

How hard is it to be a believer in Kuwait? Islam is the state religion here and while it is not illegal to change religion, it can lead to exclusion from the family or monitoring by the police. And although for local Kuwaitis it may be difficult to visit a church or get access to the gospel, for the two million migrant workers there are far fewer restrictions.

Pastor Emmanuel is amazed at how God has allowed him to minister in Kuwait. Every week, he shares the gospel with workers from India and Pakistan. Fluent in Punjabi, Urdu, English and Arabic, his work takes him to the camps of migrant workers outside Kuwait City where he disciples small groups.



Pastor Emmanuel leading a Bible study

He has baptised 1,300 people during his ministry and witnessed the rapid growth of the Christian faith!

After one meeting, a man who has been a Christian for two years said: "Since I received Jesus, things have begun to change in my life. I stopped drinking, I stopped smoking. I go to church now and am part of the worship team. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I try to follow Jesus more and more."

"Please keep us in your prayers," says Pastor Emmanuel, "because God is doing wonderful work in Kuwait."

PRAY

- Thank God for Pastor Emmanuel and the believers he disciples
- For wisdom for believers from Muslim families who have to be more careful about expressing their faith publicly
- For Christians in Kuwait to be united and to support one another.



You can watch a filmed interview with Pastor Emmanuel on our bi-monthly prayer resource, Prayer News DVD (edition 266). To sign up to receive Prayer News phone **01993 460015**. To watch online visit www.opendoorsuk.org/prayernews

Give thanks for Answered prayer

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for, writing to and supporting Trinity (5), Alvaro (5) and Anita (3) from Indonesia as they recover from the church bomb attack which left them with severe burns. Your support is helping the children to make good progress on the road of healing.



Trinity (RIGHT) has now completed two phases of treatment in China. Her father recently sent us some clips of her pretending to play the guitar and singing 'I am happy to be God's child'. The footage clearly shows significant progress in the healing of her left hand. "Praise the Lord for her progressive healing," he says. "It's all God's grace."

Alvaro is currently seeking advance treatment in Malaysia, as progress in his healing has been slow in Samarinda, where he lives. "God never ceases to show His love (for us)," says his mother, Novita. "He brings many good people to take care of us here. Open Doors' staffs visited us immediately just when we felt lonely here. They prayed for us and continue to check on our daily condition."

During a recent visit to the family, Open Doors staff gave Alvaro some of the cards of encouragement sent by supporters around the world. "Thank you so much for all this," said his father. "I will read to him all these cards."

You can watch a clip of Trinity singing by going to www.opendoorsuk.org/prayernews or by ordering the latest edition of Prayer News DVD.

PRAY

- Thank God for the good progress that Trinity and Alvaro are making in the healing process
- For their continued spiritual and emotional recovery as well as their physical healing
- Ask God to continue to give courage and faith to their parents as He provides for all their needs. Pray for wisdom for Open Doors staff and others supporting them.

WORLD WATCH LIST

5 PAKISTAN



Pakistan remains in the World Watch List top five in 2018. Each week brings new stories of Christians being targeted for their faith, on the streets and in the law courts. Most recently, it has been decided that those who apply for a job in the judiciary, armed forces, civil services or other government roles need to declare under oath that Muhammad was the final prophet.

In the last few weeks, hundreds of Christians in Lahore have been commemorating those who died in the shocking arson attack on Joseph's Colony in 2013 and in the suicide attacks on two churches in Youhanabad in 2015. And the violence continues. In February, over 800 Christian families in Lahore fled their homes after mobs of Muslims demanded the arrest of 20-year-old Christian Patras Masih for alleged blasphemy for a photo he posted on Facebook.

The following month, however, 200 of these Christians were back on the streets of Lahore for a Palm Sunday procession. Hameed Masih*, whose family was one of those to flee, said: "We definitely got a boost from being able to profess our faith openly in the streets after being haunted and living in terror. It was a big deal."

PRAY

Lord Jesus, we cry for justice for Christians targeted by violence or imprisoned under Pakistan's blasphemy laws. Protect those advocating on behalf of religious minorities and move Pakistan's government to review the blasphemy laws. Strengthen the church to stand firm and to proclaim your gospel so that all may see Your glory.

