyred c.107)

FRIDAY 7 NOV • AZERBAIJAN (1)

I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
Psalm 71:17 (ESV)

A Christian in Azerbaijan was threatened by state officials that he would lose his job unless he stopped holding worship meetings, reports Forum 18. A man who had previously attended some of the meetings was assigned by the state to keep the Christian under surveillance and make sure he did not re-start the meetings. Please pray that the authorities will cease their harassment of those who have chosen to commit their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

“ *That grief in our grave - You changed it for us. This life that is meaningless - You changed it for us. This beautiful joy, this beautiful love - You gave them to us, Jesus Christ.* Vahid Tağıyev, Azerbaijan (21st century)

SATURDAY 8 NOV • AZERBAIJAN (2)

Live such good lives among the pagans that,

though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2:12

All religions are tightly controlled in Azerbaijan, a secular state with a population that is almost 100% Muslim, mostly Shia. Mosques are subject to the state-controlled Caucasian Muslim Board, and their imams are appointed or removed by the state. It is even harder for non-Muslim communities as they have great difficulty in getting the state registration that allows them to exist. Some have been waiting for years for their applications for registration to be processed. While they wait, it is illegal for them to hold meetings and they face the possibility of being fined if they do so. Even to apply for permission to exist, a religious group must have at least 50 adult founding members. But many people are afraid to put their names on such registration applications, for fear of reprisals by the state. (Forum 18) Pray that these stringent laws and practices will be relaxed and that the authorities in Azerbaijan will not see Christians as a danger to society but as a positive influence.

“ *There is no joy in my heart without You. My heart is lost without You. You are the only One, my Lord, Who brings joy into my heart. Now You are my heartbeat.* Azeri-language song (21st century)

SUNDAY 9 NOV • AZERBAIJAN (3)

The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Five Christians have been given

heavy fines by a court in Nakhchivan, an autonomous republic populated mainly by Muslim Azeris. Two were local believers and the other three came from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The fines were awarded in June, two months after the Christians had been arrested when police raided a Sunday worship meeting in a home belonging to a Korean family. The three from Baku (who included a baby) were detained for two days without food. By July the two from Nakhchivan were being threatened by court bailiffs because they could not afford to pay the fines, equivalent to three months average wages in Nakhchivan. The Korean hosts are believed to have been fined and deported. Non-Muslim communities are not granted state registration in Nakhchivan. Yet state registration is compulsory. Therefore, whatever non-Muslim communities do in Nakhichevan is illegal and punishable. (Forum 18) Pray that this suffering for His Name will cause our brothers and sisters to draw even closer to their Lord and Saviour.

“ *Jesus, You are my goal and my life. Jesus, You are my joy and my strength. Your love amazes me. Your love has gently changed my life. It is so wide, it is so high, it is so deep. Your endless love, Your unconditional love.* Azeri-language song (21st century)

MONDAY 10 NOV • ARMENIA (1)

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. Psalm 23:1-2

About 100,000 Armenian Christians

who fled from Nagorno-Karabakh in September 2023 remain in Armenia. They would dearly love to return to their homeland enclave, with its long Armenian history, but the territory is still under the control of Azerbaijan and they do not feel safe to go back, given Azerbaijan's track record of hostility and violence to them and to their Christian monuments and buildings. The financial assistance which the Armenian government used to give them is now ending but many have not yet been able to find a proper home to live in at a price they can afford. It is difficult for them to get work. As well as the homes and fields they left behind in Nagorno-Karabakh, many have lost loved ones in conflicts with Azerbaijan. They are still shocked and still grieving. Please pray that our heavenly Father will meet their needs – physical, emotional and spiritual. TBF Trust has helped some to set up small agricultural businesses.

