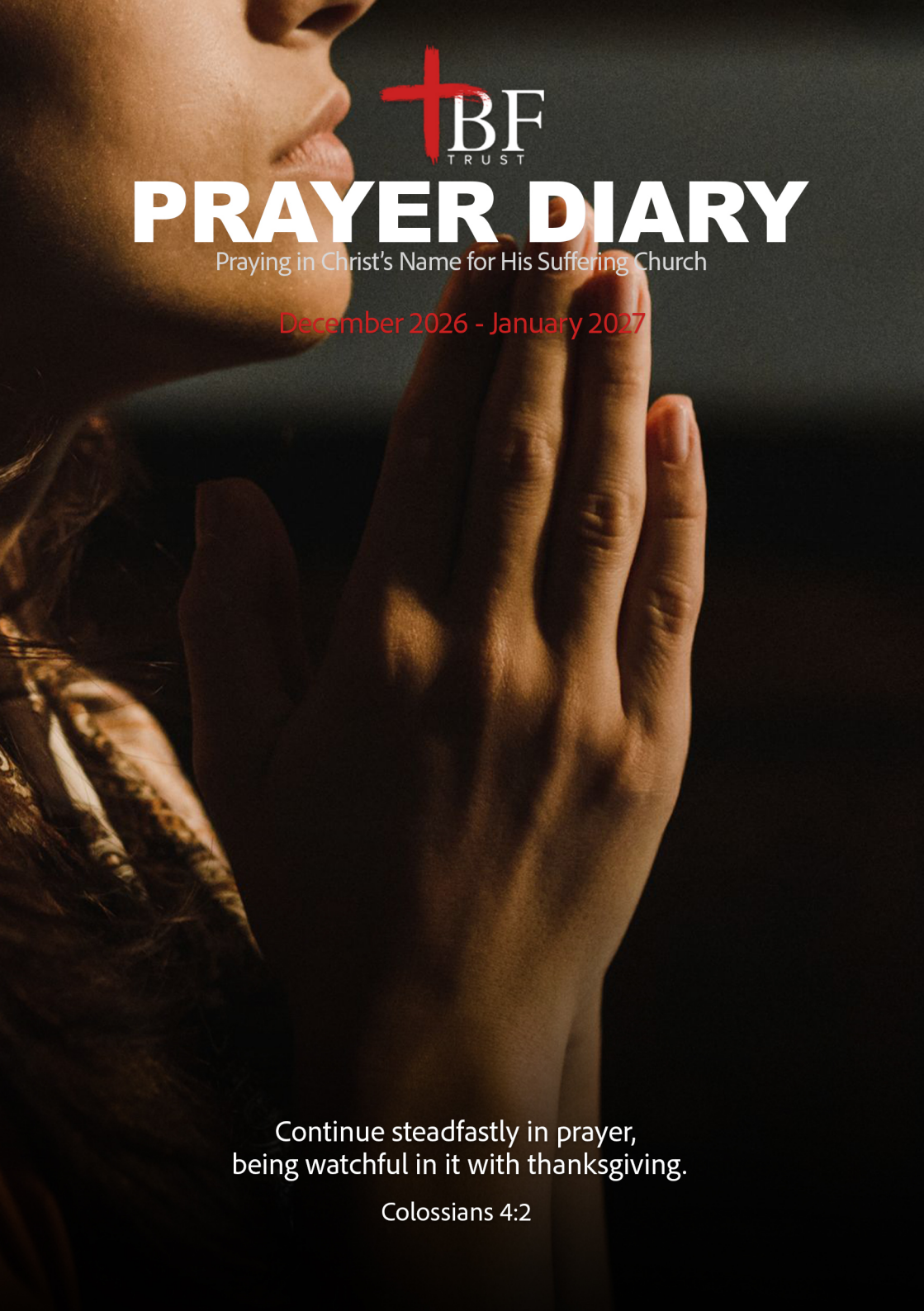

BF TRUST

PRAYER DIARY

Praying in Christ's Name for His Suffering Church

December 2026 - January 2027

Continue steadfastly in prayer,
being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

December

TUE 1 DEC • JORDAN

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Psalm 85:10

Nine people were killed and about 40 injured on 23 October when gunmen opened fire on a funeral procession at a church. Such attacks are rare in Jordan and it was swiftly followed by strong condemnation from the Jordanian king and prime minister. Three days of national mourning were declared. The village where the attack occurred is near the city of Karak (Kir-haraseth in the Bible), famous for its historic indigenous Christian community and for exceptionally warm relations between Muslims and Christians. Thank the Lord for the determination of the Jordanian authorities to embrace and affirm Jordan's small Christian minority and to prevent violent extremism in their country and for the wave of sympathy from the Jordanian public.

> *Our message from this church, from this place where this horrific crime was committed, is a message of love, peace, and reassurance. A message that we send to the whole world.* Rev. Yuhanna Hamati, speaking after the attack on his church

WED 2 DEC • GAZA (1)

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

"We are trying not to collapse... We feel depression, we feel sad, we cry sometimes. We feel a heavy load mentally inside us. We hear bombs here and there, but we need to continue our life. We pray. We ask help of Jesus Christ to give us strength and hope," said George, a Christian in Gaza on 18 October. He described the sufferings of people in the Gaza strip, many of them living in tents with raw sewage flowing past, lacking sufficient humanitarian assistance. The following day the World Food Programme announced that they would have to drastically reduce their aid to Gaza, due to funding shortages. Pray that our loving Lord will have mercy on Gaza and bring this suffering to an end.

> *We still have hope that this situation will have an end some day.* George Anton, Gaza, 18 October 2026

THU 3 DEC • GAZA (2)

All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Acts 9:39 (NIV)

Two Christian women, Maysaa and her daughter Mary, died in the early hours of 3 October when their apartment was destroyed by an airstrike on Gaza City. A church leader in Gaza described them as "two quiet and kind and beautiful ladies" who spent over two years living in a church compound during the war, helping people who had sought shelter there but especially focusing on helping disabled people. Later they moved to live in an apartment. Their deaths "left deep sorrow among Christian families in the Gaza Strip". Pray for those who mourn, especially Mary's 14-year-old son Fouad. Both Muslims and Christians

came to the women's funeral. Pray also for the grieving families of three Muslims who died in the same attack, including another mother and daughter pair.

