

Maldives

1. This May 6 marks the anniversary of the attack on the former president of Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed. The attack was done near his home where a home-made bomb was planted in a nearby vehicle injuring him and four others. Pray that justice will be served to those involved in the attack. Pray that this is a start to a more peaceful future for the Maldives. Also pray that this will expose other extremists so that the authorities can retain a peaceful and safe country.

2. For Muslims all over the world, Eid is a time for feasting, rejoicing, and celebrating having completed their fasting month of Ramadan the day before. In Maldives, they celebrate by hosting feast for friends and family, and also giving food to the poor or provide financial equivalent support. Calling it 'Fitr Zakat', they attend Eid prayers in the mosque, visiting relatives and giving gifts to children. Pray as the Maldivians celebrated this day, God's peace will spread across the country.

The Secret Believers (Central and Southeast Asia):

3. From secret believer Azamat: please tell people that I have felt and experienced the many prayers for me. Sometimes I have thought I will stop; this is the end. But suddenly someone was there for me. And I knew it was because someone was praying for me. Thank you for the strength of your prayers.

4. Pray for secret believer Ruslan who is facing persecution and threats. "Not a day has gone by without prosecution and restrictions. Now, for example, we have difficulty with the burial of church members.

We often must bury our brothers and sisters in other villages because Muslim leaders forbid us to use the local cemetery. Only Muslims may use it. But even in other villages we are also stopped from burying our dead. Pray that we can have our own cemetery.

5. Please pray for secret believer Samida who, within her culture, faces shame and disappointment. As a 26-year-old woman, she is still not married and is the only member of her family who is a Christian. As a result, her parents cannot arrange a marriage for her and are dismayed to have an unmarried and Christian daughter. Samida shares, "Please pray that my parents will accept me for who I am and what I believe? Pray that they return to Jesus! They are disappointed in him and have long been Muslims again."

6. Give thanks that 17-year-old secret believer Talitha came to faith on December 5, 2021 and was baptized on December 24. From December 5th she immediately became a secret believer because she is the only one of her family. She does not dare to tell anyone that she has now become a Christian; she is afraid that she will be evicted from the house. Pray that she can begin to grow in her faith and meet other young Christians.

7. Thank you that secret believer Jumagul continued to believe in the Lord Jesus even though she was forced to give up her faith. Her fellow villagers and the Mullah (Muslim clergy/mosque leader/teacher) threatened to evict her from the village when they found out that she had secretly become a Christian. This also led her to physical cruelty at the hands of her husband.

8. Praise God that Jumagul's husband came to faith and they were able to live peacefully together for the remainder of his life. Pray for Jumagul as she continues to witness to those in her community despite the risks.

Southern Philippines

9. National Elections: Pray for peace, for a smooth election in all regions especially in areas controlled by political families and parties, against cheating, bribery and vote buying. Pray that the new leaders who will be elected will also be champions of religious freedom of our persecuted brothers and sisters in the faith all over the world.

10. Pray for the discipleship and mentoring sessions with Muslim-background-believers (MBBs) this month to train them to have a deeper understanding of God's Word and be inspired to have a Biblical influence in their community. Pray for fruitful results in the lives of their communities through this ministry.

11. Jenie, one of the MBBs who attended these sessions last year, shared, "I've learned that God's love is for everyone, no matter what tribe, region, skin colour, or religion each of us comes from; God's love is always there for us." Pray for MBBs like Jenie who attended these sessions, for a thorough understanding of God's word and a stronger commitment to sharing the truth with others.

12. Pray for those who attended the youth training called The Joshua Training last month. Through this, the MBB youth leaders are being trained and equipped to be the next generation of ministry leaders.

13. Zaida, one of the MBB youth leaders who attended The Joshua Training, shared that her participation in the training has greatly encouraged and taught her. Because they were informal settlers, they had relocated to another community.

14. "Before, there were times when my father would kick or slap me, and while he was doing those things to me, I was always thinking of revenge and even planning to kill him. But when I came to know Christ, all I wanted to express and show Him God's love," shared Maajid, one of the MBBs from

the Southern Philippines. Pray for MBBs having family and personal struggles.