“ *When the soul is tempest tossed, troubled and cut off by worries, then is the time to pray, so as to make the soul willing and responsive towards God.* Julian of Norwich, England (1342–1416 or later)

TUESDAY 11 NOV • ARMENIA (2)

Is anything too hard for the Lord?
Genesis 18:14

A US-brokered peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan was signed on 8 August. It ends decades of fighting, but many Armenians consider that it has brought peace without justice. There is nothing in it for the Armenian Christians of

Nagorno-Karabakh whose homeland continues to be controlled by Muslim Azerbaijan, which seized it in 2023. Many Armenians feel that one of the main aspects of Azeri identity is being anti-Armenian and so they do not want to live under Azerbaijani rule. As part of the deal, the US will help build a transit corridor, named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, which will run through Armenia, linking Azerbaijan with the Azeri-populated territory of Nakhchivan that lies within Armenia. Many Armenians are uneasy about Azerbaijan having control over a swathe of Armenia. Pray for justice as well as peace to be established.

*“ Be thou only, O Lord, my portion,
As thou wast for Paul, who loved thee,
That I may not exchange thee for any creature,
Not even under different kinds of torments.
Nerses Shnorhali, Armenian
(1102-1173)*

WEDNESDAY 12 NOV • IRAN (1)

The LORD sets the prisoners free.
Psalm 146:7

At least 54 Farsi-speaking Christians have been arrested in the five weeks after Iran's 12-day conflict with Israel in June. Prior to that conflict there were already about 60 Christians either in detention or in the process of being tried on charges related to their faith. The post-conflict arrests occurred as part of a crackdown on groups which the Iranian government claims took part in anti-regime activities during the conflict, including Baluchis, Kurds, Baha'is, journalists and monarchists. Iranian Christians

ask prayer that the Church will be emboldened in the face of this wave of persecution, that the Iranian government will realise that Christians do not have a political agenda, and for the protection of those caught in this crackdown.

*“ In times of exhaustion and sorrow,
in times of joy and honour. I hasten to you, for I know the door is always open for me. My only beloved, in this world I only have you. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti, Iran
(1920-2008)*

THURSDAY 13 NOV • IRAN (2)

*Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.*
Psalm 118:5

Please continue to pray for Mehran Shamloui (aged 37), a Christian convert from Islam, who is serving a 10-year prison sentence for his involvement in house church activities. After being given this lengthy sentence but before he was summoned to start serving it, he fled to Turkey. Then he was deported from Turkey back to Iran. He was also fined and sentenced to deprivation of social rights, such as access to healthcare, employment or education for 11 years. Pray also for two other Christians arrested and tried with him, Mr Abbas Soori and Ms Narges Nasr, who were given even longer sentences. Iran's Supreme Court have rejected the applications of all three for a re-trial. Narges was pregnant with her first child when she was given a 16-year sentence and will have given birth by now. Pray for strength to endure, and that, if it is God's will, they will all be released early.

“ You are my reason and my companion. O my dear Lover, I give you my life. O gracious Lord, happy is the day that I join You. O Good Shepherd, I will always rest in You. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti, Iran (1920-2008)

FRIDAY 14 NOV • INDONESIA (2)

The testing of your faith produces steadfastness. James 1:3 (ESV)

Two children in a Sunday School class of about 30 were injured when a group of Muslim extremists shouting “Allahu akbar” and “Destroy everything” attacked on 27 July. The incident occurred at a “prayer house” in Padang Sarai village, West Sumatra, whose congregation mostly come from the Christian-majority island of Nias. The Muslims were armed with knives, sticks and stones. The two children (aged 11 and 8) were hit by hard objects thrown by the mob and had to be taken to hospital. The attackers also smashed windows, and destroyed furniture and electronic equipment. Nine people were later arrested. The mayor of Padang apologised for the incident and said that he would ask the Social Services Agency to provide trauma healing for the children and all Christians in the area. Thank the Lord for this supportive attitude from local officials.

