



Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

1. “These people are blind, if they had known Christ, they would never do this to us, so we fast and pray for them to surrender to God,” says Pastor Yohannes from Ethiopia. Pray that communities where Christian children are persecuted will hear the Gospel through the testimony of local believers.

2. Pray for the ministries benefitting the persecuted Christian children, that God will bless these efforts and it will become powerful testimonies of how God works through the local church to restore and redeem His children.

3. Pray for wisdom as churches and field workers face many challenges in reaching persecuted Christian children. Pray for the development of activities that truly serve the needs of these children and that it will restore the relationship between child and Father.

4. Pray that the parents, caregivers, and teachers will trust God with their children

because He loved them first. Pray that they will raise up the children given into their care to know God, love his Word and Law and nurture a steadfast faith.

5. Today there are many enticements that lead children away from a life devoted to Christ, especially for children that come from impoverished backgrounds. Pray that God will provide in their daily needs and protect them from forces that only want to hurt them.

6. Girls are vulnerable to sexual abuse, forced marriage and missing out on school. Pray that they will be protected by their parents, churches, and communities. Pray that they will know that they have a Father who cares about every aspect of their lives, knows them by their name and has a purpose for their life.

7. Boys often grow up without fathers and take up financial and parental responsibilities at a young age. Pray that they will be supported by faithful men in the church, cared for and know that they have a Father who is always with them.

Boys are also vulnerable to sexual abuse, pray for healing, removal of shame and their protection.

8. Pray that the Church in SSA will rise up and become a mighty force for the Gospel, faithful servants in the kingdom of God that points towards him as our only Saviour and King.

India

9. Pray for the persecuted children as they live in an unsafe and threatening environment. Pray for the children who had to witness persecution of their parents and are traumatized with the incidents and are unable to find a safe place.

10. Pray for the Christian children in rural areas to have a better and secure future and that they could avail a better education. Pray for the message of Christmas to fill the hearts of the little children and they find joy and peace of Christmas.

11. Pray for the persecuted children whose families are not allow to gather for prayer or Sunday worship, pray that during Christmas they can have the joy and fellowship of celebrating Emmanuel “God with us”.

12. Pray for the children who have to live as ‘secret’ Christians, like pray, read the Bible, and celebrate Christmas unrevealingly. Pray for ministry partners who are trying to help the persecuted children to find a safe place and provide basic education.

Persecuted Children

13. Children face terrible consequences of their family’s or their own choice to follow Christ. They are bullied, attacked, isolated

or ostracised from their communities, or denied an education or discriminated against in education. Please pray for all children around the persecuted world who are in such circumstances.

14. Children are critical to the longterm future of the church. Without intervention, Christian communities might not survive in some of the most difficult places to follow Jesus. Please pray that God will continue to work mightily in these communities.

15. Without intervention, vulnerable persecuted Christian children will remain at risk, unsupported, untaught in the Christian faith, with little access to education, and no hope for the future. Please pray for Open Doors initiatives and workers particularly for the children.

16. Many persecuted children are sometimes beyond the reach of normal charities and schemes such as child sponsorship. Pray that God will call more from the wider and global church family to help ensure they are not forgotten.

17. Christmas is often a time when children are particularly vulnerable and can feel especially isolated from their communities. Pray that God will comfort and protect them, that their hearts will know they are not alone.

18. Open Doors’ vision is that every child persecuted for their faith will be protected, provided for and given an education – to give them hope for the future and to ensure the long-term survival of the church. Please pray for global Open Doors teams raising support this Christmas esp. for ministries serving the children.

19. Part of the Open Doors vision is to see the church of the future, the next generation, to be strong, resilient and courageous in its witness to Christ, even in the most difficult places to follow Jesus. Pray with us for this vision to come true in Jesus' Name!

20. Persecuted children are often excluded and hidden because of their faith, making them harder to reach and support. Praise God that Open Doors has been uniquely placed over the years to identify and help children who are beyond the reach of other charities.

21. 11-year-old (orphan) Ronny from India, although had been physically and verbally abused for going to Sunday School by his former guardians, gladly shares: "Christmas is my favorite time because I get to celebrate Jesus and how God sent His only son, and I get to dance and sing for Jesus; this makes me happy! I love Jesus!"



In photo: Christmas gathering of children of Christian believers from a Muslim-background.

22. Praise God with us for the opportunity to minister to 12-year-old Preeti from India! Her grandfather Ashok testifies, "I am thankful for the help provided for my granddaughters. Without it, Preeti and her sister could have been living on the streets and they wouldn't have had the chance to be educated like this."

23. Praise God with us for the opportunity to minister to persecuted children in Ethiopia through Ptr. Yohannes' church! He shares, "After Open Doors built this school in our area, we had big changes. The community started acknowledging our school, and the hatred toward us [for being Christians] gradually started changing."

24. Praise God for the opportunity to minister to 7-year-old twins Fasil and Ezana from Ethiopia! Their father Ermias shares: "In their former school, even they are among the smart children, they were not given their deserved grades. (With this new school helped built by Open Doors), I am no longer worried about their safety."



In photo: Afghan refugee school in Central Asia

25. Merry Christmas from Open Doors Philippines! Please remember today 12-year-old Jenny from one of the (considered) lowest tribes in Mindanao. Although that means opportunities for education are far beyond her reach, she says that she can dream big because she has Jesus! AMEN!

26. Around the world, Open Doors supports persecuted children with shelter, trauma counselling, Christian education, support for livelihoods to ensure housing, and help remaining parents/guardians earn a living. Pray for these specific ministries in caring for persecuted children.

27. Praise God for Open Doors' global and extensive network on the ground that has been supporting the persecuted church for many years. Pray for protection and wisdom for them as they are also in a vulnerable environment, often specific targets too by persecutors.

Israel

28. Please pray for Christians in the Holy Land. Since the new Israeli government came into power a year ago, there has

been a significant increase in aggression towards Christians.

29. "Not a week goes by without Christians being heckled and spat at, graffiti, vandalism and other forms of harassment," says a church leader. Pray that the government will take measures to protect Christians from this violence.

Iran

30. Today we celebrate Dr. Jose Rizal, how his works sparked revival to fight for freedom for the country. Please pray for the same revival for the Church in Iran, for our brothers and sisters to be allowed to meet, worship, pray, and fellowship together in their own language.

31. Out of the 16 churches that remain in Iran, only four of them are permitted to preach in Persian, their mother language. However, these four have been prevented from reopening since the pandemic. Pray for God's intervention in government to overturn this policy, and for 2024 to bring new hopes and dreams for the church in Iran. Happy New Year!



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