


Open *Doors*

PRAYER DIARY | July/August 2024



**“Whoever loses
their life for my
sake will find it.”**

MATTHEW 10:39

JULY

Afghanistan

Monday 1 July

As the Taliban's strict interpretation of Sharia (Islamic law) becomes increasingly part of everyday life, many Afghans are losing hope. Pray that the Taliban leadership will encounter the saving grace of God, and that it will soften their hearts and the way they govern the country.

Tuesday 2 July

Khada's* husband Ehsan* was killed after his faith in Jesus was discovered (see Magazine p7). Yet she is determined to keep following Jesus: "In the difficult Taliban regime, we face challenges, but with strong faith, we persevere." Pray that she will have an unbreakable friendship with Jesus that deepens each day.

Wednesday 3 July

Ask God to protect Khada as she disciplines her children and provides for their needs. She asks that we pray that her children will grow up loving Jesus and His word, so they will stand strong in their faith.

Thursday 4 July - UK & Ireland

As the UK goes to the polls, give thanks for the right we have to vote. Pray that the people of the UK

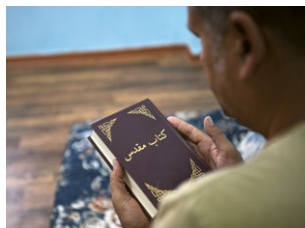
will use their vote wisely, and ask God to bring about greater freedom of conscience and religion for the many people around the world who do not enjoy this blessing.

Friday 5 July

Many Afghan women have lost husbands because of their faith, leaving them to support their children alone. With ever-tightening restrictions on women's movements outside the home, this poses many challenges. Ask the Lord to provide our sisters with the means to become self-sufficient.

Saturday 6 July

Pray for the community of Afghan believers who feel called to remain in the country. Ask God to protect them as they meet for fellowship, and give them wisdom and courage to be salt and light to those around them.



Sunday 7 July

Pray for Afghans, like Saadi* (PICTURED ABOVE AND ON COVER) living as refugees in countries where it's still dangerous to follow Jesus and

difficult to make ends meet. Ask God to provide for their needs, and pray that the surrounding countries will be open to letting refugees work, attend school and worship freely.

Monday 8 July

Pray for refugees sent back to Afghanistan by Pakistan. Pray for divine protection, that they will find support, and that they will encounter the love of Jesus.

Tuesday 9 July

Ask God to protect Open Doors partners and give them wisdom and direction to make the right connections in their work. Pray for words of knowledge to help them avoid danger in whatever form it comes.

Secret believers

Wednesday 10 July

In countries all over the world, Christians face a stark choice: keep their faith hidden, or risk attack, abuse or even death. Ask the Lord to watch over these believers and connect them safely to other Christians who can help them grow in faith.

Thursday 11 July

Pray for Christians who face opposition for any public expression of faith. Ask God to give

them both courage and wisdom - that they would know when and how best to share their faith.

Friday 12 July

Some believers are at risk from their own family or community. Ask the Holy Spirit to comfort them and lead them to a new family of faith where they can find encouragement and fellowship.

Saturday 13 July

Ask God to provide for the practical needs of secret believers, ensuring they have access to resources, including Bibles and Christian literature, to deepen their faith.

Sunday 14 July

Pray that, despite the challenges they face, secret believers will experience the hope and joy that come from knowing Christ. Pray that they will eventually be able to share their faith and that those they love would be receptive to the radical grace of Jesus.

Monday 15 July

Ask God to help Open Doors' fieldworkers around the world who serve persecuted believers. Pray they would have the wisdom to serve well, without endangering people or house churches.

*Names changed for security reasons



Jalila discovers the power of prayer

Thank you for praying for the deaf community in Central Asia. Jalila's story is a glimpse into how your prayers are being answered.

Growing up, Jalila* felt that she was not good enough. She is deaf and, where she lives in Central Asia, this carries a stigma that affects the way even loved ones treat her.

"It seemed like they were trying to ignore that I was deaf," says Jalila, who was prevented from learning sign language by her father. "They tried to teach me to behave like a hearing person. This hurt me a lot. I felt ashamed because I made my parents suffer and be disappointed in me."

This began to change when a deaf believer invited her to church. "I had no idea I was attending a church," she admits. "She just told me that there was a place where I could be healed from asthma, so I went. I liked the church so much and I started going there more often. I gave my life to Jesus. I learnt that, in Jesus, I am loved and valued.

