



PRAYER DIARY

Praying in Christ's Name for His Suffering Church

December 2025 - January 2026



And this is the confidence that we have towards Him,
that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask,
we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

1 John 5:14-15

December

MONDAY 1 DEC • PAKISTAN

He will swallow up death for ever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces. Isaiah 25:8

Thirteen years ago Zafar Bhatti was imprisoned for sending two text messages allegedly breaking Pakistan's "blasphemy laws". Zafar denied the charges and thought he had been framed because he was a Christian. Before his arrest he would sell medicines door-to-door, reading the Bible and praying with the families he visited. On 2 October 2025 his conviction was overturned at the Lahore High Court. That night he was released from prison and reunited with his wife Nawab. But three days later he died of a heart attack, probably linked to the harsh conditions in prison: beatings, poisoned food and pressure from Muslim prisoners to convert to Islam. Pray for the Lord's comfort for Nawab, who is elderly and frail. When she heard of Zafar's acquittal she wept with relief, saying she felt she had been given a new lease of life. Three days later she was weeping with grief. Zafar and Nawab are childless.

“ Zafar Bhatti's faith never wavered, even through years of injustice and pain. Juliet Chowdhry, British Asian Christian Association

TUESDAY 2 DEC • PAKISTAN

He will rule with goodness and justice forever and ever. Isaiah 9:7 (ERV)

Pakistan's "blasphemy laws" are frequently misused to settle grudges.

They lay down very severe mandatory sentences, including (since 1991) death for defiling the name of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, but there is no penalty for false accusation. Many Pakistanis of all religions have suffered false accusation, but non-Muslims are particularly vulnerable. Some brave people, both Muslims and Christians, have been assassinated for trying to have the law amended or repealed so that it cannot be misused. Pray for success in these efforts.

“ I want that my life, my character, my actions speak for me and indicate that I am following Jesus Christ. Because of this desire, I will consider myself even to be more fortunate if – in this effort and struggle to help the needy, the poor, to help the persecuted and victimised Christians of Pakistan – Jesus Christ will accept the sacrifice of my life. I want to live for Christ and I want to die for Him. Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan (1968-2011 assassinated for his opposition to Pakistan's "blasphemy laws")

WEDNESDAY 3 DEC • PAKISTAN

Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. Acts 14:22

It was very difficult for Nadeem Masih to earn a living even though he had a degree. As a Christian and as a blind person, he faced a double challenge in finding a job but he made a few rupees by providing weighing scales for small traders at Model Town Park in Lahore. Sometimes visitors gave him extra money because of his disability, but Muslim workers in

the park would often steal it from his pocket. They also called him names and threw water on him. On 21 August 2025 Nadeem found that some of the Muslims working at the park would not let him set up his usual little stall. When he protested, they took him to the police station and accused him of “blasphemy”. The police registered a case under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code which has a mandatory death sentence. In custody he has been repeatedly beaten. Pray that the charge against Nadeem will be dropped and he will be released.

“ O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee. George Matheson, Scotland (1842-1906)

THURSDAY 4 DEC • AFGHANISTAN

And he came in the Spirit into the temple.
Luke 2:27

Christian radio is being used by the Holy Spirit to bring Afghan Muslims to Christ. Here are some of their comments. “Several years ago, one of you brothers prayed for me and with me, and after that my life was changed. I listen to the Dari, Pashto and Hazaragi programmes and I pray for all of you who share the Good news with our people.” “We read together from the Bible that has passed down through my family. I cannot read but my husband and children can. We are all believers in Jesus Christ.” “I thought I’d lost you. I am crying tears of joy now. I am doing well and happy that the Lord is with me. You introduced me to the Lord Jesus and, when I am in need or in pain, I call on Him and he hears my cry and prayers.” Pray for these brothers and sisters, whom we shall meet in heaven.

“ I love Jesus and the Injil [New Testament]. I listen to [the radio programme] and I have learnt so much from the programmes. But I wish that I could go to a church and meet brothers and sisters in Christ and pray together. – A Christian man in Afghanistan (a country where there are no church buildings), 2024

FRIDAY 5 DEC • SUDAN (1)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2

In late October the city of El Fasher, in Sudan’s Darfur region, fell to the RSF forces after a siege of 18 months. A terrible massacre of the hungry civilians in the city followed. Soon afterwards it was reported that satellite images showed “piles of bodies executed en masse”. The fall of El Fasher looks set to be a turning point in the civil war that has raged since April 2023, in which the RSF (Rapid Support Forces) are pitted against the Sudanese army. An estimated 40,000 people have been killed and millions displaced. The RSF has in the past denied accusations of killing civilians and targeting non-Arab ethnic groups, despite evidence presented by human rights organisations. Christians in Darfur have faced repeated attacks on church buildings by the RSF and violent attempts to force them to convert to Islam. Ask the Lord God almighty to intervene.

“ People live in fear because of bullets, hunger and health reasons. People lost their properties while they live as displaced in their homeland and still others as

refugees in foreign countries.

People's lives are like living in darkness and they see no future.

Ezekiel Kondo, Sudan (born 1957) describing the situation in Sudan at Christmas 2023

SATURDAY 6 DEC • SUDAN (2)

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end. Isaiah 9:6

The Church in Sudan is trying to provide aid to the neediest but is desperately lacking in resources. Church leaders feel that the suffering in their country is being neglected by the international media even though, in the words of Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo, “people are being slaughtered as goats” in Darfur. Pray for an end to this terrible suffering. Pray that the remaining Christians and their pastors can be a source of hope, peace and blessing to their nation. At Christmas 2023 Archbishop Ezekiel appealed for peace: “Continuing using guns, there will be no people left to rule over, nor will there be a country called Sudan to live in. Enough is enough to the suffering of innocent people. Enough is enough to death.” But the war has continued for another two years.

“ *Despite the instability, we thank God for His faithfulness, believing that he will intervene at his own time. We wish to express our thanks and gratitude to our friends and partners abroad and within Sudan for standing in solidarity, support, encouragement and prayer for the Sudanese people in general and Christians in particular.* Ezekiel Kondo, Sudan (born 1957) in his Christmas message 2023

SUNDAY 7 DEC • SOMALIA

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Somali Christians are almost all converts from Islam; they face great danger from family, community and zealous Muslims if their faith in Christ is known. Many have been martyred. Somalia is the home of a very active Islamist militant group called Al Shabaab who have often launched attacks in neighbouring Kenya. The country is also wracked by hunger which was expected to worsen in the last few months of 2025. Ask the Lord Jesus to have mercy on Somalia and pray that Somali Christians will have courage, discernment and perseverance.