PRAY THROUGH THE WORLD WATCH LIST

To help you pray for Christians living in the 50 countries on the World Watch List 2018, the Open Doors weekly email provides a written prayer for a different country on the World Watch List each week, giving the latest news and stories from the persecuted church. Sign up today at www.opendoorsuk.org

For the latest news and to sign up for our weekly email prayer alerts, go to www.opendoorsuk.org



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"WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

John 8:12

Pakistan



Tuesday 1 May

Millions of Christians have no access to sound biblical teaching or fellowship. Through a network of partner churches, Open Doors provides 'church on wheels' – mobile church teams who travel to rural Christian communities to share the gospel (see Magazine p9-10). Ask God to protect these teams and use them to bring God's truth and hope to isolated Christians.

Wednesday 2 May

Shahzad (see Magazine p9) is one of many isolated Christians deprived of fair employment, water and education for their children because of their faith in Jesus. Pray for provision for Shahzad and his family, and ask God to bless and protect all who advocate for the rights of Pakistan's Christian minority.

Thursday 3 May

In Pastor Sabqat's village, due to the local mullah's influence, Christians dare not send their daughters out to work in the fields because kidnap, rape or violence may await them. Thank God that through Sabqat, Open Doors partners have been supporting the church in this village for 30 years. Pray that they will know the body of Christ is standing with them.

Friday 4 May

Some parents see the offer of literacy for their daughters as a threat because going to school reduces the number of earners in the home. Give thanks that Open Doors local church partners have taught over 100,000 men and women to write in the last 30 years. Pray that the benefits of literacy training will be a source of blessing to many more people.



Saturday 5 May

Pray for Patras Masih (20) who is in hiding awaiting the outcome of a blasphemy case after he was accused of posting blasphemous content on Facebook. His cousin Sajid was also arrested and beaten by police. Pray for their protection.

Sunday 6 May

Pray for justice, freedom and safety for mother-of-five, Asia Bibi, imprisoned on death row for blasphemy since 2010. A sister from Pakistan says, "Because of this silencing, the terrorists seem louder and Christians stop speaking out."

Monday 7 May

After December's suicide attack on a church in Quetta, which killed nine people, Open Doors church partners came alongside grieving relatives. Pray that the bereaved will continue to know God's comfort in their loss.

**Name changed for security reasons*

PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Tuesday 8 May – Syria

Over 100,000 people have fled Afrin and its surrounding villages since Turkish troops took control of the city. Among them are 300 Christians, mainly Kurdish believers, who are now in refugee camps. Pray for those trying to help these people and pray that they will know the presence and comfort of Jesus in the midst of their suffering.

Wednesday 9 May – Syria

Give thanks for local churches and Open Doors partners offering Syrian Christians microloans and new opportunities to earn an income through farms, factories, pharmacies, bee-keeping and other types of business. Ask God to prosper these initiatives.



Thursday 10 May – Syria

By opening a clinic, distribution and educational centre in Eastern Aleppo, Open Doors is supporting the church to have a presence in a mostly Muslim environment. Father Sami says, "This is the time to be open instead of being closed." Pray for the opportunities that this presents.

Friday 11 May – Syria

Give thanks for the work Open Doors is supporting in Syria, prompted by a prophetic word from Open Doors' founder Brother Andrew to a conference of church leaders before the conflict started. And celebrate the amazing life and work of Brother Andrew - 'God's Smuggler' – it's his 90th birthday today!

Saturday 12 May – Iraq

Pray for elections scheduled to take place today. Pray that Christians will be represented well and that the winning candidates will be those who will best serve their people. Also pray for good relations between the governments in Baghdad and Erbil in Kurdistan.

Sunday 13 May – Iraq

Most university students live at home and travel daily to their classes. Pray for protection for Christians travelling through unstable regions to continue their education. Ask God to give their parents peace and faith in Him.

Monday 14 May – Iraq

Pray for Muslims who are thirsty to know more about Christ. One Muslim man, whose brother was invited to church and was amazed by the welcome and the preaching, said: "I would love to go to the church as my brother keeps speaking positively and is very happy about it." Ask God to make his dream a reality.

