

Children of the Persecuted Church

1. Sub-Saharan Africa has a youthful population. But with many social problems in the region, the youth are becoming disenfranchised. Pray that they will know their worth and they will rise up as a force for positive change in the region.

2. Unfortunately, areas across Africa face extremism and decreasing religious freedom. The large population of young people in the region have immense power to bring about change, if they are unified and activated. Pray that the Lord will galvanize their faith and build His church among them.

3. Children who are refugees or orphans can be especially vulnerable to exploitation in some parts of the world. Pray for urgent action to protect vulnerable children. Pray that the perpetrators would be convicted of their sinful actions and turn away from evil practices.

4. The youth of today represent the church of tomorrow. Lift up Christian children across the globe and thank God for their faith. Pray that they'll become mature disciples and leaders in the church.

5. Young Tina lives in Colombia, in a community that practices witchcraft. But she found refuge in an Open Doors run children's centre, where she could receive an education and emotional support. Pray that more children would find reprieve from persecution and evil practices in Colombia.

6. Thank God for the community at the

Children's Centre in Colombia. Praise God for the youth workers who support these young people and invest in their faith. Lives are being transformed and young people find friendship and encouragement.

7. Pray blessings over the Christmas celebrations of Christian families that are separated for most of the year. It's difficult for them to stay in touch regularly and children miss quality time with their families. Thank God for a time of reunion over Christmas.

8. Tina is only 15 but her message for Christians is full of faith "For those people who are being persecuted, I would tell them not to leave their faith. If they are still here, it's because God has a purpose for them." Thank God for her courage and pray Tina's message for persecuted Christians.

9. It's confusing being a Christian in a mainly Muslim country but Layla (14) has found a discipleship group in her hometown in Egypt. Thank God for her Christian connections and pray that Christmas will be joyful in their small Christian community.

10. In Syria, Apo (10) is celebrating Christmas with his mother. Sadly, his father was killed by extremists during the war, on account of his faith. Christmas is a poignant time for Apo and his mum, but he is learning more about the faith his father died for, and understanding who Jesus is. Pray that Jesus draws close to them this Christmas.

11. Pray for children like Apo who lost so much during the Syrian war. Pray that the work of the Centres of Hope will bear fruit in their lives and that they will understand

how deeply Father God loves them. Please pray for the youth of Brunei to have encounters with Jesus. Lift them up to stand strong in their faith and be a light to others.

12. Thank God for the Centres of Hope in Syria. The Centres provide community for persecuted Christians and support them in practical ways. Lift up their Christmas celebrations and pray for a time of unity and joy.

13. Thank God for Open Doors children's workers who support persecuted children. They often hear heartbreaking and difficult stories from the children. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom, strength and love to continue their work.

14. Christians are a small minority in Brunei, and young people are often singled out for their faith. In school or university, they face aggression from both peers and professors. Please pray for the youth of Brunei to have encounters with Jesus. Lift them up to stand strong in their faith and be a light to others.

15. Please pray for Mimi (12) and her family in Iraq. They are now able to stay in the country but the situation for Christians in Iraq is not improving. They still face discrimination, and persecution is on the rise. Pray that Mimi will grow in resilience and that her family and small Christian community will continue to stand strong.

Middle East

16. Praise God for Open Doors partners in the Middle East. They have delivered activities to women, youth and families, which were a great blessing. All the attendees enjoyed teaching, fellowship, encouragement and prayer in a safe



In photo: 15-year old Tina from Colombia

environment.

17. With your support, Open Doors has provided 276 microloans to date in Iraq. Praise God for these new businesses and for the stability and support these loans provide to Iraqi families.

18. As a consequence of the war in Syria, the country faces spiralling inflation. The value of the Syrian pound is now 3,950 SYD to 1 USD, whereas before the war 1 USD was worth 48 SYP. Pray for the people who are suffering from poverty and pray for a solution to the economic crisis.

Latin America

19. Shockingly, approximately 10 women are killed every day in Mexico. Femicide is a huge problem and the number of murdered women has doubled in the last 5 years. Pray for an end to this violence! Pray that God will heal the hearts of those who have lost a mother, daughter, or wife.

20. Please pray for political freedom in Colombia. The recent presidential elections were mainly calm, but it is not unusual for people be coerced during the voting. Some people are be threatened physically, and others are told they'll lose their jobs. Please keep praying for this nation.

Christmas

21. Pray for families who are separated this Christmas because one or both parents are in prison for their faith. Pray especially for the children of these believers, that God will comfort them and restore their parents to them.

22. This year has been disruptive for so many people and millions have been displaced due to war or civil unrest in their countries. Ask God to settle them into kind communities and that Christmas time will be a healing, nourishing period for those who have been traumatized.

23. Christian children in Iran don't talk about Christmas with their peers at school. They have to keep their faith a secret. Lift up their secret Christmas celebrations. Pray that they will remain undetected by the authorities, even as their hearts sing loudly for Jesus.

24. Sadly, the Christmas season often sees an increase in attacks on churches and Christians. Pray for churches celebrating Christmas openly - for vigilance and that the Lord will be a shield around them.