“ *Jesus, God's right hand, Pray for me. Jesus Son of the Father, Pray for me. Jesus, Divine Intercessor, Pray for me.* Patrick Sookhdeo, Guyana (born 1947)

MONDAY 8 DEC • IRAN (1)

Now after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men [magi] from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1-2

Celebrating Christmas was one of the pieces of evidence cited against three believers currently in prison in Iran. They were arrested in February 2025 and charged in June with “gathering and collusion” and “propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran”. Their indictment also mentioned praying,

performing baptisms and taking communion. Please pray for Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh and Aida Najafloo (both converts from Islam) and Joseph Shahbazian (an Armenian Iranian Christian). All have been arrested before for their Christian activities. Two other Christians charged with them in June are out of prison on bail.

” The magi who followed a star to find the baby in the stable in Bethlehem were ... wise men from the east, and tradition has it that at least one was from Persia [Iran]. He represents perhaps something of the yearning Persian heart searching for wholeness, belonging, meaning, seeking the Messiah and finding him in the Christ Child. Guli Francis-Dehqani, Iran (born 1966)

TUESDAY 9 DEC • IRAN (2)

For you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. Malachi 4:2

Please pray for Aida Najafloo (43) in prison in Iran (see above). On 31 October she fell from a top bunk bed in the prison cell and fractured her spine. She was taken to hospital and x-rayed. Doctors recommended urgent surgery and a long recovery period, but she was sent back to prison the same day, on a stretcher and in great pain. Protests from other prisoners eventually resulted in her transfer to another hospital. Aida, a Christian convert from Islam, has rheumatoid arthritis and when arrested was still recovering from spinal disc surgery. She had repeatedly asked the prison authorities to be assigned a lower bunk. Pray that she will be released and allowed to go home to her

two sons, aged 10 and 13. The older son has arthritis and had serious spinal surgery earlier this year. He misses his mother desperately.

” Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings. Charles Wesley, England (1707-1788)

WEDNESDAY 10 DEC • ARMENIA (1)

The government will be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Clergy of all ranks and lay staff of the Armenian Apostolic Church were targeted by law enforcement agencies in Aragatsotn, Armenia on 15 October. Bishop Mkrtich Proshyan and one of his clergymen were detained. “These actions were accompanied by completely unfounded and unjustified searches, deceptive detentions, concealment of the detainees’ whereabouts, and deprivation of their right to legal assistance,” said a church statement the next day. The statement accused the Armenian government of “a malicious and deliberate agenda aimed at undermining and dismantling the Armenian Church, targeting the clergy, and abusing state mechanisms to exert pressure and carry out defamation campaigns.” Pray that the judicial and law enforcement bodies in Armenia will act strictly within the framework of the law, and not succumb to pressure to abuse their power.

” Born a King on Bethlehem plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,

*King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.* John Henry
Hopkins, Jr., USA (1820-1891)

THURSDAY 11 DEC • ARMENIA (2)

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The persecution of church leaders in Armenia is causing great distress to ordinary Armenian Christians. "The spiritual feelings of the faithful have been openly trampled upon and disrespected," said a church statement on 16 October, referring to churches being closed, services cancelled and funerals carried out without a church minister present. The statement called upon all Christians in Armenia "not to retreat, but to remain steadfast in faith and prayer, to fear neither dangers nor threats, and to exert every effort to resist the injustice and lawlessness taking place in our country." Pray for our brothers and sisters in Armenia.

" *May the Lord grant strength and courage to our brothers and faithful servants deprived of their freedom, and may He preserve our country and the Holy Apostolic Church unshaken—now and forever. Amen.* Statement from the leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church, 16 October 2025

FRIDAY 12 DEC •

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives. Luke 4:18

Today we share with you a prayer from the Armenian Church of the UK and Ireland. It focuses on Armenian

Christians still held captive after Nagorno-Karabakh was seized by Azerbaijan in September 2023 as well as to church leaders imprisoned in Armenia in 2025. "We pray for the 23 hostages still detained in Baku, Azerbaijan, as well as the bishops, priests, and civilians wrongly arrested in our homeland of Armenia. We pray for understanding, for the healing of all hurts, and for the reconciliation of conflict in our society. Moreover, we pray for peace: peace in Armenia, in Ukraine, and the world."

" *For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold, When
with the ever-circling years Comes
round the age of gold; When peace
shall over all the earth its ancient
splendours fling, And the whole
world send back the song Which
now the angels sing.* Edmund H.
Sears, USA (1810-1876)

SATURDAY 13 DEC • SYRIA

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:35-37

Cousins Wissam and Shafiq, both aged 39, both Christians, died in a hail of bullets fired by a masked man on a motorbike on 1 October. They were chatting over coffee in a village in Wadi al-Nasara (Valley of the Christians) when the gunman sped past, coming from the direction of a nearby Sunni Muslim village. After one year of Sunni

Islamist rule in Syria, the situation of Christians has become very difficult and dangerous. Those who have left Islam to follow Christ are especially vulnerable. It was an almost overnight change from a secular society where followers of all religions were on an equal footing, to a society based on classical Islam with non-Muslims viewed as second-class members and converts from Islam as deserving of death. Pray that Syrian Christians will stand firm. Pray also for Syrian Alawites who follow an offshoot of Shia Islam – they are being targeted ferociously because ousted President Assad was an Alawite.

“ The way of the cross has suddenly become so meaningful that we have willingly walked in it with our Lord near us. Our numbers have become smaller, our earthly supports have gone, but we are learning the meaning of faith in a new and deeper way. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti, Iran (1920-2008) at height of the Iranian Revolution

SUNDAY 14 DEC • SAUDI ARABIA

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”. Mark 1:3

Saudi Arabia is strictly Islamic, with the widespread application of sharia (Islamic law). There is a large community of Christian migrant workers, especially from Asia and Africa, many of them enduring harsh conditions. There are also Saudi converts from Islam to Christianity, but most are secret believers because they could be killed for leaving Islam, either murdered by relatives or executed by the state. In the last few years,

Christmas decorations have been openly on sale and there are even Christmas-themed public events. God willing, Christmas church services will be held in Western embassies, without secrecy. All this is an astonishing change in a country where there are no church buildings and not long ago any public indication of Christianity was banned. Pray that this trend will extend to freedom of religion for Saudi people and that the Saudi authorities will allow each individual to decide for themselves which faith they will follow, without fear of punishment.