> *Today, I lost the most precious person in my life. There are no words to describe my feelings.* Fouad, Gaza (born 2012) speaking on 3 October 2026

FRI 4 DEC • GAZA (3)
I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

According to one estimate, the number of Christians in the Gaza Strip is now only 541, down from 1,017 before October 2023, as many have left and some have died. But amidst the agony, Christians are encouraged that they have been able to re-open a Christian school. During the worst years of the war, the school functioned only for the children of families who had taken shelter in the church compound. Now it is open again to the whole community. Pray that its pupils, both Christians and Muslims, all having experienced years of war and fear, will benefit from the routine and stability of a regular school day. Pray that the teachers will be channels of blessing to the children.

> *We are exhausted by this war and have endured so much… For almost three years, we have been living through the same destruction, the same grief and the same war.* – Fouad, Gaza (born 2012)

SAT 5 DEC • LEBANON
There arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Acts 8:1

Pray that the chaos and deprivation affecting all communities in Lebanon, including the large Christian minority, will draw people to place their trust in the living God and His Son Jesus Christ. Several churches in the south have closed as their members are all displaced, some having lost their homes which were shelled or bombarded. Pray that the Christians of the scattered congregations will continue their witness wherever they now find themselves.

> *There is no situation so chaotic, that God cannot, from that situation, create something that is surpassingly good. He did it at the creation. He did it at the cross. He is doing it today.* Bishop Handley Moule, England (1841-1920)

SUN 6 DEC • NEPAL
Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

On 9 October police arrested 24 South Korean Christians who were attending a gathering at a Bible college in Nepal. The South Koreans were accused of "illegal religious teaching, training, and promotion." A vaguely worded Nepali law that bans "hurting religious sentiment" can potentially be used against almost any public Christian activity. But the Bible college principal said the South Koreans were only interacting with Christians within the college premises and were not trying to convert anyone. Pray for all Christians

in Nepal, whether Nepalis or visitors, that they may stand firm for the Lord Jesus, despite the risks, and will know His guidance in everything.

> *I don't want to live like clouds Swept here and there by the wind. I don't want to live like pieces of wood Swept along with the waves of the river. I want to live like the rock That stands firm, even in the rainstorm.* Kyoo Dae Lee, South Korea

MON 7 DEC • INDIA (1)
His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor. Isaiah 9:6

Please continue to pray for Christians in India facing multiple challenges. These include laws and regulations affecting Christian ministry and outreach, difficulties accessing resources, and increasing administrative requirements. There are also reports of anti-Christian violence and intimidation. In West Bengal numerous incidents were reported during the second half of 2026, including vandalism of church buildings and attacks on pastors and Christian gatherings. Pray for their protection, peace between religious communities, and freedom for all religious communities to practise their faith.

> *Wonderful counsellor means 'miraculous adviser!' Whenever I've faced stress, trials, temptation, difficulties in my personal, family or ministry life, I bring everything before the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer. And He has proved to be my wonderful counsellor. On 3 September 2023, we held Sunday worship at our mission station in UP. Suddenly, a few officers barged in and filmed the service. They summoned us to the station and questioned us…. After three days, I was called again for an enquiry. This was followed by many such incidents, in which higher authorities grilled me about our ministry, family, and believers... But every time, the Lord stood by me as a wonderful Counsellor, giving me counsel day and night, and the courage and tenacity to get through it.* R. Kumar, India, 2026

TUES 8 DEC • PAKISTAN (1)
Mighty God, Everlasting Father. Isaiah 9:6

The Christian parents of Maria Shahbaz hoped that their legal petition to recover their daughter would be heard on 21 October. But the case was adjourned because the Muslim who abducted Maria (then aged 13) in July 2025 had not been served the papers to summons him to court. The police unconvincingly claimed they had not been able to do so because they did not have his full residential address. Maria's father is petitioning the court to reconsider its decision on 3 February that Maria should remain with the man who abducted her, on the basis that he claimed she had converted to Islam and married him. Pray that the case will be heard soon and Maria will be returned to her parents.

> *When we have exhausted our store of endurance, When our strength has failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, Our Father's full giving is only begun.* Annie J. Flint, USA (1866-1932)

WED 9 DEC • MYANMAR (1)
Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6

"We support each other by praying… it's the only time we feel peace," said Eh Pho, a Christian from Karen State (now called Kayin State) to Premier Christian News earlier this year. "We hope that there will be peace one day in a Karen State where we don't have to run anymore, and then we can live in the way of our Karen culture. If you learn about the Karen culture, we are very peaceful people who just live by the jungle and very rely on nature and protecting one another, and we welcome everyone. So we're quite friendly and open culture for everyone." But it is hard for Karen Christians to gather together to pray many church buildings have been destroyed by their country's miliary and many people are displaced, and living in the jungle. Ask the Prince of Peace to give His people comfort, solace and *shalom*.

> *Please pray that people can live in peace, that they don't have to run anymore, and that one day they can return home.* Eh Pho, Myanmar, 2026

THU 10 DEC • MYANMAR (2)
You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul. Deuteronomy 11:18

An armoured drone dropped a bomb on a Bible college in Pkay Bu Village Tract, Karen (Kayin) State, on 3 November. Two students died instantly. A third died of her injuries as she was being transported across the Saleen River to Thailand to seek medical care. Pray for those who mourn the three young women killed. Pray also for six other students who were injured but survived. This attack is part of a pattern by the Myanmar military of targeting religious institutions and civilian young people in parts of the country where Christian-majority ethnic groups live.

> *They burn everything, destroy everything—but they cannot destroy our souls.* Eh Pho, Myanmar, 2026

FRI 11 DEC • CHAD
I will never leave you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

Thank you for your prayers for the Christian school, serving about 400 pupils, which is being persecuted by its non-Christian landlords. The landlords built a wall to prevent access to the school building. On the first day of term in October there were 273 pupils, who came to a hastily constructed replacement building. The next day the numbers were higher and there was not enough space for them all. Meanwhile the landlords filed a complaint with the police against the school, but thankfully the police would not handle it because the lawcourts were already involved. So far the courts have ruled in favour of the school. Ask that the Lord will be sovereign in this situation and that the Christians who lead the school will have strength and serenity as, with His help, they fend off each attack that comes.