15. Continue to pray for the Kaholatan Mat Project. Pray for the 15 MBB women who weave and sow, that God will sustain them and that they will continue to minister to many in their respective communities. Pray also that the daily needs of their families will continue to be provided by God.

Maria, Central Asia

16. Pray for Maria* a young Christian girl who was raped in Central Asia. When Maria went home from church, she took a Taxi, [which did not feel dangerous] as it was in the centre of the city. But the taxi driver – who was a male follower of the Muslim faith, recognized that the girl was Slavic by nationality, and a Christian. He also beat her and tried to strangle her to hide his crime and then kill her. Thankfully he left after she begged for her life.

17. Thank God that she is recovering but also needs psychological assistance as she is in a very poor condition. In addition to medical therapy and psycho-neurological treatment in the hospital, thank God that Maria is receiving the help of a Christian counselling psychologist.

18. Pray for her physical health, emotional health, for her complete recovery, for her faith, for her to be able to keep her trust in God, for her family, and for her parents in the midst of all the shock and stress.

19. Thank God that she is slowly recovering! She visits the hospital every day for her medical needs and meets with a Christian psychologist. Her church members and family also support her. The suspect was arrested and is now under investigation.

Olya's Testimony, Russia

20. Pray for God's revelation as Russian and Ukrainian churches unite in prayer: "In our church we organized prayers, even 'prayer chains' for 24 hours for the situation. Groups of church members prayed in their hour, day, and night, and many were fasting. We can't stop the war, we can't even speak out to be heard, we can't organize the revolt against our president and the government. As Christians, we must bless even though we are so much against what they do, but we believe there could be another way – a diplomatic way to come to an agreement."

21. Pray for Russian churches organizing help for Ukraine: "In our church we collected some funds for Ukrainian believers and sent them through one of our church members who had relatives locally. There were lots of handicapped people in the region and were so grateful for this. As they shared the funds, they were able to purchase groceries for the church members. Now we plan to collect more, but right now we do not have a way to transfer provisions, the border is closed, and because of sanctions our cards are not working abroad so we can't send the funds. We pray for the opportunity to transfer funds."

22. Pray for the Russian people: "A big issue which is so hard for us as Russian believers is to feel the hatred from all over the world. It makes us feel guilty, even though we are not – we didn't ask for this war, we didn't support it, and we are against this violence with all our hearts."

23. Pray for the Russian men vulnerable to army recruitment: "My close relatives, who are a Christian family, have young sons and are so stressed because their sons may be recruited to the army next months and sent to the war. First, they worry for their sons' lives and, of course, they do not want their sons to fight against our brothers and kill people in their 'homes' in this senseless

struggle."

24. Pray against the spreading lies: "For me personally it is a huge struggle. Lots of news – which seemed like lying propaganda, and unfortunately it still is with no chance to learn the truth about what is happening."

25. Pray for peace in the hearts of the Russian and Ukrainian believers.

26. Pray for the families: "God taught us through this terrible situation, that we should not be sad because of the hatred everywhere around, we can love – He gave us the example. It doesn't mean that me, and my family don't care now, we are still struggling with sadness and worry because of the events each day. But now we don't feel as lost and frustrated."

27. Continue to pray for God's intervention: "I want to express my gratitude to everybody who is praying for this situation, for Ukrainian citizens, the church, and for our country, thank you very much!"

28. "Pray for God to give wisdom and to lead the presidents and authorities of both our countries in how to deal with the situation in a peaceful way. "Pray for God's comfort, care and protection over the Ukrainian churches and believers."

29. "Pray for opportunities for our churches to transfer support to Ukrainian believers who are in need."

30. "Please, pray also for the comfort for those Russian families who lost their beloved ones."

31. "Please, pray that God will turn this terrible situation for the better. He is almighty and He can do much more than we can imagine, He can change this. Please, support us in prayer and our Ukrainian brothers and sisters."

How can I help my persecuted family?



HOW CAN I GIVE MY SUPPORT TO MY PERSECUTED FAMILY?