“ Joy to the world; the Lord is come.
Isaac Watts, England (1674-1748)

MONDAY 15 DEC • UGANDA (1)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Luke 1:38 (KJV)

When Mrs Kulusumu Namulondo and her two children (aged 12 and 9) went to church on Sunday 12 October, her Muslim husband was furious that she had left Islam to follow Christ. Afterwards he phoned, insulting her, blaming her for misleading the children and telling her she had brought shame on the family. The church leaders sprang into action, finding alternative accommodation for Kulusumu and the children. But her husband tracked them down and the next day attacked his wife with a stick, telling her that she should die for leaving Islam. The children tried to rescue their mother but were themselves injured, the son's arm broken by his father's angry blows. When neighbours arrived, her husband fled. Kulusumu and the children spent three days in hospital. During this time her husband

and some other Muslim extremists demolished the flimsy church building where she had been worshipping, less than a week before. Please pray for physical and emotional healing for mother and children, and that they will not waver in their love for the Lord. Pray that Kulusumu's husband will repent and come to faith in Christ.

“ Alleluia, we triumph in victory, the serpent's head bruised, Christ's kingdom exalted, and heaven laid open to sinners. Amen. Godfrey Goodman, Wales (1582/3-1656)

TUESDAY 16 DEC • MOZAMBIQUE

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:23

Islamic State Mozambique Province (ISMP) claimed responsibility for a spate of attacks against Christians and church buildings in September. In at least eight separate attacks in the last few days of the month, they killed eight Christians (three of them beheaded), and burned at least 134 Christian homes and six churches. These attacks took place not only in Cabo Delgado province, which has been the focus of jihadist violence since 2017, but also in neighbouring Nampula province. Pray that Immanuel will make His presence very real to Christians in northern Mozambique as they endure this brutal persecution

“ Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity, Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel. Charles Wesley, England (1707-1788)

WEDNESDAY 17 DEC • KYRGYZSTAN

...to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear...

Luke 1:74

On 14 September a congregation in Bishkek were meeting for Sunday worship and to celebrate harvest festival. The service was raided by secret police from the National Security Committee, who filmed the proceedings, took some of the literature for “expert analysis” and threatened to close the church, reports Forum 18. The pastor and deacon were issued with fines. Pray that our brothers and sisters will not give way to fear and that they will be able to give peace and confidence in the Lord to their children who are said to have been very frightened by the incident.

“ 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)

THURSDAY 18 DEC • UZBEKISTAN

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6

Since April 2023 Uzbekistan has been defined in its constitution as a “secular state” in which the state must not interfere with the activities of religious organisations. But a 2021 law still requires all religious groups to register in order to operate legally. Churches find registration very difficult to obtain. Citizens are allowed to choose their faith but no one is allowed to try to

convert someone else. This confusing legal framework exists in a country whose population is overwhelmingly Muslim, and where Islamic practices are becoming more visible. Converts to Christianity can face persecution at a community level. Pray that the Lord will guide His people in this complex and dangerous context

**” Hush do not wake the Infant King.
Soon comes the cross, the nails,
the piercing, Then in the grave
at last reposing: Sing lullaby!**
Translated from Basque by Sabine
Baring-Gould, England (1834-1924)

FRIDAY 19 DEC • FRANCE (1)

*The LORD searches all hearts and
understands every plan and thought. If
you seek him, he will be found by you.*
1 Chronicles 28:9

Three Muslim women have been arrested, suspected of planning a suicide bombing in central Paris, targeting non-Muslims. The women, who are French citizens aged 18, 19 and 21, followed an extremist version of Islam. They are believed to have spent most of their time at home studying jihadist content on Snapchat, Telegram and TikTok, while also enquiring how to make a suicide belt and buy a Kalashnikov rifle. Thank our loving heavenly Father that the plots was not carried out and pray that these women, devoutly seeking to please God as they understand him, may find the God of love, who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**” The kingdom of God is justice and
peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the**

gates of your kingdom. The Taizé
Community, France, 2001

SATURDAY 20 DEC • FRANCE (2)

*The angel said to them, “Fear not, for
behold, I bring you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.* Luke 2:10

On 5 November a Frenchman called Jean Guillot, shouting “Allahu Akbar” and others Islamic slogans, drove his car into a crowd of pedestrians and cyclists on the French resort island of Oléron. After ramming the crowd, he tried to set his car on fire but was quickly arrested by police. At least ten people were injured, four of them seriously. He said he was a recent convert to Islam, influenced only by social media, and that he had been acting under the orders of Allah when he made his attack. Pray that he may hear the voice of Jesus and find the joy of salvation.

**” The beginning of solid joy is to
perceive the fatherly love of God
toward us, for that alone gives
tranquillity to our minds.** John
Calvin, France (1509-1564)

SUNDAY 21 DEC • BANGLADESH

Do not let your hearts be troubled. John 14:1

Bomb attacks on two churches and a Christian school in October and November caused no injuries but have created alarm amongst Bangladesh's small Christian community. Anti-Christian violence used to be rare in Bangladesh, but after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's secular government in August 2024 there has been a rise in Islamist militancy and a worrying trend of violence and intimidation against Hindus, Buddhists and Christians in

recent months. Pray for a restoration of communal harmony in Bangladesh and that Christians will continue to attend church services.

“ Faith must never become a reason for fear – a church minister in Bangladesh, speaking after the bomb attack on a church service on 7 November

MONDAY 22 DEC • MYANMAR

In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 1 Chronicles 29:12

A general election is scheduled to be held in Myanmar on 28 December (first phase) and 11 January (second phase). If it goes ahead, it will be the first election since the military coup in February 2021 but many fear it will be a sham. Some parties are refusing to field candidates. The military government is battling various insurgencies across the country. Christians have been violently persecuted by the state for the last 60 years. Most Christians are from the ethnic minorities, so they are targeted for being non-Bamar (non-Burman) as well as for being non-Buddhist. Pray that the Lord will raise to power in Myanmar those who will bring peace, freedom, equality and harmony.