> *Christianity offers a story that frees us from the illusion of control and*

draws us instead into intimacy with the Lord. We need not fear the crisis; God often renews His Church precisely in such times. Bishop Francis Omondi, Kenya (born 1966)

SAT 12 DEC • NIGERIA (1)
If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:31-32

Boko Haram militants are believed to be holding about 70 Christian hostages, demanding ransoms from their families. Five were released on 19 October but many families do not have the money to pay to release their loved ones. Pastor Simon, whose wife Mercy and little daughter Talita were kidnapped on 9 November 2025, cannot raise the money that the militants have demanded. Mercy and Talita were kidnapped on their way to a wedding. They were singled out as the only Christians in the vehicle, with other passengers allowed to travel on. For ten months Pastor Simon heard nothing. Then Boko Haram got in contact and sent a photo of his emaciated wife, still wearing the dress she had on when she was kidnapped. The militants say that if he does not pay they will behead Mercy and sell Talita into slavery. Ask the Lord to help His faithful followers. Whatever happens to them physically, pray that the Christians in captivity may know the spiritual freedom that Christ gives.

" *May I ever have a fresh desire to be engaged in the service of Christ, for it is perfect freedom!* Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther, Nigeria (c.1809-1891)

SUN 13 DEC • SUDAN (1)
The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. Deuteronomy 33:27

The authorities in Sudan's capital Khartoum put pressure on the churches in many ways. Using promises and threats, they create conflict amongst the church leaders. Then, when the leaders are divided and the congregation bewildered, the secular authorities seize control of church buildings and church-owned land. Administrative orders, court trials, imprisonment and beatings are all part of the process. On top of this is the destruction caused by the current civil war. Pray for the weary Christians of Khartoum that they will know the Lord's sustaining presence.

" *May we be kept by the power of God in our present turbulent and chaotic world, and may we rest in the peace and providence of our Lord and Saviour, knowing that his intervening presence is still a reality.* Albrecht Hauser, Germany (born 1938)

MON 14 DEC • SUDAN (2)
I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:1

Two church buildings are in imminent danger of demolition by the authorities. One is in Khartoum and the authorities' pretext for its demolition is that it was built on a road, which the church leaders deny. The other is across the Nile in Omdurman, and the reason given by the authorities is that it was built on public land. The Omdurman church leaders have submitted

papers proving ownership going back decades, but the issue was passed from one government department to another until the paperwork was "lost". Buildings for worship and ministry are a vital resource for the persecuted Body of Christ in Sudan, and the Sudanese authorities have a history of confiscating or bulldozing them. Pray that these buildings will be allowed to stand so that believers can gather to worship.

> *O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.* John Francis Wade, England (1711-1786), translated Frederick Oakeley, England (1802-1880)

TUE 15 DEC • KYRGYZSTAN (1)
If the LORD had not been on our side – Psalm 124:1 (NIV)

Thank the Lord that Christian summer camps went ahead despite the efforts of those who wanted to prevent them. But "the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Philippians 3:18) are continuing to try to take legal ownership of one of the campsites. Four court rulings have already been made in favour of the Christian owners, but in May another two lawsuits were filed against them. Since then, the regional court has ruled in favour of the Christians and the district court has postponed the hearing five times because no one from the group suing the Christians turned up to court. Praise God for repeatedly delivering His people and pray that the attacks will cease.

> *We do not know why the Lord allows this test, but we believe that He does not make mistakes and does everything for our good.* A church leader from Kyrgyzstan, 2026

WED 16 DEC • KYRGYZSTAN (2)
The earth has yielded abundant harvests. God, even our own God, will bless us. And peoples from remotest lands will worship him. Psalm 67:6-7 (TLB)

In communist times, churches in the Soviet Union took to holding an annual harvest thanksgiving celebration to which they invited non-Christian neighbours, friends and relatives. This was an opportunity for them to share their faith legally with the visitors who came to join the Christians as they thanked God for His provision. Many churches across the former Soviet Union still do this, including some in Kyrgyzstan. This autumn there was a great response with many Kyrgyz non-Christians attending and enjoying festive food and programmes that presented a Gospel message. Some of the thanksgiving events lasted all day. Pray that the non-Christian visitors will remember what they heard about salvation through Christ and will repent and believe.

> *Please pray that people would understand that everything we have is from God; that thanksgiving to the Lord would be daily, not only annual celebrations; that the Lord would grant us to be faithful stewards of his blessings; and that that, in His provisions, people would see the Greatness and Glory of God.* A church leader from Kyrgyzstan, 2026

THU 17 DEC • KYRGYZSTAN (3)
Thus far the LORD has helped us. 1 Samuel 7:12 (NIV)

Some churches in Kyrgyzstan are celebrating their 100th or other significant anniversaries in the coming year. Like the annual harvest thanksgiving celebrations (see above) these will be opportunities to invite non-Christians to special events. Pray for the Lord's hand to guide all plans and to bring many people to hear the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. Pray that each individual Christian will show a Christ-like character as they chat with non-Christian visitors, and will have words given by the Holy Spirit to share their own experience of Jesus in their lives.

> *Morning by morning new mercies I see: All I have needed Thy hand hath provided— Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*
> Thomas O. Chisholm, USA (1866-1960)

FRI 18 DEC • UZBEKISTAN
He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. Psalm 25:12 (NIV)

A ministry among Roma people needs prayer. The ministry includes sewing classes, which begin with reading a psalm, reflecting on it, and praying. The women listen attentively and ask questions. The construction of a new prayer house (church building) is almost complete, and the authorities have warned the pastor that when the building is finished the congregation should vacate their former building where worship services and the classes for Roma women and children are currently held. But the new prayer house is located much further from the Roma village, so it is not clear how classes can be continued. Church leaders have searched for a suitable room closer to the village, but cannot find one. Please pray that the lack of a meeting place will not hinder this ministry. Ask God to continue to bless the preaching of the Gospel among Roma people, as well as to give wisdom to all those involved and protect them from hostile people.