"My parents were angry when they got to know about my new faith," continues Jalila. "They

didn't let me go to church or communicate with other believers. They didn't want me to associate with deaf people, especially with converted deaf believers. They scolded me every time and beat me. They said my faith

"I learnt that, in Jesus, I am loved, valuable and not defected."

was a disgrace to the family." Their stance softened when they had no answer for a miracle – the healing of Jalila's

asthma, which even doctors couldn't explain.

Other answers to prayer followed. "I was praying about my marriage and God gave me a hearing husband!" In parts of Central Asia, this is uncommon, given that deaf people are considered by many to be cursed by Allah. Magid*, her husband, is not a Christian but he respects her faith. He used to be an alcoholic but, after much prayer, he no longer drinks.

"I always pray about my husband and tell God that, even if Magid is against my faith, I will never deny Jesus," adds Jalila, whose three hearing children also attend church. "I believe one day my husband will go to church with me and we'll serve together!"

PLEASE PRAY

- That Magid and Jalila's parents will come to know Jesus
- That Jalila's children will grow in their faith
- That the Christian deaf community will keep growing in number.

*Names changed for security reasons

Africa

Tuesday 16 July – Sudan

Kodi* (24) used to walk three hours to attend Bible college. Thanks to your support, he now has a motorbike. People call him ‘the mobile theological college’! Pray that Kodi’s ministry will bless others.

Wednesday 17 July

– Mozambique

Local partners are reporting that are increasing in northern provinces. Please pray for traumatised believers, and that the government will make every effort to stabilise the region.

Thursday 18 July

– Malawi

Earlier this year, a group of community leaders stormed a church in the predominantly Muslim area of Mangochi, threatening the pastor. They also beat some of the congregation and set the church alight. Pray for physical and emotional healing for the pastor and his church.

Friday 19 July – Malawi

“We are praying for the body of Christ to stand with us. Almost every year our churches are being torched,” says a local church leader. Ask God to comfort and strengthen believers in Mangochi District.

Saturday 20 July – Kenya

Joy of God Ministries Church is being forcefully evicted by its landlord, under the influence of Muslim leaders. Ask God to provide a place for the church to worship and run its community outreach programmes to poverty-stricken families.

Sunday 21 July

– Cameroon

Islamic extremist group Boko Haram are thought to be planting landmines across the Tourou region, injuring believers like Abeh*, who had to have his right leg amputated after an explosion. Pray for Abeh’s healing, and for the military as they work to detect and remove mines.

Monday 22 July – Niger

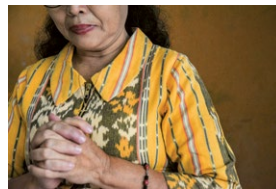
In April, Islamic extremists started imposing a new tax in villages near the Niger-Burkina Faso border. Around 357 Christian families have left their villages. Pray for God’s guidance for local Open Doors partners as they serve these believers.

Indonesia

Tuesday 23 July

Sri (60) (PICTURED) is a Christian Studies teacher, and the only teacher in her school with no permanent classroom; she spends every lesson looking for a vacant space to teach. Pray that every young person

she teaches will be deeply rooted in God’s Word.



Wednesday 24 July

Sri has been strengthened by persecution survival training, run by local Open Doors partners. Pray for all Christian teachers experiencing discrimination, that they will have the strength and resilience to overcome challenges.

Thursday 25 July

Wisnu* is a civil servant, but cannot be promoted because of his Christian faith. Ask God to give Wisnu wisdom and grace in his work, so that others will come to know Jesus through him.

Friday 26 July

A few years ago, Wisnu’s neighbours demanded that he stop leading worship and praying in his home. But their attitudes have since softened. “I reached out to them,” he says. “As they learnt more about me, their prejudices faded.” Praise God for this change!

North Korea

Saturday 27 July

A group of North Korean refugees were recently sent to political prison

camps because they read the Bible, met with Christians, or tried reaching South Korea. Ask God to heal, strengthen and protect them.

Sunday 28 July

Satellite image comparison shows that North Korea has expanded Camp 25, a prison camp for political offenders including Christians. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be ‘an ever-present help’ (Psalm 46:1) to prisoners in Camp 25.

Monday 29 July

North Korea expects more periods of drought this year, and inflation is high. Pray that the Lord will provide, and for those who risk their lives to support their communities with supplies.

Tuesday 30 July

There are new Open Doors workers in the Chinese border area. Ask God to help them discern between North Koreans who are genuinely in need and secret agents, and pray that their projects will be a blessing for many.

Wednesday 31 July – UK&I

Pray for Open Doors staff and volunteers who are sharing at Christian festivals this summer, that more people will be moved to pray and stand with their persecuted church family.