“ To keep our hand on the plough while wiping away our tears -- THAT is Christianity! Watchman Nee, China (1903-72)

SATURDAY 15 NOV • INDONESIA (3)

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

On 2 August a Christian prayer house, used by multiple congregations, was closed and sealed by the Indonesian authorities. They also expelled evangelist Dani Natanael from the sub-district and indefinitely halted all Christian activities there. Immanuel prayer house, located in a village in Caringin Sub-District of West Java, was alleged to lack a permit for a worship building although the pastor says their paperwork was in order. Pray for Dani who, with his young son, has taken refuge in another part of Indonesia. Pray also for the many Christians who would now have to travel for about three hours to get to the next nearest building for Christian worship. Ask that they may know the presence of Immanuel (God with us) even if they cannot gather together to worship Him.

“ I am precious in His sight, He will hold me fast; Those He saves are His delight, He will hold me fast. Ada Habershon, England (1861-1918)

SUNDAY 16 NOV • INDONESIA (4)

Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come. Psalm 71:3 (ESV)

Rioting which broke out in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on 25 August soon spread across the nation. By early September at least eight people had died, with dozens injured and much property damaged including arson attacks on government buildings. Economic dissatisfaction and anti-corruption protests appeared to be the main causes. But Christians ask prayer that the riots will not be exploited by provocateurs to incite

violent ethnic divisions, as seen in 1998 when there was serious violence against Indonesia's Chinese minority, among whom are many Christians. Pray also against any attempts to fuel religious tensions, particularly anti-Christian sentiments, such as happened in the devastating violence afflicting the Maluku islands in 1999-2002.

“ Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon. Francis of Assisi, Italy (1182-1226)

MONDAY 17 NOV • LAOS

Fear not, for I am with you. Isaiah 41:10

The laws of Laos grant Christians freedom to worship and to preach and to keep in touch with Christians outside of Laos. But these laws were not always enforced in rural areas, where the village leaders or other local authorities would often harass them, for example evicting them from their homes and banning them from their fields. Since July the role of Village Chief has been abolished and replaced with a Governing Committee. Pray that this will give more protection for Christians in rural areas of Laos.

“ I am no longer afraid because I belong to the Lord. I am ready for anything. Tito Thopanhong, Laos (1947-2025)

TUESDAY 18 NOV • VIETNAM

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Colossians 4:3

Nay Y Blang, from one of Vietnam's Montagnard ethnic groups, is in prison, serving a sentence of four and a half years. His expected release date is 18 November 2027. His “crimes” were to host prayer meetings in his home, work for religious freedom, and belong to a denomination not recognised by the Vietnamese authorities. He has been in prison for his faith before and has also been fined. Other ways in which the officials harass Montagnard Christians include discrimination, beatings and attempts to force them to deny Christ. They are targeted partly for their Christian faith and partly for their ethnicity as the officials fear tribal separatism. Nay Y Blang had no defence lawyer representing him in court. Pray that God will use him for His purposes during his remaining two years in behind bars.

“ With chains of hope You bind me. Patrick Sookhdeo, Guyana (born 1947)

WEDNESDAY 19 NOV • ALGERIA

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)

The small Christian community is mainly from the ethnic Berber minority, who are the indigenous people of the land, not from the Arab majority. Most of the Christians are first-, second- or third-generation converts from Islam. Christians who evangelise Muslims risk a jail sentence but there is no penalty for choosing to leave Islam. Many congregations have had their church buildings forcibly closed by the

authorities. Pray that church buildings will reopen, in the Lord's perfect timing, so Christians can meet for worship in larger numbers, and that full religious freedom will be granted.

“ *Our hearts were made for you, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you.* Augustine of Hippo (modern Annaba, Algeria) (354-430)

THURSDAY 20 NOV • SAUDI ARABIA

When I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10 (ESV)

Lift up to our heavenly Father our brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia, who follow Christ with quiet courage and steadfast faith in a country where Islam is the only religion that can be publicly practised. Many Christians are migrant workers, especially from India and the Philippines, often living and working in very harsh and oppressive conditions. There are a small number of Saudi converts from Islam, who face the possibility of severe persecution or even death if they make their Christian faith known. Pray that all may be strengthened and encouraged as they walk daily with the Lord.