> *God works in the lives of these women and performs obvious miracles among them. We believe that the time will come when the Lord will revive the sown seed.*
> A Roma woman involved in the sewing ministry, 2026

SAT 19 DEC • RUSSIA
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. Matthew 28:19

Park Tae Yeon has been given a prison sentence of 5 years 8 months, by a court in Khabarovsk, Russia, probably to be served in a women's correctional colony. The 70-year-old missionary from South Korea plans to appeal but meanwhile continues to be held in a detention centre. Her sentence is for overstaying her visa, but the only reason she missed her plane home to South Korea was that the Russian authorities had put her in detention. During the various court hearings, she was questioned aggressively about the beliefs and activities of various Christian ministries and denominations. She was asked what the groups pray

about, what they preach, what rules they set, what the spreading of evangelical Christian doctrine entails, and what the Great Commission is. Pray that the Lord will sustain our sister Tae Yeon, who had served the Lord in Russia for 33 years. Ask that she will be released and allowed to return home to retire in South Korea as she had planned.

> *Give us hope to look forward to happy tomorrows. Give us courage to face hardships without losing hope. Give us faith so that the joy of receiving Christ will lead us to serve our fellow man.* Kim Kwan Suk, South Korea (1922-2002)

SUN 20 DEC • BELARUS

Even the darkness is not dark to you. Psalm 139:12

Mystery surrounds the situation of a 66-year-old church minister called Anatol Parakhnevich who was arrested in March by masked men, thought to be KGB officers, says Forum 18. He was supposedly being investigated for treason, a charge which carries a sentence ranging from 7 years imprisonment to death. But in October, after a trial behind closed doors, he was given a 3-year prison sentence and a fine. No one knows where he is being held or what he has been found guilty of. Pray that his appeal will succeed. Anatol grew up an orphan so there are no relatives who would be entitled to ask the authorities about his situation, although senior church leaders might be allowed. Pray that the Lord will pour His grace and strength into Anatol wherever he is and whatever he is enduring.

> *For God is in the darkness And He will abide with me.* Patrick Sookhdeo, Guyana (1947-2026)

MON 21 DEC • PAKISTAN (2)

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

The number of "blasphemy" cases registered in Pakistan has dropped dramatically this year. So has the number of riots attacking whole communities after an individual has been accused of "blasphemy"; such riots averaged seven a year between 2021 and 2024 but there was only one in the year to July 2026. Most accusations turn out to be false, but meanwhile homes may have been burnt down and people lynched. The change is a tremendous relief to Christians, Shia Muslims and Ahmadiyyas, the religious minorities most vulnerable to accusations of "blasphemy" and to being targeted by organised mob violence. It is thought to be due to a crackdown by the Pakistani army on Islamist fundamentalist groups. Praise God for this development and pray that the trend will continue. But the situation remains fragile, so pray for the safety of Christians and other vulnerable communities.

> *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)

TUE 22 DEC • PAKISTAN (3)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

Kamran Masih, a Christian father of three, ran a small pharmacy shop in a village in Sheikhupura District. But his shop and adjacent home were set on fire by a mob of angry Muslims on 8 October after Kamran was arrested on a charge of "blasphemy" related to allegedly sharing a video with WhatsApp groups. The police intervened in time to prevent damage to any other Christian properties, while Christians began fleeing the village. Fifteen of the mob were arrested. Pray that the previously peaceful relations between Muslims and Christians in the village will be restored and that Kamran, who was well liked in the village, will be released without charge.

" *Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour, all for love's sake becamest poor. Thrones for a manger didst surrender, Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.* Frank Houghton, England (1894-1972)

WED 23 DEC • IRAN

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Luke 1:38 (RSV)

Lida Alexani (58) has been summoned to prison to begin serving her 13-year sentence for "deviant proselytising contrary to the holy religion of Islam". Her husband is already in prison, serving a 16-year sentence. Their "crimes" relate to their Christian ministry and include establishing a home church, holding prayer meetings, conducting baptism, taking communion and celebrating Christmas. When they appealed against their long sentences, both were given additional sentences of 5 to 6 years for "gathering and collusion" (to run concurrently with their original sentences). By contrast, another Christian woman, Hannah Gholami (36) has been released from prison early. Hannah, a convert from Islam, was told that she had been pardoned as part of a general amnesty of prisoners. Pray that, whether in prison or out of prison, all Christians in Iran will faithfully serve the Lord and be used by Him for His purposes.

" *There is no wasted time in Christ.* Albrecht Hauser, Germany (born 1938)

THU 24 DEC • CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt." Matthew 2:13

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)

FRI 25 DEC • NIGERIA (2)
She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger. Luke 2:7

At least 27 Christians were killed between 13 and 20 September in Plateau State. Amongst the dead was Pastor Samuel Nandi, shot while travelling to a church service in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area (LGA). His son was also shot but survived. Others injured included a 7-months baby wounded in an attack on a farmers' market in Mangu LGA. Pray for the bereaved today, as they celebrate the incarnation of our Lord for the first time without beloved family members.

" *What child is this, who laid to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping, Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!* William Chatterton Dix, England (1837-1898)

SAT 26 DEC • ALGERIA (1)
And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Matthew 2:12

At least 52 Christians, most of them pastors, have been prosecuted on faith-related charges such as blasphemy or proselytism during the last six years. The majority are waiting for their appeals to be heard by the Supreme Court and have not yet gone to prison. Almost all the church buildings in Algeria have been sealed or forced to close in recent years, so if Christians want to worship together they can only do so illegally. There are reports that the Algerian government wants to re-open the churches but this time under strict control by the state. Pray that the Lord will guide Algerian church leaders as they face the choice of continuing to worship illegally or worshiping legally but under surveillance and government control.

" *A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.* Augustine of Hippo (modern Annaba, Algeria) (354-430)

SUN 27 DEC • ALGERIA (2)
Follow me. Mark 1: 17

Police raided a Christian worship meeting near Oran on 4 September. All 12 Christians present were arrested. The chapel where they used to meet was sealed by court order several years ago, since when they have met in a private building. Humanly speaking it is likely the Christians will end up in court on charges to do with non-Muslim worship in an unauthorised place. Another possible charge relates to the Christian literature which the police confiscated; this might be the basis for charging them with "shaking the faith of Muslims". Pray that these 12 disciples of Jesus Christ will be acquitted or

that they will not be charged at all. Pray for perseverance for all Algerian Christians in the face of the difficulties laid in their way by the government.