Ramadan

Tuesday 15 May

Muslims see Ramadan as a time to search for God. Ask God to draw them to Christian websites, TV or radio programmes, or believers with courage to share their faith, and pray that many Muslims will find the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Wednesday 16 May

In some countries during Ramadan, Islamists intimidate Christians with questions to try to make them doubt their Christian faith. Pray that Christians who face questions will be able to give an answer for the hope they have, and will show gentleness and respect towards those questioning them.

Thursday 17 May – Turkmenistan

Praise God that Hadija* learned about her Creator from a Christian friend during Ramadan. She now secretly prays to Jesus during Muslim prayers and reads her New Testament in secret. Pray for her husband to come to know his Creator, too.

Friday 18 May – Chechnya

Fatima, who used to suffer with depression, discovered peace and joy when a friend invited her to a Christian meeting during Ramadan. Rejoice with her that she has been healed! Pray that she will have courage to share the gospel with others.

Saturday 19 May – Bangladesh

Pray for a Christian couple called Abu* and Safia* who want to reach out to their Muslim community during Ramadan. Ask God to bless and protect them and bring their plans to fruition.

Sunday 20 May – Malaysia

Adam* and Eve* are currently studying to deepen their knowledge of the Bible. Pray for wisdom and boldness as they are planning to fast with their Muslim family and friends this Ramadan so they will have the opportunity to share Jesus.

Monday 21 May – Algeria

Pressure on Christians is growing. Pray for believers who recently became followers of Jesus. Ask God to give them strength and wisdom in these weeks of Ramadan when pressure from their family to return to Islam might intensify.

Tuesday 22 May

Remember the many Muslim minorities living in other countries around the world. Pray that Christians will use the month of Ramadan to show God's love to Muslims in their communities and pray that through our witness, many will find Jesus.

It's not too late to order 30 Days of Prayer to help you pray for Muslims and Muslim-background believers during Ramadan (15 May - 14 June). Call Inspire on 01993 460015 or go to www.opendoorsuk.org.



Muslim World

Wednesday 23 May – Southern Philippines

A year ago today, the city of Marawi was overrun by an IS-affiliated group, displacing over 200,000 people including many Christians. Pray for Open Doors workers supporting displaced believers and pray for healing for those for whom the anniversary will bring painful memories.

Thursday 24 May – Indonesia

Harun* chose to stay with his father despite persecution. He says, "I want to be a blessing to my father so he can also believe in Isa." Ask God to draw Harun's father to Jesus.

Friday 25 May – Maldives

The Maldives is very closed to the gospel. The Bible is completely forbidden. Pray for protection and wisdom for Mark* and May* as they share God's love with Muslims.

Saturday 26 May – Iran

Christians imprisoned in Iran often have to endure interrogation, solitary confinement and threats against family members. Ask the Lord to 'direct [their] hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance' (2 Thessalonians 3:5).

Sunday 27 May – Iran

The sentences given to Christians have been getting longer in the past year, with some receiving sentences of between 8 and 10 years. Pray for a reversal of this trend and for a change in Iran's strict laws to allow for greater religious freedom.

Monday 28 May – Brunei

New believers like Victoria* have to maintain an outward appearance of being Muslim. This is very difficult during Ramadan because of the rituals that have to be observed. Ask God to guide and protect her.

Tuesday 29 May – Saudi Arabia

Pray for secret believers in Saudi Muslim families. Often no one in their family knows of their faith in Christ because leaving Islam can mean exclusion from the family or even death. Pray for strength to stand firm under pressure.

Wednesday 30 May – Cameroon

Hamadou's vision of Jesus led to a severe beating from his father but that didn't put him off! Today he disciples 15 other believers from Muslim backgrounds. They all have pressing needs, so ask our Father to take care of them.

Thursday 31 May – UK & Ireland

As the needs of the persecuted church continue to grow, Open Doors longs to do more to strengthen those who pay a high price for following Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to move more Christians around the world to provide longterm prayer and financial support for their persecuted family.