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Account #: 003640583218

BPI

Account name: Open Doors with Brother Andrew, Inc.
PHP Account #: 1991-0028-35
USD Account #: 1994-0068-23
Swift Code: BOPIPHMM

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The Secret Believers (Central and Southeast Asia):

1. Pray for Dhea, an MBB in Southeast Asia. Dhea has suffered unimaginable and unjust cruelty, even serving time in prison. Pray for her as she continues to be salt and light, through tending to the ailments of those from her native country and giving them hospitality even as they reject her. Grant her spiritual support and encouragement as she continues her valuable work.
2. Pray for Lisa as she welcomes her father into her own home. Pray for courage and opportunity for her to share the Gospel with him. Pray that her Father comes to know and love the Lord and they can worship Jesus freely in their home and she no longer needs to hide her Bible.
3. Thank God for our ministry at Open Doors for these secret believers. Together, we provide them with Bibles, training from God's Word, and how to stand as a Christian in a hostile environment.
4. Thank you for the many Christians who can now provide for their own income with micro-credit.
5. Thank you that the secret church in Central Asia who, through our ministry Open Doors, can reach out into society with practical help and a lot of attention and love.
6. Last month, the world celebrated International Women's Day. Continue to remember Christian women who are already doubly vulnerable to persecution in many countries, who are seen as 'third' class citizens (for being women and being Christians), who were sexually assaulted, divorced by their spouses because of their new faith, or became widows because of

religious violence.

7. Pray for the secret believers in Central Asia. In all countries of this region Christians in unregistered house churches must take great care in what they share about their belief in God. Often, family members and even partners are not aware of their relative's faith. The consequences of these actions if not adhered to can be catastrophic if their Christian faith is revealed.

8. Pray for the secret leaders of the "underground," unregistered homesteads. Like Azamat, for example, who experienced a police raid on his church meeting. He was then threatened and psychologically abused. Give thanks that now, after all these years, he is finally doing better and he can function normally again.



In photo: Dhea, MBB South East Asia

Southern Philippines

9. Maajid's mother, an MBB, shared that it was becoming "more difficult" for her every day. "During the day, I will look after my children and look for food; I expect my

husband to help me at night, but he arrives drunk and hurts us instead. I tried to understand that he, too, was struggling to meet our needs, but it was becoming increasingly difficult for me. It was even harder to see my children suffer. However, after God changed me, I began to pray for my husband, and he is gradually becoming a changed man." Continue to pray for their family.

10. Most MBBs often do not have sustainable jobs or livelihoods to support their families and churches. The Kaholatan Mat Products Project allows MBBs to receive a sustainable daily income in many selected communities in the Southern Philippines. There are 15 MBB women that are part of Kaholatan who weave and sew. The oldest weaver is 85. The Kaholatan Project has enabled them to provide for their family's daily needs, and even their children's studies. Please pray for this ministry to flourish and help more MBBs.

11. John, a son of a Kaholatan weaver who graduated from college, shared, "My mom works as a weaver in the Kaholatan project. She earns just enough to feed the family and send me to college." The Mat Project has had a significant impact on the lives of these MBB women, particularly those in their tribe. Every day, they have become a light in their community, proving that no matter how the public perceives their tribe, it is important that their hope and confidence be in the Lord. Praise God for families being helped thru this project.

12. Independence Day: Pray for the MBBs struggling for their freedom to worship God.

Brunei

13. For many years, since their education system has been monitored and regulated by the Ministry of Education together with the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the system has always been a mix of secular material and religious material, reflecting the way the

country operates where they do not separate state affairs and religious affairs. Islam as a subject has always been compulsory to all Bruneians who wish to complete their primary and secondary education. Please pray for the Christian youth in Brunei, for their faith will remain strong despite the external influence they continuously receive.

14. Pray that God's light to shine through the government forces for a more peaceful future ahead, especially as they recently celebrated the formation of the Brunei Armed Forces in 1961 last May 31. Declare that Jesus is King of Brunei!

15. In the past five years, Brunei has seen a drastic increase in divorce rates. Pray that couples would come to know and have a personal relationship with Jesus; that He may be in the center of all relationships and marriages.

16. Pray for the Muslim couples in Brunei, to find wisdom in maintaining and strengthening their marriages. Pray also for the children who are affected by their parents' relationship. Finally, pray that God will also be able to use them to minister to their parents.