*Names changed for security reasons



Passing on the gospel in Afghanistan

Medina can continue sharing
her faith, thanks to you

It was Medina's* husband who first told her about Jesus. An old schoolfriend of his courageously shared the gospel with him, and Medina began to notice him change.

As they grew in their faith, the couple made the risky decision to share what they had learned. "We later began teaching disciples, with my husband having nine and myself having four," she says. "Despite the challenges, our work continued."

"I did not lose my faith and continued following the path of Jesus."

A SINISTER VISIT

Medina is one of an estimated few thousand believers in Afghanistan. For Medina especially, as

a woman, the risk of her faith being found out is enormous; it can result in a death sentence, or torture and imprisonment.

Medina had given birth to their second child when she received a strange visit. "Two people visited my home, claiming to work for my husband," she remembers. "They left without conveying any specific message. I was very concerned, but my husband reassured me there was nothing to worry about."

Soon after the men arrived, Medina's husband disappeared. She never saw him again.

THE MINISTRY CONTINUES

Medina was comforted by other believers. "I found

solace in reading the Bible and praying for my husband and our fellow believers," she says. "I did not lose my faith and continued following the path of Jesus."

"I express my gratitude to all who have supported us."

She knows that, now that the Taliban are back in power, the risks involved in sharing her faith have only increased. Restrictions prevent women from travelling alone, which makes evangelism harder. But nothing will prevent Medina from doing the work she believes God has called her to do – and your prayers and gifts are helping her to continue.

"I express my gratitude to all our believing brothers and sisters who have supported us with study materials, food and fuel," she says. "May God bless them abundantly. We remain happy in our lives because we have Jesus with us, who continues to bless and strengthen us."

PRAY

- For God's protection and strength for Medina and her children
- That God will bless Medina's evangelistic ministry
- That the church in Afghanistan will continue to be infused with the hope of Christ.

*Name changed for security reasons and image is illustrative

AUGUST

North Africa

Thursday 1 August

Open Doors partners across the region have witnessed a noticeable surge in conversions to Christianity, particularly among young people, and often through the internet. Praise God for this! Pray that more people will encounter Jesus through the digital sphere.

Friday 2 August

For many young converts, choosing to follow Jesus comes at the cost of pursuing their education and career. Ask God to provide ways for them to flourish, and pray that Open Doors partners will know how best to serve these new believers.

Saturday 3 August

Mayssa* (45) – who encountered Jesus through social media – courageously affirmed her new faith when a colleague discovered her Bible. But she now faces isolation and harassment in the workplace. Ask God to sustain Mayssa and pray for her colleagues to be struck by her witness.

Sunday 4 August

Ikram* and Abbas* are looking to relocate with their three children because of persecution. Their business has been

boycotted and Abbas has been physically attacked. Ask God to provide a home and community that enables the whole family to flourish.

Monday 5 August

Zahra* embraced Christianity through a YouTube channel about the Bible. She has not told her Muslim family. “I am apprehensive about their reaction,” she says. “It would certainly displease them. I prefer to maintain my faith discreetly.” Pray for wisdom, courage and protection.

Tuesday 6 August

Almost all churches in Algeria have been closed by the authorities under laws introduced in 2006 governing the practice of non-Muslim groups. Ask God to give believers perseverance, courage and creativity as they seek alternative ways to meet.

Wednesday 7 August

Yasmina* and her husband were forced to flee their country to escape hostility because of their faith. Her husband was even arrested. They long to return home and practise their faith freely. Ask God to make a way for this to happen.

Egypt

Thursday 8 August

Pray for God’s protection over secret believers in Egypt. Ask God to give them courage and boldness to stand firm amidst challenges and threats, and pray that their lives will draw others to Jesus.

Friday 9 August

When Sobhi* became a Christian, he was divorced and separated from his children. He spiralled into drug addiction. He has since found freedom and joined a discipleship group. Pray for his continued healing.

Saturday 10 August

Praise God that Pastor Youssef* has been given permission to build what will be the only church in his village. Local believers, who’ve come under huge pressure for their faith, are thrilled at the development. Pray that the church will be built without opposition and will bring Christ’s light to the village.

Sunday 11 August

Ask God to reveal Himself to Muslims who are searching for Him. Pray that Christians will reflect the love of Jesus to their Muslim neighbours by serving them with love and compassion.

Afghanistan

Monday 12 August

Give thanks for the small remnant of believers in Afghanistan. Ask God to encourage those who are struggling and give them tangible signs of His presence with them.

Tuesday 13 August

Ask God to protect Afghan believers as they read the Bible and share the Jesus they have found. Pray that their lives will bear much fruit and bring new hope to their country.