“ He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love. Isaac Watts, England (1674-1748)

TUESDAY 23 DEC • VIETNAM

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)

Y Pum Bya, a church leader in Vietnam's Central Highlands, is halfway through his 14-year prison sentence. He has been found guilty of “undermining national unity policy” for peacefully promoting religious freedom and human rights for his fellow Montagnard people. He had previously served eight years in prison on the same charge. The first time he was detained was in the 1990s when police raided a Christmas gathering in his home which the police said was an “illegal assembly”. That time his detention was only ten days. Pray that Y Pum Bya (aged 60) and other Vietnamese believers will remain strong in their faith despite detention, interrogations, beatings and torture.

“ How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given. So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heaven. No ear my hear his coming; But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in. Phillips Brooks, USA (1835-1893)

WEDNESDAY 24 DEC •

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.” Luke 2:13-14

Pray for the protection of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world as they meet together over the Christmas and New Year period. Christmas is often a time of extra violence against Christians and the same applies to the Western New Year because this is considered by some to be a Christian

festival. Ask the Lord, who sent His angels to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, to send His angels to watch over His faithful people, as they meet to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

**” Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story Now
proclaim Messiah’s birth. James
Montgomery, Scotland (1771-
1854)**

THURSDAY 25 DEC • NIGERIA (1)

*Unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11.*

A 12-year-old boy called Saviour Emmanuel was among seven Christians killed in an attack on Damakasuwa town, Kaduna State on 31 October. Hundreds of Christians attended the joint funeral, some of them travelling long distances to get there. Pastor Madaki Sarki told mourners that they were burying their loved ones but not their hope. Pray for the bereaved today, as they celebrate the incarnation of our Lord for the first time without beloved family members. Pray that they will find hope and comfort in the knowledge that their loved ones died for Christ and are with Him in glory.

**” Hush, do not stir the Infant King,
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome
morning, Conquering Death, its
bondage breaking: Sing lullaby!
Translated from Basque by Sabine
Baring-Gould, England (1834-1924)**

FRIDAY 26 DEC • NIGERIA (2)

*A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and
loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her
children; she refused to be comforted because
they are no more. Matthew 2:18*

A local resident, Rahila Chawaig, commented that the Damakasuwa Christian community (see above) left the funeral with heavy hearts but also with a renewed sense of togetherness, determined that love and peace would triumph over fear and violence. “As the last prayers were said and the graves covered, the sound of sobbing gave way to quiet determination,” Rahila told the Christian Daily International – Morning Star News. Pray that the Lord will use their desires and determination, their faith and their unity, to bring the peace that they long for.

**” The funeral is a ceremony of tears
being shed by Christians in the
midst of deliberate violence against
us because of our Christian faith.
Daniel Dodo, Nigeria, a local
resident speaking about the funeral
of 12-year-old Saviour Emmanuel
and six adults aged 30 to 57**

SATURDAY 27 DEC • EGYPT

*An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph
in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child
and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and
remain there until I tell you, for Herod is
about to search for the child to destroy him.”
Matthew 2:13*

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. Ask that the Lord will enable them to earn a living despite the discrimination they often face. TBF Trust is funding some small

business start-ups for poor Christians – pray that they will flourish. Ask that Christians will hold on to the Lord Jesus, in the land where He and His earthly parents found refuge and where His Name has been loved by believers for almost 2,000 years.

“ All our life is like a day of celebration for us; we are convinced, in fact, that God is always everywhere. We work while singing, we sail while reciting hymns, we accomplish all other occupations of life while praying. Clement of Alexandria, Egypt (died 215)

SUNDAY 28 DEC • MOROCCO

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
Psalm 36:7

Violent protests by young people rocked Morocco in late September. The protestors, who called themselves GenZ 212, were outraged with the amount of money being spent on stadiums for the FIFA World Cup in 2030 while hospitals and schools are in an abysmal condition. Pray for the small community of Moroccan believers (converts from Islam), who officially do not exist because all Moroccan citizens are supposed to be Muslims. In recent years the Moroccan authorities have turned a blind eye to Moroccan Christians who practise their faith discreetly. Pray that this will continue and that Christians will not be targeted either by the protestors or by the government and security forces as this turmoil plays out.

“ A man becomes a Christian; he is not born one. Tertullian, Carthage, in modern Tunisia (c.155-c.230)

MONDAY 29 DEC •

WESTERN SAHARA

He turns a desert into pools of water.
Psalm 107:35

The UN Security Council has voted for a resolution to give Western Sahara autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty. Western Sahara, which is mainly desert, used to be a Spanish colony with a large expatriate community of Spaniards who had several church buildings. But Spain withdrew in 1975, and very soon Morocco annexed most of the territory. For decades it has been split in two by the Berm, a sand wall lined with landmines. Morocco controlled the territory to the west of the Berm, where the country's natural resources are. East of the Berm was controlled by the Polisario Front, seeking independence for Western Sahara with support from Algeria. Western Sahara is now almost 100% Muslim, although there are thought to be a few hundred expatriate Christians and a very few local indigenous converts from Islam. Pray for the protection of Western Saharan Christians, already under tight scrutiny, in this changing situation. The UN resolution was drafted by the USA. Pray that local Christians will not be punished by disappointed members of the Polisario Front, unable to take revenge on the USA.

“ Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand; The shadow of a mighty rock Within a weary land; A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way, From the burning of the noontide heat And the burden of the day. Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane, Scotland (1830-1869)

TUESDAY 30 DEC • PHILIPPINES (1)

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

"This has been a difficult year for the Philippines; we have had one disaster after another hit us. Please pray for the country and its citizens, that these hardships may cause everyone to seek the Lord's help and that they may come to know the Lord." These words came from a Baptist pastor in Metro Manila, writing as yet another super-typhoon lashed the country in November 2025. Pray that spiritual blessing may come out of all the physical destruction and suffering.

" Flee to our Lord and we shall be comforted. Touch him and we shall be made clean. Cling to him and we shall be safe and sound from every kind of danger. Julian of Norwich, England (1342–1416 or later)

WEDNESDAY 31 DEC • PHILIPPINES (2)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

The Bible is held in high esteem in Filipino society. Cultural celebrations often include Bible verses. Many schools, even secular ones, include Bible studies as part of their curriculum, with the focus on moral and ethical teaching. Many people, either as individuals or as a family, start or finish the day by reading the Scriptures. Bible verses are often displayed in homes, workplaces or on public transport and are shared on social media. Some of the most popular verses are

Philippians 4:13, Jeremiah 29:11 and Proverbs 3:5-6. Pray that in this time of suffering in the Philippines, people will find comfort and strength in God's Word and hope for the new year.