> *To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.*
> Augustine of Hippo (modern Annaba, Algeria) (354-430)

MON 28 DEC • LIBYA

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 brutal martyrdom has been reported. Milad Malak served as a deacon in his local church in Egypt. In September 2026 he and two Muslim friends from his village travelled to Libya together in search of work. Barely a month later Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists kidnapped a group of Egyptian migrant workers, including Milad and his friends. According to reports, Milad was the only Christian amongst the captives. ISIS demanded ransoms and Milad's friends were released after their families paid. Milad's family also paid a ransom, but he was not released. Instead his captors tortured him in an effort to make him convert to Islam. But Milad steadfastly refused and therefore was killed. Pray that his family will be comforted by the knowledge that he died for Christ.

> *Even if you cut me into pieces, I will never renounce my faith.*
> Milad Malak, Egypt (2006-2026), October 2026

TUE 29 DEC • EGYPT

If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name", there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. Jeremiah 20:9

Please continue to pray for Said Abdelrazek (30) who left Islam to follow Christ. In 2024 he was detained by the authorities, interrogated about his religious beliefs, and pressured to go back to Islam and to report on other converts. In the end he was released with instructions not to speak publicly or share his faith. But he resumed posting online about his faith, and in July 2025 was arrested again. He has been charged with "contempt for Islam", joining a banned terrorist organisation, inciting unrest, and disseminating false information. His court trial has been repeatedly adjourned. Because he is a convert from Islam, Said has faced much abuse, physical and psychological, from his fellow-prisoners as well as from the authorities. Pray that the Lord will give him grace to endure.

> *Live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose, Your ransomed powers for His sole glory use.*
> James Seddon, England (1915-1983)

WED 30 DEC • SAUDI ARABIA

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." John 7:38

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 hard and oppressive conditions, and may be far from their families left back in their home countries. There are a small number of Saudi converts from Islam, who face the possibility of severe persecution or even death. perhaps at the hands of their own relatives. Pray that all may be strengthened and refreshed as they walk daily with the Lord.

> *God loves us more than a father, mother, friend, or any else could love, and even more than we are able to love ourselves.* John Chrysostom, Syria (347-407)

THU 31 DEC • MYANMAR (3)
Make a record of my sadness. List my tears in your book. Aren't you making a record of them? Psalm 56:8 (NIRV)

Another pastor has been killed in Chin state. Pastor Dal Thawn Tuang was shot dead by the Myanmar military on 14 September as he was returning to his home in Lamzang village from ministry in another village nearby. Pray that the Lord will comfort his wife, their two children and all the congregation of the church in Lamzang where he had served for 22 years.

> *In His wisdom and power, God has laid even upon sorrow the destiny of fulfilling His purposes of mercy. In the beginning, sorrow was the wages of sin, penal and working death; by the law of Christ's redemption it is become a discipline of cleansing and perfection.* Henry Edward Manning, England (1808-1892)

January

FRI 1 JAN • PHILIPPINES (1)
Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. 1 Peter 1:8

There is a community of about six million Muslims on the island of Mindanao in the southern part of the Philippines. In recent years some of them have decided to follow the Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Most of the converts keep a low profile and do not draw attention to their Christian faith; this is probably why they are not suffering much harassment or persecution. Pray that they may grow in knowledge and love of the Lord and that He will continue to add to their number.

> *Truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness, These are the offerings to bring to his throne.* John S. B. Monsell, Ireland (1811-1875)

SAT 2 JAN • PHILIPPINES (2)
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

The south-west portion of Mindanao is a Muslim-majority area called the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Christians in BARMM are a minority, seen as "settlers" who have come from other parts of the Philippines. BARMM was established after years of conflict and negotiations; the peace is still fragile. After several postponements, BARMM's first parliamentary elections were held on 14 September. One of the candidates was Pastor Percival Lagman, representing the Christians For Peace party. He has spent years engaged in grassroots peace advocacy. He did not win a seat in the BARMM parliament but thank the Lord for a Christian presence on a platform of peace, and pray that Percival and other Christians may continue to be peacemakers in this delicate and dangerous context.

> *It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold: 'Peace on the earth, good will to men From heaven's all-gracious King!' The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.* Edmund H. Sears, USA (1810-1876)

SUN 3 JAN • CHINA (1)

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12

Children of Christian families who attend house-churches (unregistered churches) were interrogated by police who entered several schools, both primary and secondary, in Yueyang, Hunan province. Local Christians say that the youngest child was only 7 or 8. Some of the interrogations lasted over three hours, and the children were pressured to sign documents accusing their churches of religious "brainwashing." Pray that this new tactic of harassing Christian children in their places of education instead of their parents at their places of worship will be abandoned by the Chinese authorities and that the children's faith will be strengthened by what they have endured.

> *I cannot guarantee any Christian sufferer a happy ending in this life. But we can say this with certainty: one day we will see the compassionate God of our complicated world face to face, and that will change everything.* Tanya Marlow, England, 2006

MON 4 JAN • CHINA (2)

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. Colossians 1:28

Some churches feel called to be very active politically and constantly protest against regulations, even regulations that seem quite reasonable. This is endangering other churches who are seeking to "lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:2). All churches are being viewed as a threat by the Chinese government whether or not they engage politically. Pray that church leaders will have great sensitivity as they seek to discern the Lord's guidance for their own congregation, and that the work of making mature disciples will always be a priority.

> *Thou who art God beyond all praising, All for love's sake*

becamest man; Stooping so low, but sinners raising Heavenwards by thine eternal plan. Frank Houghton, England (1894-1972)

TUE 5 JAN • CHINA (3)
Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

Three Christian lawyers are in danger of having their licences suspended because of their efforts to defend churches in Shanghai. Pray for courage for the three lawyers and for all in China who are working for justice and religious liberty. Pray that all our brothers and sisters in China will have wisdom from above to live as faithful followers of Christ and contribute to the harmony of society in this Communist-led nation.

" *Hail to the Lord's Anointed! Great David's greater Son; Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free; To take away transgression, And rule in equity.* James Montgomery, Scotland (1771-1854)

WED 6 JAN • CHINA (4)
Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27

Military training is normal for all students at school and university, unless they have a disability or medical problem. It is largely viewed as akin to sport, giving resilience, discipline and practical skills, and especially useful for young people who grew up in one-child families. Until recently some Christian seminaries chose not to provide military training, but it has now become compulsory for them to do so. Not all seminaries have implemented this requirement yet. Pray for wisdom for their leadership and grace for theological students being trained in the arts of war.