“ *Prayer makes the darkened clouds withdraw; Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw.* William Cowper, England (1731-1800)

FRIDAY 21 NOV • QATAR

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. Psalm 19:7 (ESV)

Thousands of copies of the Gospel of John and the New Testament

were distributed in Qatar by the Bible Society during the football World Cup in November 2022. The Scriptures were provided in many languages including Arabic, English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Malayalam, Nepali, Portuguese, Sinhala, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil and Telugu. Three years on, pray that these books and booklets will continue to be read and to bear fruit in the lives of many, especially expatriate workers in Qatar who often endure great hardship and loneliness as they live and work in harsh conditions to earn money to support their families. Pray for the impact of the life-giving Word of God on lonely and unhappy people who are beset with troubles.

“ *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* John 8:12

SATURDAY 22 NOV • LIBYA

“Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD. Psalm 12:5 (ESV)

Most of the Christians in Libya are migrant workers from sub-Saharan Africa. There are also other African Christians passing through Libya, attempting to cross to Europe and earn money to send back to their needy families; they are often subject to severe abuse while they wait in Libya. Additionally there is a small number of Libyan converts from Islam – only the Lord knows how many. The country is chaotic, violent and strongly Islamic. It is one of the few 21st century nations which has an official death penalty for apostasy from Islam.

Pray for the protection of our very vulnerable brothers and sisters.

“ When thou speakest to Him and sayest ‘Jesus,’ through custom, it shall be in thine ears joy, in thy mouth honey, and in thy heart melody. Richard Rolle, England (c.1300–1349)

SUNDAY 23 NOV • NIGERIA (3)

O my God, make haste to help me!
Psalm 71:12 (ESV)

When five Christian farmers went to check the crops in their fields near Gumel village, Balewa county, in Bauchi State on 27 August, they found that Fulani extremists were grazing their cattle on the farmers’ land. The Fulanis attacked the farmers, killing one and wounding three. After the incident, the Fulanis apparently continued grazing their animals on the Christians’ crops. It was only one of reportedly hundreds of similar incidents in late August targeting Christian farmers. “We solicit that we all go on our knees for prayers to our loving God to bring this conflict to a swift end for the betterment of our land and people,” said Rev. Samson Habila, the Balewa County Chair of the Christian Association of Nigeria.

“ Eternal Light, shine into our hearts, Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil, Eternal Power, be our support. Alcuin of York, England (735-804)

MONDAY 24 NOV • ERITREA

Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. Acts 12:5 (ESV)

Seven Christian leaders have been in prison for more than 20 years. Conditions are atrocious. One of the seven is Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus who was Eritrea’s only psychiatrist, held many government-appointed commissions, and used to appear regularly on Eritrean TV. He felt a calling to serve the Lord fulltime and was ordained in the Eritrean Orthodox Church. This is one of the denominations allowed to function by the Eritrean government, but Dr Futsum became involved in a renewal movement within it, called the Medhane Alem Bible study group. Because of this he was arrested in November 2004 and has been held incommunicado ever since. Meanwhile his wife and father have died. The latest news is that in late 2023 he was in good health and being held in a room with several other senior pastors. Please pray for Dr Futsum and all the imprisoned Eritrean believers that they will soon be released.

“ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. ‘Quick, get up!’ he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. Acts 12:7

TUESDAY 25 NOV • MOZAMBIQUE

For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. 2 Chronicles 20:12

Pray for an end to the brutal violence in northern areas of Mozambique in which jihadi fighters target Christians and moderate Muslims. Ask that our

brothers and sisters will be given fresh grace to sustain them and the power to forgive those who are killing their loved ones, burning their homes and church buildings. Pray that the Mozambican authorities will succeed in restoring order and stability.