" For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

January

THURSDAY 1 JAN • NORTH KOREA

If we live, we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:8

As 2026 begins, North Korea remains probably the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. This communist country is so hostile to Christianity that Christians have been executed just for owning a Bible. Only the Lord knows how many have been put in prison cells or political labour camps, where they are abused, tortured and worked to death. Children are encouraged to report their Christian parents if they see them praying. Pray that Jesus will be everything to His faithful disciples in North Korea.

" Jesus! my Shepherd, Husband, Friend, My Prophet, Priest and King; My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, Accept the praise I bring. John Newton, England (1725-1807)

FRIDAY 2 JAN • CHINA

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is

weak in the world to shame the strong.

1 Corinthians 1:27

Please pray for all Christian educators and ministry workers in China, who are diligently equipping the next generation of believers in the growing Chinese Church. It is a challenging ministry in a communist context, so pray that each one would be guided daily by the Holy Spirit and filled with wisdom from above. Pray that those they are teaching and training may become mature in the faith.

“ When one tries to increase his knowledge by doing mental gymnastics over books without waiting upon God and looking to the guidance of the Holy Spirit ... this will deplete his spiritual life. Because the fall of man was occasioned by seeking knowledge, God uses the foolishness of the cross to “destroy the wisdom of the wise”. Watchman Nee, China (1903-1972)

SATURDAY 3 JAN • YEMEN

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
Psalm 42:2

The 10-year hunger crisis in Yemen is escalating. In October 2025 it was the world's third biggest food crisis, with half the population facing hunger, and nearly half of all children under five suffering from chronic malnutrition. The situation was rapidly deteriorating and it was predicted that by early 2026 over 18 million people across Yemen would be facing face crisis levels of hunger. Causes include conflict, economic collapse, water scarcity and climate shocks. Christians are a tiny minority,

facing all this and also the pressures of living in a strict, Islamic country. Foreign (non-Yemeni) Christians can worship together, but some have been arrested for sharing their faith with Muslims. Pray for all in Yemen that they will have peace and food. Remember our Christian brothers and sisters and pray that their faith will remain strong.

“ You're like fresh rain in a hot summer for me. You're like a shelter from the strong wind for me. You're like a beacon for a lost ship to me. You, Lord, are my Promised Land. Mavjuda, Tajikistan, 2002

SUNDAY 4 JAN • NIGER

I have written your name on the palms of my hands. Isaiah 49:16 (NIRV)

Kevin Rideout, an American missionary pilot, was kidnapped from his home in Niamey, the capital of Niger, by three armed men on the night of 21 October 2025. Kevin had been working in Niger for 15 years. His mobile phone was tracked to a location “considered a sanctuary for groups affiliated with the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara” according to Nigerien security sources. Kevin's home was in part of the city that was considered secure, so his kidnapping has caused alarm amongst Nigerien Christians (less than 0.4% of this mainly Muslim country). There are also countless African Christians who have been kidnapped by Islamists in West Africa. Although the international media take little notice, the Lord knows each one by name. Pray that they – and Kevin – will be kept safe.

“ Though we pass through tribulation, All will be well. Ours is

such a full salvation, All, all is well.
Mary Peters, England (1813-1856)

MONDAY 5 JAN • NIGERIA (3)

I will appoint a place for my people Israel and plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more... 2 Samuel 7:10

September and October saw a surge of attacks by Fulani extremists on Christian communities in Plateau State, Kwara State and Kogi State. At least 150 churches were closed down as people fled their villages. Pray that the Lord will have mercy on His people in Nigeria, that the violence against them will cease so that they can be settled on their own lands again. Pray for a renewed Christian presence and Christian witness in the villages now occupied by Fulani Muslims.

“ Prayer without partnership is paralysis. Ade Omooba, Nigeria (born 1963)

TUESDAY 6 JAN • NIGERIA (4)

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

A Nigerian church leader told TBF Trust in November that 4,000 to 5,000 Nigerian Christians were killed in the previous 12 months as direct persecution i.e. killed for being Christians. He estimated that in the same time period around 1,000 to 2,000 Nigerian Muslims had died trying to help or protect Christians. Ask our heavenly Father to comfort all the grieving families, both Christian and Muslim, and thank

Him for the courage and sacrifice of the Muslims who gave their lives to save Christians. Pray too for all the bereaved families who have lost their provider, and the children who have lost their care-giver

“ Today we weep, but we also choose unity... The blood of the innocent must bind us together, to protect one another, to stand for peace. Pastor Madaki Sarki, speaking to mourners at the funeral of seven Christians killed by Islamist extremists in Kaduna State, 8 November 2025 (see 25 Dec prayer point)

WEDNESDAY 7 JAN • NIGERIA (5)

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. Psalm 118:9

The number of Nigerian Christians killed in Islamist violence since 2009 is now at least 50,000. Some estimates are much higher. In early November, President Trump said he had ordered the US Department of War to prepare to send American troops into Nigeria to protect Christians. This shock announcement outraged Nigerian Muslims. Pray that there will not be a backlash against Christians. Pray also that the Nigerian authorities will succeed in quelling the violence

“ Ten thousand to their endless home this solemn moment fly, And we are to the margin come, and we expect to die. E'en now by faith we join our hands with those that went before, And greet the blood-besprinkled bands on the eternal shore. Charles Wesley, England (1707-1788)

THURSDAY 8 JAN • BURKINA FASO

I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Luke 10:3

After ten years of Islamist insurgency, almost two-thirds of Burkina Faso is under the control of militant Islamist groups. This is a huge change for a country which used to be noted for the harmonious coexistence of Muslims, Christians and followers of Traditional African Religions. Pray for peace and freedom to be restored throughout Burkina Faso. Christians (30% of the population) and followers of African Traditional Religions (10%) are particular targets of the Islamist militants.