" *Thou who art love beyond all telling, Saviour and King, we worship thee. Emmanuel, within us dwelling, Make us what thou wouldst have us be.* Frank Houghton, England (1894-1972)

THU 7 JAN • CHINA (5)
Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. Philippians 2:9-10

Christian young people practising their musical instruments for a future worship service were told they must not perform songs containing the words "Jesus", "God" or "Lord". The order came from a Religious Affairs Official on the second day of a 2-day raid against a house church (i.e. unregistered church) in Jinzhai County, Anhui Province. The young people were told to replace such hymns with songs in praise of the Chinese Communist Party. About 30 police and other officials were involved in the raid. Many Christians had their phones confiscated and two leaders were taken to the police station for questioning. Pray that believers, young and old, will not be intimidated by this experience but will continue to rejoice in the Lord Jesus.

" *How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear! It*

soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds And drives away his fear. John Newton, England (1725-1807)

FRI 8 JAN • NORTH KOREA
I have stored up your word in my heart. Psalm 119:11

Owning a physical Bible is so dangerous that North Korean Christians rely greatly on memorised Scripture. Sometimes they can listen to it secretly on the radio. According to Bibleaccesslist.org "every dimension of Bible access is prohibited" meaning that importing, printing, storing, owning, distributing, or accessing Scripture online are all forbidden. "Christians are treated as enemies of the state, and a Bible discovered in a routine house search can mean execution or a life sentence in a forced labour camp. Internet access for ordinary citizens is essentially zero; devices are state-controlled and monitored." Ask that the Holy Spirit will teach, empower, counsel and comfort Christians in North Korea.

> *I can see what those who persecute me cannot. On the other side of this river there is a multitude waiting to receive my soul and carry it to glory.* Sabas the Goth, Romania (c.334-372 martyred)

SAT 9 JAN • ETHIOPIA
You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you. Isaiah 26:3

At least 60 Christians, including children and elderly, died in two attacks in the Oromia region on 20 October and the night of 24-25 October. Around 20 people were injured and 20 homes burnt down. Church leaders believe the attacks were targeted anti-Christian violence. This fits with the findings of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council which recorded 458 deaths in violent attacks in the area in the four years to May 2026, several of which targeted Christians. Ask our heavenly Father to keep in perfect peace those who suffer for His Son's sake.

> *This promise of perfect peace [Isaiah 26:3-5] was not penned from a quiet, meditative mountaintop or a tranquil riverbank. It was forged in the crucible of political, social, and spiritual chaos, and in the midst of intense psychological terror. It comes as a spiritual anchor in an environment where people did not know if their city would still be standing the next day, the next week, or the next month.* A. Israel David, India, 2026

SUN 10 JAN • ERITREA
For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Hebrews 10:34

At least 20,000 people are held in over 300 detention sites across Eritrea. These include around 400 Christians, detained arbitrarily and often without charge or trial. Some of the Christians are from banned denominations, some from permitted denominations. Torture of prisoners is normal. A few of the Christians have been detained for over two decades and their families have heard nothing of them for years. Pray that their love for the Lord will continue to sustain His faithful people in prison

and that He will use them for His glory amongst the jailers and the other prisoners.

> *May the power of your love, Lord Christ, fiery and sweet as honey, so absorb our hearts as to withdraw them from all that is under heaven. Grant that we may be ready to die for love of your love, as you died for love of our love. Amen.* Francis of Assisi, Italy (1182-1226)

MON 11 JAN • SOMALIA

Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 2 Thessalonians 1:4 (NIV)

Praise God that small fellowships of Somali Christian converts from Islam are gradually growing, whether in Somalia itself or in the Somali diaspora. It is very dangerous for them to follow Christ; pray for their protection. Online resources and social media are a great way of sharing the Gospel and teaching the new believers, at least where there is good internet access. But there is also a great demand for printed Bibles and other printed Christian literature in the Somali language. Ask the Lord to raise up mature Somali believers to teach the newer converts. Pray also for perseverance for all who are suffering for their faith.

> *The world used the Cross to inflict death, but Christ transformed it into the Tree of Life.* Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Armenia (born 1976)

TUE 12 JAN • SUDAN (3)

Let us not grow weary of doing good. Galatians 6:9

Christians returning to Khartoum, when the fighting over the city abated, found that Bible training institutions have been ransacked or destroyed. Pray that they will not be disheartened and that the Holy Spirit Himself will guide Sudanese Christians into all truth (John 16:13). Ask the Lord to continue to strengthen Sudanese Christians as they make their church buildings into shelters for displaced people, providing provide food, clean water and medicines to all in need, whether Christians or Muslims.

> *Amid the fires of war, the church in Sudan plays a vital role as a spiritual anchor and a provider of humanitarian relief during times of conflict… Sustaining worship and preaching hope and peace to strengthen the resilience of believers amidst displacement and trauma…* A Sudanese pastor, talking to the Middle East Reformed Fellowship, 2026

WED 13 JAN • UGANDA (1)

He saved others; himself he cannot save. Matthew 27:42 (AV)

A 45-year-old Christian teacher called Benjamin Mayani was killed by a blow to his forehead around midnight on 29 September. Benjamin and a Christian friend were attacked by three Muslims, including one whose sister Sharifa had converted to Christianity. Benjamin had sheltered Christian converts from Islam in his own home, and Sharifa was one of those he helped in this way. Pray that the death of this faithful and courageous servant of the Lord will bear spiritual fruit in the lives of those around him.

> *Death not understood is death; death understood is immortality.* Yeghiche Vartabed, Armenia (415-475)

THU 14 JAN • UGANDA (2)
When you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43:2

Two sisters who left Islam to follow Christ were almost burnt to death by their father, who is still a Muslim. Amina and Shamila were threatened by their father Muhamud in August, who told them he would act to fulfil Islamic law (which specifies a death sentence for those who leave Islam). Around midnight on 6 September, while his daughters were sleeping, Muhamud doused their home in Kasese District with a flammable liquid and set it alight. Praise God the girls woke up in time and managed to break through the wall and escape, although all their possessions were destroyed by the flames. Amina said that her faith and her sister's faith has been strengthened by this experience. Ask that their heavenly Father will protect them from their earthly father, who may try again to do what he currently believes is his religious duty i.e. kill his daughters. Pray that Muhamud may find the joy of salvation in Christ.