“ On our Father’s love relying, Jesus every need supplying, In our living, in our dying, All must be well. Mary Peters, England (1813-1856)

WEDNESDAY 26 NOV •

LAKE CHAD BASIN

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Isaiah 52:10 (ESV)

Lake Chad, surrounded by Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, is a centre of Islamist terrorism. Christians in these countries are a main target of the terrorists. An overlooked Islamist group known as JAS has made a comeback in 2025 and is causing immense suffering. Most of their attacks are directed against civilians. JAS has massacred dozens of people it accuses of cooperating with Nigeria’s military. Its Ghazwah wing is notorious for robbery and ransom attacks, even targeting humanitarian organisation and people living in displacement camps. Pray that the Lord will thwart the plans of the terrorists and change their hearts so that they turn away from violence.

“ Why do so many Christians pray such tiny prayers when their God is so big? Watchman Nee, China (1903-72)

THURSDAY 27 NOV • NIGERIA (4)

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12 (ESV)

Seven more Christians were killed in Guma county, Benue state, during August. This followed the deaths of about 200 Christians in a single attack on Yelwata village in the same country in June. Fulani extremists chased and shot at Christian farmers as if they were animals said a Christian from Tse Orkpe village, describing an attack on 24 August, which resulted in two deaths. Another two were killed in an attack on Uikpam village on 13 August and three when Yelwata was attacked again on 11 August. All the villages targeted are predominantly Christian. Cry to the Lord for an end to this violence against our brothers and sisters.

“ The world will see that killing one Christian is actually multiplying us. An African Christian reflecting on a massacre of Christians in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) in 1978

FRIDAY 28 NOV • SRI LANKA

The Lord is with me; he is my helper. Psalm 118:7

Sri Lanka is predominantly Buddhist, with Christian, Hindu and Muslim minorities. Christians can face hostility and violence from Buddhist extremists, Hindu extremists and Muslim extremists. Many Christians are very poor and suffered greatly

during Covid times and the economic crisis which Sri Lanka has passed through after that. Praise God that there are Christians in both the main ethnic groups of Sri Lanka - Sinhala majority and Tamil minority - and pray that they will be a blessing to their country.

“ *Prayer fastens the soul to God making it one with his will through the deep inward working of the Holy Spirit* Julian of Norwich, England (1342–1416 or later)

SATURDAY 29 NOV • PAKISTAN (3)

You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust O Lord, from my youth. Psalm 71:5 (ESV)

Maria Shahbaz (aged 13) went out to a shop in the street where she lived in Lahore on 29 July but never came back. The family began searching for her and discovered that a 30-year-old Muslim man called Ahmad had abducted her. Two days later she appeared in court to testify that she was an adult, had converted to Islam and married Ahmad of her own free will. The family are sure she spoke under duress but, with the court ruling in Ahmad's favour, the police will not act. Maria left school about four years ago and began working with her mother as a domestic helper in other people's homes to earn money to help support the family. Ask the Lord to intervene and rescue Maria. Sadly, there are many cases like Maria's in Pakistan, affecting both Christian and Hindu girls.

“ *For he is our childhood's pattern; Day by day, like us He grew; He was little, weak and helpless,*

*Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.*
Cecil Frances Alexander, Ireland
(1818-1895)

SUNDAY 30 NOV • PAKISTAN (4)

Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause ... Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked. Psalm 43:1

When Amir Peter, a 60-year-old Christian living in Lahore, Pakistan, was overcharged for some groceries by a Muslim shopkeeper, the consequences for Amir were horrifying. He confronted the shopkeeper which led first to a verbal quarrel and then to a physical attack on Amir by the shopkeeper. Bystanders rescued Amir but much worse was to follow a couple of hours later when he was arrested on an allegation of defiling the name of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, a charge which carries a mandatory death sentence in Pakistan. Amir told his lawyers that the charge was completely baseless and religion had not been mentioned during his altercation with the shopkeeper. Pray that the charge against him will be speedily dropped.

“ *As a Christian, I believe Jesus is my strength. He has given me a power and wisdom and motivation to serve suffering humanity... I am ready to die and sacrifice my life for the principles I believe.* Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan (1968-2011 assassinated for his opposition to Pakistan's "blasphemy laws")



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