“ Jesus our Lord and Saviour is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. He is also the Lion of Judah but he chose to be the Lamb who was crucified for us. So, as we interact with our brothers and sisters and people we are looking to make disciples, let us be that lamb of God. Let us be in a vulnerable position. Let us not grasp our strength, our knowledge, our credit card, our relations, but trust Him fully for He will do it. Boureima Diallo, Burkina Faso (born 1973)

FRIDAY 9 JAN • TAJIKISTAN

Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 19:14

Tajikistan is more than 90% Muslim. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to participate in public religious activities, such as Sunday School or church. Congregations find it very difficult to get official registration, which means they are acting illegally whenever they

gather for worship. Even registered churches face harassment and restrictions. There are frequent and intimidating inspections of churches, when items may be seized. Pray that the faith of Christians in Tajikistan will grow as it is tested in so many ways.

“ Without you I am like the sun without light. Without you I am like a sailing boat without wind. I'm like a child without a mother's affection. Without You, Lord, the colours of life fade. Mavjuda, Tajikistan, 2002

SATURDAY 10 JAN • CENTRAL ASIA

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Matthew 13:44

Central Asia converts from Islam to Christianity are much more vulnerable in rural areas. In a city they can be anonymous, but in villages they cannot hide. Their neighbours and relatives will know they are there, and may persecute them severely and violently for their decision to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord to watch over and protect those who have put their faith in Him wherever they are.

“ You are my hiding place, You always fill my heart With songs of deliverance. Whenever I am afraid I will trust in You. I will trust in You. Let the weak say I am strong In the strength of the Lord. Michael Ledner, USA (born 1952)

SUNDAY 11 JAN • TURKMENISTAN

We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into

the same image from one degree of glory to another. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Turkmenistan is about 90% Muslim but in a sense the real “religion” of Turkmenistan is the personality cult surrounding President Berdymukhamedov and his predecessor. It is a strongly authoritarian state and the Christian minority of about 7% (mainly Armenians and Russians) live with surveillance, restrictions, scarcity of Christian literature, insufficient church buildings for legally permitted worship, arrests, fines, imprisonment with beatings and semi-starvation. As well as these difficulties from the authorities, there can be pressure from the Muslim community, especially on the small number of converts from Islam. Pray that the challenges facing Christians in Turkmenistan may draw them closer to the Lord and to each other, and that they may grow in faith, knowledge, love and Christ-likeness.

“*In the tempest and the storm, I firmly trust. I do not know any other protection besides You. You are my peace. You’re a rock. You are my consolation. You are in every trouble, Lord, my salvation.*”
Mavjuda, Tajikistan, 2002

MONDAY 12 JAN • IRAN (3)

You will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. Matthew 10:18

In early November Morteza Faghanpour Sassi, a Christian convert from Islam, began serving a prison sentence of almost nine years. He had already done six months of pre-

trial detention in Evin Prison during which time he was reportedly tortured. Morteza, also known as Calvin, was arrested in June 2024 along with at least six other converts from Islam to Christianity. Four of them have also received long prison sentences. Charges against Morteza include “propaganda against Islam through communication with foreign entities” and seventeen months for “insulting the Supreme Leader”. They all appealed against their sentences but their appeals were rejected. They now face additional charges of “insulting Islamic sanctities”; this appears to refer them having been present at a Zoom meeting during which a Christian leader outside Iran allegedly said something considered critical of Islam. Pray that this persecution will draw Morteza and the other four closer to the Lord.

“*We cannot deny the paradox at the heart of Christianity. While we are called to speak out against injustice and alleviate suffering wherever we can, at the same time it is possible for experiences of suffering and religious persecution to take us closer to the heart of Christ from which comes compassion, love and salvation.*” Guli Francis-Dehqani, Iran (born 1966)

TUESDAY 13 JAN • IRAN (4)

The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.
Habakkuk 3:19 (NIV)

Mina Khajavi (aged 61) was released from Evin Prison in Tehran, on 20 October and is very thankful to those who prayed for her while she was

detained. She had been given a six-year prison sentence because she was leader of a house-church i.e. a church of Christians from a Muslim background. But in early 2025 her sentence was reduced to two years. Mina's ankle was broken when a car hit her, shortly before she began her time in prison. She was not given the medical treatment she needed while behind bars – please pray for healing for her ankle.

**“ To God be the glory, great things
he hath done! So loved he the
world that he gave us his Son.
Fanny Crosby, USA (1820-1915)**

WEDNESDAY 14 JAN • IRANIAN DIASPORA

*I am sure that neither death nor life, nor
angels nor rulers, nor things present nor
things to come, nor powers, nor height nor
depth, nor anything else in all creation, will
be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39*

Praise God that Iranian Muslims continue to put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Alongside this, the Iranian authorities continue to put pressure on the Muslim-background believers. Many therefore decide to leave Iran in a self-imposed exile, which is probably the result the authorities are hoping for. There are many Iranian Christians around the world, free to worship Jesus but cut off from their beloved homeland and probably still under surveillance by the Iranian embassy in whichever country they have settled. Ask that each will be guided by the Holy Spirit in all decisions.

**“ Alongside the pain of exile, there
is joy: the joy of finding welcome**

*in Christ, the joy of belonging to
his people across nations and
languages, the joy of discovering
that no border, no government, and
no human power can separate us
from the love of God. Omid Moludy,
Iran (born 1981)*

THURSDAY 15 JAN • UGANDA (2)

*Well done, good and faithful servant. You
have been faithful over a little; I will set you
over much. Enter into the joy of your master.
Matthew 25:21*

Elections are to be held in Uganda from 15 January to 6 February. Voters will be electing the president, members of parliament and local government officials. Yoweri Museveni, who has been president since 1986, is standing again for re-election. In recent years Muslims have held many positions of political power in Uganda, despite being a minority in the population. Muslims also dominate the business sphere. Pray that Ugandan Christians will exert themselves to find roles in society and public life where they can bring the influence of Christ's teachings.

**“ Exercising godly stewardship ... is a
way to cultivate and multiply gifts to
permeate our current circumstances
with divine values until the Lord
returns. Sharon Prentis, St Kitts and
Nevis / UK (born 1964)**

FRIDAY 16 JAN • UGANDA (3)

*You yourselves like living stones are being
built up as a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5*

Yumbe District in northern Uganda is about three-quarters Muslim and one quarter Christian. Some businesses sell pork for consumption by Christians.