> *We are happy to say that the fire consumed our shelter but did not consume our faith and hope in Jesus Christ.* Amina, Uganda

FRI 15 JAN • NIGERIA (3)
May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Presidential and National Assembly elections will be held tomorrow, with state elections following on 6 February. A Nigerian Christian leader asks TBF Trust to pray: *"Lord of nations, we pray for Nigeria in this season of elections. Give us leaders who fear You and serve with honesty. Keep Your people and all communities safe from violence. Guard the ballot from fear and corruption, grant wisdom and fairness to all who run the elections, and let Your peace rule before, during and after the votes are counted. Make Your Church faithful, united and prayerful, a light to our nation. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

SAT 16 JAN • NIGERIA (4)
He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

Seven villagers and four police officers were killed in an attack on a mainly Christian farming community called Ayilamo in Logo Local Government Area, Benue State on 10 September. The attack, which began at dusk, is thought to have been perpetrated by Fulani extremists. About 200 of them arrived by boat from neighbouring states. A survivor, who escaped death by hiding on a rooftop, said that he heard the attackers chanting "Allahu Akbar" ["God is great", a traditional Islamic declaration] as they shot at the village residents. A gun battle between the attackers and the police lasted seven hours until the attackers withdrew into the forest. Pray for the bereaved and the injured of Ayilamo village that their faith in the Lord Jesus will sustain them.

> *When believers forgive, they refuse to give Satan an advantage and*

choose instead to walk according to the character of Christ. Samuel Arimoro, Nigeria, 2026

SUN 17 JAN • LAKE CHAD

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD. Habakkuk 3:17-18

Lake Chad is surrounded by Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. Tens of millions of people depend on the ecosystem of the lake and its surrounding basin for their livelihoods. But it is a harsh mosquito-infested environment, with much sickness and hunger, both underdeveloped and "under-governed". Islamist militant groups exploit the local people to provide an income stream for their violent activities: they infiltrate local mining and charcoal production, traffic wildlife, and impose taxes on the islanders. The main two Islamist groups, Boko Haram and ISWAP, fight each other for control of the fisheries. Few Christians remain now in the area. Pray that the Lord will work in power to bring spiritual and physical healing, wholeness and salvation to Lake Chad.

> *"Though the fig tree shall not blossom" must become our sign and hope where human systems fail, and human strength falters. It anchors us in the assurance that God is present, working even when the world trembles.* Bishop Francis Omondi, Kenya (born 1966)

MON 18 JAN • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

The multifaceted conflicts in north-east DRC have "wounded" the Church, says a ministry that tries to help in the region. The church youth have been left "without proper attention from the equally wounded leaders". As a result the Christian young people are confused and vulnerable to being persuaded by any ideology. They are easily convinced to enrol into militia with highly animistic beliefs. Pray for the Lord's comfort, strength and healing for all believers in this ravaged region of DRC, asking especially that young Christians will cling faithfully to the Lord Jesus.

> *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 Lemmel, England/USA (1863-1961)

TUE 19 JAN • MALDIVES (1)

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God... Jude 20-21

The Maldives has begun a year-long celebration to mark the 900th anniversary of the day when a Buddhist ruler of the Maldives converted to Islam. The 900 years is calculated by the Islamic calendar and is equivalent to about 873 years by the Gregorian calendar used in the West. After his conversion, the Buddhist kingdom became an Islamic sultanate and Islam spread throughout the islands. Islam has profoundly affected

culture, education, law, architecture and identity in the Maldives, which is one of the strictest Islamic countries in today's world. Pray for Christians in the Maldives, whether indigenous Maldivians or migrant workers, as they try to build up their faith in a context where church buildings are forbidden and Christians could be imprisoned or fined for expressing their beliefs openly.

> *Lord Jesus, you suffered for me – what am I suffering for you?* Corrie ten Boom, Netherlands (1892-1983)

WED 20 JAN • MALDIVES (2)
Listen to me, you islands. Isaiah 49:1 (NIV)

As Maldivians celebrate 900 years of Islam in their nation, great emphasis is being placed on handing on the Islamic heritage to future generations. Many initiatives in dawa (Islamic missionary outreach) have been established as part of the celebrations. A new mosque with capacity for 10,000 worshippers is being built. Over 700 young Maldivians have been trained as khatibs (mosque preachers) – a response to the shortage of imams and Friday preachers across the nation's 187+ inhabited islands. Pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus will be made known and that faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour will spread amongst Maldivians.

> *We are the Bibles the world is reading. We are the creeds the world is needing. We are the sermons the world is heeding.* Billy Graham, USA (1918-2018)

THU 21 JAN • SRI LANKA
... shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life ... Philippians 2:15-16

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.

> *We Christians today are struggling to remain faithful to Jesus' teachings in a corrupt world. Though we often fall, we are able to get up and continue running towards that goal because of his grace. Jesus said: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." This is the summary of the history of Christianity.* Gintota P. V. Somaratna, Sri Lanka (born 1941)

FRI 22 JAN • INDIA (2)
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10

An Islamic scholar has filed a petition in the Bombay High Court in Mumbai challenging the constitutional validity of the new Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act 2026. The law, commonly known as an "anti-conversion law", seeks to prevent conversion by force,

fraud or inducement. But some of the new law's provisions are very broad and could affect legitimate religious activity by Muslims and Christians. For example, praying for healing of the sick could be seen as an illegal inducement to convert. Also, the law puts the burden on the accused to prove that a conversion was lawful instead of on others having to prove that it was unlawful. Pray for wisdom and justice as the court considers, and that the new law will not be used to restrict people's voluntary choice of faith in Maharashtra state.

> *No man, no law, no Government has the right to prevent me or force me, or anyone, if I choose to embrace the religion that gives me peace, joy, love.* Mother Teresa, born in Albania, ministered in India (1910-1997)

SAT 23 JAN • PAKISTAN (4)
Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Psalm 34:11

An impoverished Christian community in Peshawar used to face a major challenge regarding education for their children. A local Christian explains: "The only school in our area was a Government Muslim school. There were [Christian] children going to that school but they were constantly subjected to biased treatment from the students as well as the teachers. Factors like bullying, mistreatment, mockery and taking Islamiat [Quran Studies] as a compulsory subject led to parents retrieving their children from that school." Praise God with us for a Christian school which, with support from TBF Trust, gives free education to Christian children and also teaches them their Christian faith.