25. "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Remember secret believers who can't meet openly to celebrate Jesus' birth for fear of persecution.

26. Where countries have suffered war and unrest, young people can end up feeling disillusioned. Pray that this Christmas, they will have reason for hope. Pray for their practical needs and for more people in these countries to know Jesus.

27. Since 2018, Chinese authorities have restricted Christmas celebrations in favour of promoting traditional Chinese culture. Most shopping centres don't dare display Christmas trees or advertise Christmas presents. Pray that Christians will find alternative ways to celebrate Christmas and share its powerful message with friends and neighbours.

Thanksgiving

28. Praise God for the many Christians like you around the world who support the work of Open Doors and continue to stand with persecuted Christians. Thank God for their prayers and generous support in 2022 and ask God to continue to bless and keep them in the coming year.

29. Praise God for his light continues to shine in the darkness of persecution and violence. Despite the discrimination, attacks and threats against the faith of millions, they continue to stand for his name.

30. Praise God for the faith and strength of Open Doors local partners who support persecuted Christians in over 70 countries. Thank God for their courage and determination to minister to the persecuted. Pray that their strength is renewed for the coming year.

31. Please pray for God's kingdom to come and for His will to be done in His church and in the lives of persecuted Christians in 2023.

How can I help my persecuted family?



HOW CAN I GIVE MY SUPPORT TO MY PERSECUTED FAMILY?

Open Doors Website

Visit www.opendoors.ph

BDO Unibank, Inc.

Account name: Open Doors with Brother Andrew, Inc.

Account #: 003640583218

BPI

Account name: Open Doors with Brother Andrew, Inc.

PHP Account #: 1991-0028-35

USD Account #: 1994-0068-23

Swift Code: BOPIPHMM

PayPal

Go to <https://donation.opendoors.ph>

GCash

Send to Bank: BPI or BDO (then fill in our bank details; don't include "INC" in the account name)

Express Send: 0998-8830821

Send a Check

Payable to: Open Doors with Brother Andrew, Inc.

PO Box 1573 QCCPO 1155 Quezon City Philippines

Date: _____

Full name: _____

Gender:

Male Female

Church: _____

Contact No.: _____

E-mail: _____

Complete mailing address: _____

() I hereby voluntarily give my personal information for communication purposes only with Open Doors with Brother Andrew, Inc.

Signature: _____

I want to **PRAY**

Please send the Open Doors magazine and monthly prayer calendars to:

My e-mail My mailing address

I want to **GIVE** a monthly gift of

PHP 2,950 one month schooling for a persecuted child **PHP3,950** Children's Centre Support

PHP 5,370 Bibles to 10 children **PHP _____** Where most needed

I want to **GIVE** a one-time gift of

PHP _____

Any excess funds will help strengthen persecuted Christians around the world where there is urgent need.

MY OFFICIAL RECEIPT

() Send via e-mail () Send via mail

() No need for a receipt

Kindly send a clear picture of this form to philippines@od.org.

All information provided are for Open Doors use only and are strictly confidential. Open Doors shall neither misuse nor share this information to other individuals or organizations.



WORLD WATCH LIST 2023

NORTH KOREA

1. Pray for safe distribution of food and Christian materials to secret North Korean believers.

During the pandemic situation, Open Doors has been able to support North Korean believers with food, medicine and living supplies through the Christian networks in China.

2. Please pray that North Korean believers may experience God's provision and protection through these materials in their desperate situation. Pray that they may experience God's miracle and wonder to feed several thousand with two fish and five loaves of bread.

3. Pray for Da Hyeon who is training at the shelter. She could not go back to her hometown after the pandemic outbreak; instead, she has been staying at the shelter to get the extensive Bible training during this pandemic period. We thank God who used this difficult time for her to be raised as a strong and faithful believer.

4. Please pray for Da Hyeon (above) to be a good church leader when she goes back to her hometown and shares the Gospel to her family and close friend in North Korea. Pray for God's protection and guidance for her to stay safe and well at the shelter.

5. Thanks for your prayers and support on our radio ministry which has been continuously broadcast even when there was the strict lockdown in North Korea. North Korean believers have been

listening to the Christian radio to hear encouragement and prayers. They also sent a thanks message that they have been praying for all fellow supporters, and brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world.

6. Please pray that God may protect the North Korean believers when they listen to the radio program secretly. Please pray that the believers and even non-believers may be able to hear the precious Word of God from the air.

NEPAL

7. Increasing trade deficit, rapidly declining foreign exchange reserve, and skyrocketing inflation have hit the life of ordinary people and crippled Nepal's economy. Pray for the poor people who are going through a difficult situation.

8. *Sarmila Rasaili lives with her husband and a son. They are persecuted mentally by her in-laws. Because of constant pressure, they left the house and are living on rent. Her husband does labor work and her son is sick. Because of economic problems, it is difficult for them to sustain themselves. Please pray that God provides for their needs, and pray for her in-laws.

9. Pray for *Suman Bhandari and his family. Because of their faith, they were forced to leave the house by their relatives. They have a petty shop which is the only income source in the family. Pray that God blesses and enlarges their shop so that they can meet the basic needs of their family. Pray for their spiritual growth.