On 4 November a mob of radical Muslim youths, armed with clubs and machetes, went on the rampage attacking a pork market, beating the vendors and burning their wares. Then they attacked Christian businesses, government institutions and burned down some Christian homes. It was apparently a response to calls from a local imam to prevent the sale of pork in Yumbe. Three days later the mob surrounded a simple church building of bricks and corrugated tin, furnished with plastic chairs. The mob seemed ready to kill but, praise God, the pastor and congregation managed to escape so only the building and its furniture were damaged. Pray that this hostility to Christians in Yumbe will cease.

“ Our hope is not in buildings but in Christ. The church walls may be broken, but the Church of Christ stands unshaken. Why? Because the Church is not made of bricks — it is made of believers. We are the living stones of His temple (1 Peter 2:5). As long as we stand together, the Church of Jesus Christ lives and shines in Yumbe, in Uganda, and across the world. The pastor of the church in Yumbe, writing after the attack

SATURDAY 17 JAN • SOMALILAND

Sovereign Lord ... look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness. Acts 4:24.29

Somaliland broke away from Somalia in 1991 but has not been recognised internationally as a state. Somaliland has been more stable than conflict-ridden Somalia and has had governments and democratic elections.

However, Somaliland is a very hard place for Christians. Islam is the state religion and promoting any other religion is forbidden. All laws must be grounded on sharia (Islamic law). There is no recognition that a Muslim could choose to change their beliefs and some have been imprisoned for converting to Christianity. Pray that the Lord will build His Church in Somaliland.

“ We can pray with confidence knowing that God can accomplish anything precisely because he is sovereign over all. He has planned all things according to his good will and has ordained prayer as one means by which he achieves those same plans. ... A biblical view of God's sovereignty energizes and animates prayer. It reminds us that our God can accomplish anything. Conrad Mbewe, Zambia (born 1961)

SUNDAY 18 JAN • ERITREA (1)

He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

The government of Eritrea continues to persecute Christians from the denominations which they banned in May 2002. Believers are imprisoned in appalling conditions, typically with beatings, torture, extreme temperatures, forced labour and insufficient food and water. Many are held for years without being charged let alone tried and sentenced. The more they are involved in Christian ministry the worse they are treated. Pray that imprisoned Eritrean believers will stand firm and that their time in jail will be spiritually fruitful.

“ I take, O cross, your shadow For my abiding place; I ask no other

sunshine than The sunshine of his face. Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane, Scotland (1830-1869)

MONDAY 19 JAN • ERITREA (2)

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. Jude 20-21

Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel was chair of the Eritrean Evangelical Alliance before his arrest at 5 a.m. on 23 May 2004. He has been in prison ever since, with no trial and no release date set. He is believed to be held with several other church leaders in the Wengel Mermera Central Criminal Investigation interrogation centre. Dr Kiflu, now aged 67, is being held incommunicado so news of him is rare, but he has occasionally been seen visiting a hospital (once in 2014, several times in 2021). Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray for him and the other Christian leaders held with him for over two decades. Pray that they will build each other up in the faith.

“ *And we, shall we be faithless? Shall hearts fail, hands hang down? Shall we evade the conflict, And cast away our crown? Not so: in God’s deep counsels Some better thing is stored; We will maintain, unflinching, One Church, one Faith, one Lord.* Edward H. Plumptre, England (1821-1891)

TUESDAY 20 JAN • TANZANIA

My beloved has gone down to his garden to the beds of spices ... I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine. Song of Songs 6:2-3

Tanzania is predominantly Christian, but Muslims hold many key positions in politics, education, business and the judiciary. Off the mainland are the islands of Zanzibar, famous for their spices. Here the population is 98% Muslim. Churches in Zanzibar have needed police protection and Christian converts from Islam are vulnerable to violent attack. Pray for wisdom, vision and courage for all Christians in Tanzania and for the Lord’s protection over those in Zanzibar, particularly those who have left Islam to follow Jesus.

“ *I want you to find God’s sovereignty to be as life-giving as I do. I want it to be a cordial tonic for your soul, just as I have found God’s character and power a comforting balm and great hope in my Christian life.* Conrad Mbewe, Zambia (born 1961)

WEDNESDAY 21 JAN • COMOROS

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings; from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me. Psalm 17:8-9

These islands, off the East African coast, have a constitution based on the Shafi’i school of Sunni Islam, which is seen as the basis of national identity and unity. Despite the constitution guaranteeing equal rights and obligations for all, it is illegal to promote any religion except Sunni Islam or to engage in public worship except Sunni Islam. Christians and Shia Muslims are therefore very discreet in the practice of their beliefs. Anyone who converts from Islam to Christianity or from Sunni Islam to Shia Islam is liable to be shunned by their local community. Pray that the

Lord will protect His beloved people in Comoros and keep them safe from those who would want to harm them.

“ Crown him the Son of God before the worlds began, And ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; Who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast, And takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest. Matthew Bridges, England (1800-1894)

THURSDAY 22 JAN • ALGERIA

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” Psalm 122:1

The main challenge that faced Christians in Algeria in 2025 was how to meet together to worship. Almost all the Protestant church buildings had been forcibly closed by the authorities over the previous few years. Pastors and their church members risk arrest whenever they gathered in private homes to pray. There are tens of thousands of Christians in this mainly-Muslim country, most of them first-, second- or third-generation converts from Islam. There is no official penalty for choosing to leave Islam, but evangelising Muslims is illegal and can result in a jail sentence. Persecution has ebbed and flowed in Algeria in recent decades. Ask that it may decrease again in 2026 if that is the Lord's will.

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

FRIDAY 23 JAN • TUNISIA

I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20

The 2011 “Arab Spring” began in Tunisia, where it toppled the country's autocratic ruler. In the freedom that followed, political Islam flourished in this 98% Muslim country. But aspects of autocratic rule were reimposed in 2021 when President Kais Saied seized extraordinary powers for himself, undermined the authority of parliament and the next year introduced a new constitution. This is the context in which Tunisia's small Christian community find themselves, juggling a mixture of freedoms and restrictions. Most of the Christians are expatriates but there are also Tunisian converts from Islam who are stigmatised by the Muslim community and may face persecution from their relatives. Pray that they will boldly share their faith and make more disciples of the Lord Jesus.