Wednesday 14 August

Pray for those turning to Jesus for hope and salvation. Pray that they will see His miraculous provision for their lives, and learn a new way to live that centres on loving God and their neighbour.

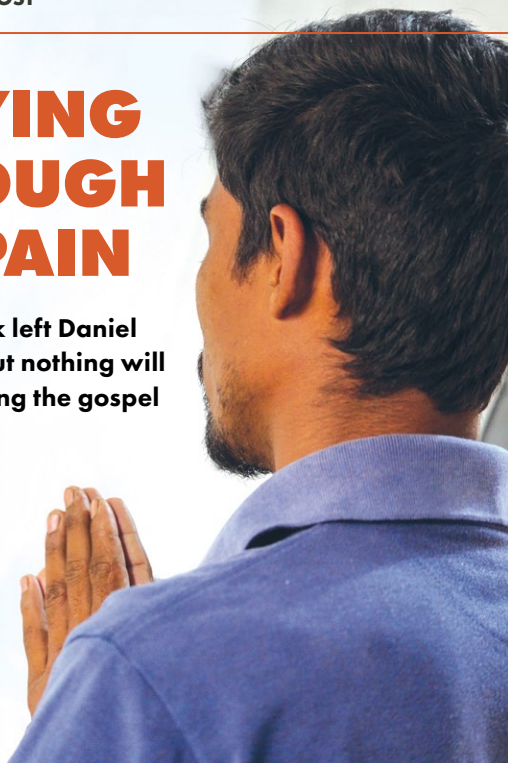
Thursday 15 August

Today marks three years since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan. A fragile economy, food insecurity, high unemployment, and restrictions on education and employment for women - on top of persecution - are causing many to despair. Ask God’s Spirit to break through and restore peace, stability and hope to this nation.

*Names changed for security reasons

PRAYING THROUGH THE PAIN

A brutal attack left Daniel half-dead – but nothing will stop him sharing the gospel



“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” This verse from Habakkuk 2:14 hangs on a banner in Daniel’s* home in Nepal. His commitment to Christ and sharing the gospel – despite all he’s been through – remains steadfast.

parents and ended up living in temporary accommodation. After attending biblical training, he was sent to a church in a different region to evangelise. “I used to share the gospel along with my wife after sending our children to school. Everyone in the village knew me,” Daniel says.

THE MOB ATTACKS

But then a local mob of around 20 men attacked Daniel. “As they beat me, they kept shouting, ‘Oh, you are the one who shares the gospel about Christ. How much money do you receive to do such

things?’ They threatened to harm my family.”

The attack continued from 6pm until 3am. “While they beat me, I felt pain in my body, but in my soul, I was praying to God,” he remembers.

Daniel knows the mob meant to kill him, but when he fell unconscious, they left him. After a while, he came to and managed to make his way home.

“PRAYER IS POWER”

After Daniel’s horrendous ordeal, their pastor managed to find them a new home – and then

you stepped in. Local Open Doors partners came with prayer and spiritual support, as well as urgent relief aid. Later, they helped Daniel set up a pig farm to provide a stable income. He continues to lead worship and disciple believers.

“I felt pain in my body, but in my soul, I was praying.”

He says, “I want to thank the people who prayed and provided financial help to us. I felt privileged to go through persecution for the Lord.

“Prayer is power,” he adds. “When we pray, we gain strength to overcome persecution. We need to pray for everything. For Christians, prayer is the only way out.”

PRAY

- For Daniel’s ministry as he continues to disciple local believers
- For God’s blessing and protection on Manita and their children
- That God will strengthen Open Doors partners in Nepal.



*Name changed for security reasons

Latin America

Friday 16 August – Mexico

Mauricio and his family face threats, but when one of their persecutors was injured, Mauricio bandaged his wound. “No one else wanted to help him, only me, which surprised him,” he says. Ask God to bless this witness.

Saturday 17 August – Mexico

A young person was tortured by criminals into naming his pastor, Juan*, who’s been ministering in the region for 15 years. Juan has had to flee, along with other believers. Pray for their safety.

Sunday 18 August – Colombia

“We are under surveillance by illegal gangs,” says Pastor Salomón*. His church has 17 members. “There were more, but many left because of fear.” Ask God to comfort these believers.

Monday 19 August – Venezuela

“The food was God’s answer in the midst of so much despair,” says Pastor Rene* after receiving support from Open Doors partners. Pray for provision and renewal in Venezuela.

Tuesday 20 August – Nicaragua

Open Doors partners run counselling workshops

to equip 300 church leaders. “This is a formidable tool for us,” says Pastor Fernando*. Pray for wisdom to implement their learnings.