> *I will walk with Jesus in His light. Day and night, I will follow Him. I will walk in the light, I will follow behind. Jesus is my Saviour, I know.* Pakistani hymn by M.A. Dennis, translated from Urdu

SUN 24 JAN • AFGHANISTAN (1)
Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. Nehemiah 1:3 (NIV)

Afghan refugees are being forced to return to Afghanistan, the country from which they fled. Amongst them are Christian converts from Islam and their children. Upon return, some converts have been arrested, tortured, poisoned or killed, simply because of their faith in Christ. Alongside this violence are other troubles. One Christian father says: "My son is now 13. If he continues in education in Afghanistan, his studies will be Islamic education. I do not know what kind of future that will create for him. My daughter is 8. Once she reaches Year 6, she will no longer be able to continue her education because the Taliban has banned secondary education for girls." Pray that the Lord Jesus will watch over His faithful disciples in Afghanistan and keep them from fear and harm.

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

MON 25 JAN • AFGHANISTAN (2)
A new commandment I give to you, that you

love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. John 13:34

A Central Asian pastor, who is in touch with many Christians in Afghanistan, writes that the current sufferings have had one positive result: the Christians have become more united and are now caring for one another much more deeply. Past disagreements have faded away. Praise God for this. The pastor also writes: "Please pray that believers will have the courage to continue meeting in small groups and supporting one another. Pray also for opportunities for girls to study online, so they can acquire skills that will enable them to work from home." Pray that believers will find work to support themselves.

> *Stand fast in the faith and love one another.* Perpetua, Carthage, in modern Tunisia (c.181-203 martyred).

TUE 26 JAN • AFGHANISTAN (3)
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

Mozhda TV (meaning "Good News TV" in the Dari language) is a Christian satellite channel which launched on 24 October. Its programmes are in Dari and Pashto, the two main languages of Afghanistan. Although Christian programmes for Afghan viewers have been aired for many years on various channels, this is the first channel that is wholly dedicated to them. Despite the terrible poverty in Afghanistan, almost every home has a television and a satellite dish. The Taliban government can cut off the internet but not satellite reception. Pray for plans to add more Afghan languages and dialects including Hazaragi, Uzbek, Turkmen and Baluchi. A main focus is programmes for women, to help with their health and education and to give them hope in their desperately curtailed situation under Taliban rule.

> *We want to tell [Afghan women] that the Lord loves them and that this is not the end; hold on to hope.* Masoud Ghorbani, Afghanistan, Executive Director of Mozhda TV, 2026

WED 27 JAN • KAZAKHSTAN
In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 2 Corinthians 8:2 (NIV)

Praise God for the concern of Baptist churches in Kazakhstan to care for persecuted Christians around the world. For about 10 years they have been raising funds annually to support suffering Christians in other countries and continents, even though their own circumstances in Kazakhstan are difficult and they face many restrictions and pressures. Pray that their example will inspire others, as the Macedonians inspired the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 8:1).

> *For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.* 2 Corinthians 8:3-4 (NIV)

THU 28 JAN • KYRGYZSTAN (4)
The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that

a woman took and hid in a large tub of flour until it made all the dough rise. Matthew 13:33 (NCV)

"God is doing many amazing things among believers in Kyrgyzstan!" wrote a Kyrgyz pastor in October. Many Kyrgyz Christians had met together for a conference. It was a time of powerful worship, the preaching of God's Word and inspiring testimonies. Pressure and persecution are the norm for Kyrgyz believers, who are mainly converts from Islam or the children of converts. Praise God for their resilience, their joy in the Lord and their zeal for His Kingdom. "We prayed for our nation—for more and more people to come to Christ and for churches to be established in every village and district," said the pastor. Add your prayers to those of our brothers and sisters in Kyrgyzstan.

" *Please join us in prayer as we ask the Lord to expand His Kingdom and bless Kyrgyzstan!.* A Kyrgyz pastor, October 2026

FRI 29 JAN • KYRGYZSTAN (5)
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news. Isaiah 52:7

Christians are actively distributing literature and sharing their faith. Some do so where they live, study or work, while others are making special trips, particularly to high-altitude parts of this mountainous country. Kyrgyz Christians say: "Let us thank the Lord for the opportunity to openly proclaim salvation to people, that our brothers and sisters are actively sharing the Gospel, and that people are open and willing to accept the literature." Pray that people will read the literature they have received, that the opportunity to share the Gospel in remote areas will continue, and that many will put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

" *Time is given us to use in view of eternity.* Henry Allan Ironside, Canada (1876-1951)

SAT 30 JAN • TAJIKISTAN (1)
May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NIV)

Tajikistan is the poorest country in Central Asia. About 60% of the population live on less than $3 (£2.25) a day, which is the current international poverty line. More than 90% of the population are Muslims, with the government promoting a moderate form of Islam and cracking down on Islamist extremists. Christians are thought to form approximately 1% of the population. In 1991 Christians were probably about 10% of the population but the civil war of 1992-97 caused many Russians and Ukrainians to leave, greatly reducing the number of Christians. Pray that in this context Christians may find that the joy of the Lord is their strength.

" *I believe that when I sing and worship, In heaven above me the doors to the throne room open. I'm coming in to meet with You. My King, my God, I am at Your feet.* Mavjuda, Tajikistan

SUN 31 JAN • TAJIKISTAN (2)
Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from

your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children. Deuteronomy 4:9

No one under the age of 18 is allowed to participate in public religious activities except funerals. That means Christian parents cannot take their children to church worship or even have them on church premises. They also cannot send them to Sunday School or similar classes to learn the Christian faith. Pray that Christian parents will be guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit in all their efforts to teach their children the faith at home and to help their children grow up to love the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

> *I want to be with You, I've been searching for You since morning. When I close my eyes at night, I'm whispering Your Name. I'm lost without You. You are my light, You are my star. The closer I get to You, the brighter Your light shines.*
> Mavjuda, Tajikistan



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