10. Pray for *Nirmaya Raut and her family who had been persecuted for their faith in the past, now the persecution is less however they are struggling financially. Pray that God opens the door for them and



In photo: North Korean guards at border between North and South Korea

blesses them abundantly. Pray that they can maintain their faith in this economic crisis.

MYANMAR

11. Pray for God's providence of shelter and food for the displaced believers in Myanmar who are living in poor condition in displacement camps and in the forests. Pray that help will reach them so that they can stay safe.

12. Pray for God's grace, protection and provision upon the Christians displaced believers and the refugees, that they will encounter God.

13. Pray for the release of pastors who have been arrested, wrongly accused, and jailed. Pray for good health and sustenance during their imprisonment. Pray for their families back home for daily sustenance of food and safety while their father is away from home.

14. Pray for God's strengthening of pastors in Myanmar that they may be able to shepherd and care for the believers in Myanmar. Pray for the pastors that God will give wisdom to lead and disciple the believers, provide and protect them.

15. Praise the Lord for the discipleship trainings. Min Niang* a local partner shares, "We see that believers understand the word of God through the training and how to live in the world when they face difficulties and hostilities, especially in this situation. The discipleship trainings prepare the future generation and the believers to be good followers of Christ."

16. Pray for the children that participates in our children camp that may grow stronger in their faith and journey with Jesus in their lives. Pray for future discipleship of children in Myanmar.

17. There are many Christian children who cannot continue their education for the last two years because of the pandemic and the coup. However, in the past few months, the military government have ordered the reopening of government schools and requiring parents to send their children to school, despite of the war. Please pray for the safety of the children being "required" to go back to school especially in the cities.

18. Although some schools have reopened, many schools in the war zone remain closed. So many students in the war zone, conflict areas and remote areas cannot continue their education. Without education, the future of children and the country is bleak. Please pray for the children in these areas.

19. It has been getting riskier for believers to gather for fellowship in churches and in homes. For youths, it gets more dangerous to be going out, let alone gathering for fellowships.

There are pressures on all sides, the military are literally hunting for young people, arresting and accusing them of supporting the pro democratic movements, while the pro democratic movements are requesting to join the resistance. Please pray for the young people of Myanmar.

20. Another growing concern of the church is that many churches have become emptier as many Christians youths have joined the pro democratic movements. Others have left the country for safety and survival. Please remember these particular youths too in your prayers, that they will also remember the Jesus is the only, living Hope above all.

21. Win Tin*, a local partner shares, “The youths are lesser and lesser, the church is getting empty. If the youths are not there, the church will get weaker, if the youths cannot gather for fellowship, how will they be stronger in faith and unity?” Please pray for the future of the churches in Myanmar.

22. Pastors are also facing challenges in discipling youths and youth ministry have become challenging. Moreover, it has become unsafe for young pastors and church leaders to travel. Pray for the safety of Christian youths.

23. Pray for God’s leading and direction for the youth so that they will know how to respond to difficult situations and choices. Pray for pastors and youth leaders that God will give them wisdom and discretion to lead and disciple the youth.

INDIA

24. Pray for our nation India. The country is facing a turmoil of religious discrepancies and is witnessing several political highs and lows every single day. The communal

agenda of the current government is clearly visible by the inflations, racial discriminations and communal riots and a hostile and anarchical environment is dominant in the country.

25. The rate of Christian persecution has shot up high as Christians are facing opposition for their faith every single day and after the implementation of the Anti-conversion law in many states, the atmosphere has tuned hostile to the existence of believers and Christian faith. Pray for the Christian believers, pastors and leaders.

26. Pray for the ‘persecution hot spots’ such as the states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The rate of Christian persecution has increased rapidly and consequently churches are being closed, damaged, disrupted and pastors are being falsely accused of performing coercive conversion and several pastors have been booked under anti-conversion law and many are jailed.



In photo: Worship during training with Open Doors, Northern India



27. The state of Punjab is witnessing sudden surge in campaign against Christians. This campaign is being promoted over online and offline platforms. This is vitiating general environment against Christians. Kindly pray that more signs and wonders will display sovereignty of Lord and more people will come to His knowledge. Also pray for the safety of the believers in the state.

28. Nationalist party leaders in different states are trying to bring in anti-conversion laws. In states of Maharashtra and Manipur Hindutva leaders are planning to place anti-conversion bill during the assembly sessions. Pray for these states, that the plans of opposition may not prevail.

29. Religious extremists and leaders are demanding to delist the tribal Christian from the tribal schemes and privileges. Many meetings are being organized in different tribal dominated areas to create

hate against Tribal Christians. In those meetings non-tribal deliver hate speech against the tribal Christians. Please pray for the tribal communities.

30. Pray for the activities scheduled in 2023, like training programs and practical aid programs. Pray that God may supply all provisions to fulfil those activities and for His divine presence all the time so that all may go smoothly.

31. Pray for the travel of partners to difficult and sensitive areas to carry out programs and provide aid to the persecuted church. Pray for their safety and protection, and for refreshing and encouraging conversations with those suffering for the Name of Jesus in India.

*Names changed for security reasons