Wednesday 21 August – Bolivia

Christians living in Colomi have been pressurised by local leaders to participate in indigenous rituals. Pray that they will be ‘strong and courageous’, knowing that God is with them (Joshua 1:9).

Thursday 22 August – Cuba

“We are under constant government siege,” says Josué*, an Open Doors local partner. “We ask for prayer, so the Lord’s plans continue being fulfilled in our country.”

Friday 23 August – Colombia

Once a drug addict, Wounfem* was told, “God loves you and has a plan for you.” He gave his life to Jesus and has since shared the gospel with armed groups. Pray that more people will encounter Jesus through his witness.

Counting the cost

Saturday 24 August – Central Asia

Mahfuza* faces threats for house church activities and was arrested. “She is still standing strong in the Lord and sharing the gospel,”

says a partner. She is looking for a new house where believers can gather safely. Ask God to provide.

Sunday 25 August – China

Tianlong* spent 18 months in prison for selling Bibles online - but, amazingly, he is grateful: “There were things that needed to be pruned by God.” Pray for Tianlong as he looks for a new church.

Monday 26 August – North Korea

On Sundays, Hee Jin* went to her grandmother’s house. In whispers, she would sing, pray and read the Bible. “My country has so many problems, but my grandmother always looked so peaceful when she sang,” says Hee Jin. Pray that the power of silent worship will transform North Korea.

Tuesday 27 August – Indonesia

One night, Irwan* and Lis* both dreamt about Jesus. Lis’s Muslim family asked if they had become Christians. “We confidently answered, ‘Yes,’” says Irwan. The family were thrown out of their home and Lis has lost her job. Pray for God’s provision.

Wednesday 28 August – Chad

“Despite rejections and torture, I remain firm in my faith,” says Malloum*

(22), who was thrown out of home and threatened with death after becoming a Christian. “Pray for me that I will have more faith and believe.”

Thursday 29 August – Niger

When his parents discovered he’d become a Christian, Jafarou* (12) was told: renounce Jesus and stay with them, or stay with Jesus and leave home. Jafarou bravely chose Jesus. He currently lives with a Christian family. Pray for his parents to come to know Jesus.

Friday 30 August – Southern Philippines

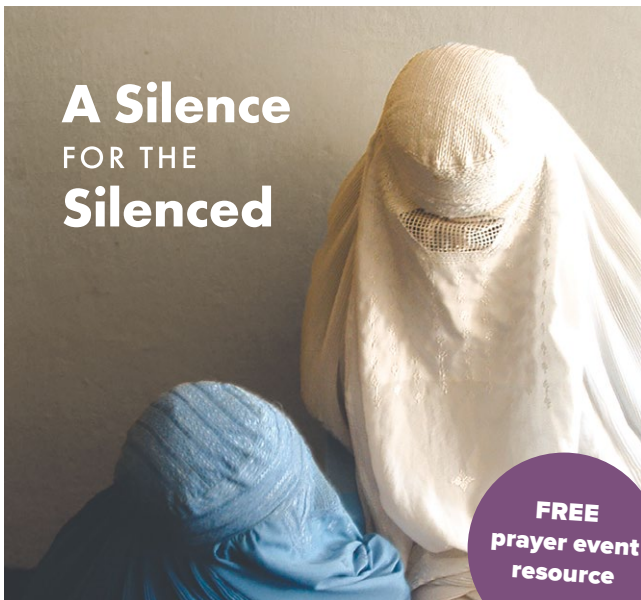
Despite opposition and death threats, Salma* is steadfast in her calling to reach out to her tribe. “I believe there will always be persecution if you are growing in faith in Jesus,” she says. “I ask for your prayers – for wisdom, strength and guidance.”

Saturday 31 August – Mexico

“We never stopped praying and singing praises,” says Lazaro* after he and other Christians were expelled from their community. They’ve since returned, but can’t meet or evangelise. “Pray that my community will come to know God.”

*Names changed for security reasons

A Silence FOR THE Silenced



In Afghanistan and around the world, Christians are being silenced.

They follow Jesus, they trust Jesus, they love Jesus. But they cannot do so openly. Sharing their faith, singing a hymn or praying out loud can lead to imprisonment or even death.

Their voices have been silenced.

A Silence for the Silenced uses a time of silent

prayer, testimonies from Afghan believers and creative, inspiring prayer stations to pray with Christians who have been silenced.

This resource contains stories, instructions and all the links you need to run a stand-alone prayer event - in your small group, as part of your regular prayer meetings, or even during a service.

Download now at
opendoorsuk.org/silenced



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