“ The Lord challenges us to suffer persecutions and to confess Him. He wants those who belong to him to be brave and fearless. Tertullian, Carthage, in modern Tunisia (c.155-c.230)

SATURDAY 24 JAN • LIBYA

Put your hope in God. Psalm 42:5 (NIV)

The Christian community in Libya is mostly migrant workers from sub-Saharan Africa. Other African Christians are passing through Libya, attempting to cross the Mediterranean by boat to Europe and earn money there to send back to their needy families; they are often subject to severe abuse while they wait in Libya. There are also a small number of Libyan converts from Islam. 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.

“ Prayer cleanses from sin, drives away temptations, stamps out persecutions, comforts the fainthearted, gives new strength to the courageous, brings travellers safely home, calms the waves, confounds robbers, feeds the poor, overrules the rich, lifts up the fallen, supports those who are falling, sustains those who stand firm. Tertullian, Carthage, in modern Tunisia (c.155-c.230)

SUNDAY 25 JAN • LEBANON

I am the LORD, your healer. Exodus 15:26

“Since 2019, Lebanon has been navigating a cascade of crises that have left the country in a state of profound turmoil. The economic collapse that began that year marked the first tremor of what would become a deep and multifaceted humanitarian emergency.” These are the words of TBF Trust’s project partner in Lebanon. Please continue to pray for the healing and re-building of Lebanese society. Ask the Lord to bless the efforts of all who are working to help the huge numbers who have become poor and needy over the last six years. Pray especially for those who give help in the Name of Christ that in everything He will be glorified.

“ Think not thou canst sigh a sigh And thy Maker is not by; Think not thou canst weep a tear And thy Maker is not near. William Blake, England (1757-1827)

MONDAY 26 JAN • PAKISTAN

The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things! Psalm 118:15

Getting the details corrected on an ID card may seem a small thing, but if you are Pakistani Christian and your ID card says you are a Muslim with a Muslim name it is a major issue. The implications of an error like this are huge, with serious legal and social consequences. Most dangerous of all, you could be considered an apostate from Islam if you carry a Muslim ID card but live as a Christian. So rejoice and thank the Lord with Rahul Masih who has won a seven-months legal battle to have his Christian faith correctly recorded on his national ID card. Rahul lost his original ID card and applied for a duplicate but the duplicate was completely different. The authorities refused to correct the error, insisting that he had converted to Islam. Eventually he had to go to court and prove with documents and witnesses that he had never changed from his Christian faith. Then the judge ordered his ID card to be corrected.

“ His forever, only his! Who the Lord and me shall part? George Wade Robinson, Ireland (1838-1876)

TUESDAY 27 JAN • BHUTAN

Trust in the LORD and do good. Psalm 37:3

This small Himalayan kingdom does not give legal recognition to Christians or other non-Buddhists, so all Christian activities are illegal except worshipping in private homes. It is also illegal for Christians to be buried in Bhutan. At the moment deceased Christians are usually taken to India for burial

or buried in the jungle. Thank the Lord that the discrimination which Christians used to face from wider society has greatly reduced, although Christian converts from Buddhism face a lot of pressure to return to Buddhism, especially women. Efforts to register Christian organisations with the Bhutanese authorities, so as to make their activities legal, have not succeeded. Pray that the Lord will give Christians favour in the eyes of the Bhutanese government so that their activities, including burying their dead, will be legalised.

” Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to order and provide; In every change he faithful will remain.
Katharina von Schlegel, Germany (1697-1777) translated by Jane Northwick, Scotland (1813-1897)

WEDNESDAY 28 JAN • NEPAL

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:45-46

The Church has been growing fast since the 1950s in this mainly Hindu country. Christians who actively share their faith with Hindus and Buddhists tend to face pressure. A vaguely-worded law passed in 2018 makes it easy for the authorities to take Christians to court for almost any public Christian activity. Pray that our brothers and sisters will know the Lord's guidance, strength and peace as they worship and witness. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to bring people in Nepal to repentance and faith in Jesus.

” A great reward and deep fulfilment come from seeking the kingdom of God wholeheartedly. There is no bartering about the cost or trying to look for cheaper alternatives. The price is our entire life, wholehearted devotion to God and willingness to follow Christ. Sharon Prentis, St Kitts and Nevis / UK (born 1964)

THURSDAY 29 JAN • SRI LANKA

Enter by the narrow gate. Matthew 7:13 (NKJV)

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 experienced afterwards. 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.

” The values of the kingdom, presented as love, kindness, patience and self-control, are the outward sign of an inner life of prayer, proper judgement and discernment. Sharon Prentis, St Kitts and Nevis / UK (born 1964)

FRIDAY 30 JAN • MALDIVES

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. John 3:8

The Maldivian constitution makes Islam the state religion and has no mention

of religious liberty. It permits laws that limit rights and freedoms in order to “protect and maintain the tenets of Islam.” Leaving Islam is forbidden, and non-Muslims are not allowed to become Maldivian citizens. The penal code contains certain sharia (Islamic law) punishments such as flogging, stoning and amputation. Non-Muslims living in or visiting the Maldives can be imprisoned or fined if they express their beliefs openly. No church buildings are allowed. Even Muslims are strictly regulated, with the government controlling mosques and sermons. Liberal Muslims face threats and cyber-bullying. Yet the Holy Spirit has brought Maldivian Muslims to Christ. Pray that they and Christian migrant workers will grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

*“ God, of your goodness give me yourself, for you are enough for me.
Julian of Norwich, England (1342–1416 or later)*

SATURDAY 31 JAN • TURKEY

And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians. Acts 11:26

The ancient Syrian city of Antioch is Antakya in modern Turkey. A Christian presence has continued in Turkey for almost 2,000 years, although greatly reduced after the genocide of Armenian, Assyrian, Syriac and Greek Christians under the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century. The remnants of the historic Christian communities find that life for them is currently easier than ever before in their lifetimes. Thank the Lord with them for the freedoms they now have, including to teach Syriac (Aramaic, the language of the Lord Jesus) and to train leaders for Christian ministry. Pray for God’s blessing on a small community hall for a Christian village in Turkey, which is being renovated with help from TBF Trust, to be used for Bible teaching, to preserve the use of Aramaic, and to strengthen the Christian presence in Turkey.

“ It is right, therefore, that we not just be called Christians, but that we actually be Christians. Ignatius of Antioch, Syria, but now in Turkey (martyred c.107)



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