17. A new-born was found at a bus stop wrapped in clothes with the umbilical cord still attached. Our partner was shocked because they never thought this could happen in Brunei, as it is a wealthy country unlike other Asian countries. But due to teenage pregnancy becoming a common occurrence in Brunei, plus the additional pressure of family reputation, it further compounds the problem. Pls pray for the youth in Brunei to have better guidance and support to prevent such situations.

18. Please pray for the young teenagers. Pray that they will be able to make better decisions in their lives. Please pray for them to be wise enough to face the consequences of their actions.

Indonesia

19. There are still educational problems experienced by Christian students in many areas. Public schools are supposed to provide teachers for every religious subject (i.e., Islam, and Christianity). Please pray for a harvest of Christian teachers in the country.

20. As an alternative in the abovementioned problem in education, so that Christian students receive a grade for religion in their report cards, they are forced to take Islamic religious lessons, which of course will end with the student having a low grade in the subject. Some of the Christian students may opt out of the subject but this would result in having no grade on their report card. Consequently, they will be unable to move up a level in the next school year. Pray for God's wisdom over these Christian students and their parents as they face these challenges.

21. Pray for pastors and ministers of God who serve in hostile or/and Syariah environments, such as churches in Aceh Singkil. It has been years since they have been able to worship in church buildings, and there is no hope of rebuilding their churches soon.

22. The challenges pastors face in hostile environments often make them scared and want to give up. However, the ascended and enthroned Christ has given us His Spirit, who equips us with the power, boldness, and courage we need to accomplish our mission. Continue to pray that God will remind them that He is far more powerful than their persecutors and opposition, that one day He will return and His faithful servants will receive their reward.

23. Agung* and Sarah* (a couple who are Muslim-background-believers) have been doing MBB discipleship since 2007 and have been our partners since 2018. Their life testimony and the fruit of their ministry have produced hundreds of MBBs who have strengthened their faith and have created more discipleship groups among MBBs. Pray for the many MBBs who have been fruits of their ministry, for them to multiply even further!

24. Due to the association of this couple with MBBs, they consistently face challenges and threats from communities and Islamic organizations. Pray for the protection as they continue to serve the MBBs.

25. Pray for the other MBB discipleship group leaders. Sometimes, their lives are threatened because they must protect these MBBs or face the police and the threat of imprisonment. Pray for God's wisdom upon them and His protection upon these leaders and their families.

26. A participant from our Islamic Awareness Seminar (IAS) shares, "I used to have bad prejudices against my Muslim brothers whenever I met them. But after attending IAS, I understand what makes them like that." Pray that God will continue to use IAS to change the hearts of many believers.

27. Pray for the IAS trainers so that the wisdom of God will guide them as they teach and that their words will not be manipulated and threaten their safety. Pray that the participants will be able to see God's heart toward non-believers and apply what they get from the training to their daily lives.

Malaysia

28. The country has recently been experiencing frequent unanticipated natural disasters. At the end of 2021, the state of Selangor, one of the most populated states,



"When we worship, we don't make any noise. We don't clap our hands. We just sit together as if we are drinking tea."

RUSLAN, HOUSE CHURCH LEADER IN CENTRAL ASIA

was hit by a horrific flood, taking almost 50 lives and forced 11,000 people to be evacuated. A few months after, the state of Ipoh was hit by a cyclone, destroying many properties because none of the houses were built for such weather. Many Malaysians expressed their worry over the unpredictable weather that has been seen throughout the country lately. Please pray for God's mercy, pray that no further destruction comes soon.

29. Last month, the Buddhists celebrated the Vesak day, one of the main celebrations in the eastern state of Sarawak. On the same month, Sabah, another eastern state, celebrated their Harvest Festival where they gave thanks to spirits and 'gods' for a full year cycle for planting paddy. Pray for the peace in Sabah and Sarawak. Pray that God's Words continue to grow in these two

states.

30. Party-hopping is a term used in Malaysia to describe the switching of political parties, exacerbating instability and have recently brought a more significant threat to the country's democracy as it undermines public confidence in the democratic process. Please pray for the Anti-Hopping Bill to have a major impact on the country's political landscape.

*Names changed for security reasons