

Mehr, India:

1. Mehr*, a dear sister in Christ, alongside her mother and sister were beaten up by a mob for becoming Christians, while they were on their way home from a prayer meeting. They are all still recovering from the injuries, esp. Mehr as she was the one who really got critical. Please pray for their healing.

2. Mehr has been experiencing trauma because of the beatings. Sometimes she feels the attackers will continue to go after them. Please pray for God's *peace that surpasses all understanding* to envelope her heart and mind esp. in times like this.

3. At times when Mehr is feeling afraid and discouraged because of the violent persecution she went through, God uses her mother and sister to minister to her through His Word. Pray for the power of God's Word to continue to comfort Mehr.

4. Mehr and her family lost their jobs while they were recovering, also because of turning away from Hinduism. Praise God that Open Doors helped with immediate needs. But please pray for a sustainable livelihood for them in the long run.

5. Threats continue to be received by the family. Even before the attack, hurtful words were being thrown at them for becoming Christians. Please pray for the family's protection as they recover.

6. When the family was still at the hospital, the attackers pressured the doctors and nurses not to take care of them because they are Christians. Thank God for leading Open Doors to hear about what happened, helped them pay their bills and transferred them to a more Christian-friendly hospital. Pray for the attackers to stop their efforts to

persecute Mehr's family and all believers in their community.

7. Mehr and her family comes from a poor village in India. Most of those converting in the country are in such places, making the community think that they are being bribed to believe. Thus, the hurtful judgements against them. Please pray for creative opportunities for believers in such areas to testify about Jesus to their neighbors.

8. Mehr was able to attend a persecution-preparedness seminar by Open Doors. Pray that the things she learned will be a blessing to her as a believer in a Gospel-hostile environment.

9. Even with all the persecution, Mehr's faith is unshakeable! She presses on to share Jesus in their community. Pls pray for her efforts in bringing her community to the Lord!

10. "When this attack happened to me, it wasn't easy to come out of it. But God put one thing on my heart: 'Do not fear for I am with you,'" shares Mehr. Pray for daily strength and courage from the Lion of Judah to always be upon her.

11. Praise God for how He is using supporters of Open Doors to help believers like Mehr in such circumstances. Pray for God's continuous provision for the ministry and to find many who still need medical and practical support.

Ptr. Shekhar, India:

12. Ptr. Shekhar* is a house church pastor in the south of India. One time as they were having a prayer meeting, the police came, stopped their service, confiscated their Bibles and books, and arrested them. They were beaten up, interrogated, tortured, and threatened to be imprisoned if they did not leave the village. Please pray for their physical and emotional healing.



In photo: Ptr. Shekhar, reading the Bible. Face hidden for security reasons.

13. The following day after their arrest and torture in the station, Ptr. Shekhar tried to file a complaint against the officers who abused them, but to no avail. They even repeated the threats to him: leave or be imprisoned. Please pray for the authorities in such villages in India, that they will protect all citizens regardless of religious affiliation.

14. The officers who beat and tortured Ptr. Shekhar and the believers also went to his landlord to make sure he and his family leave their village. He had no choice but to go for the safety of his family. Ptr. Shekhar was in pain to leave his flock this way. Please pray for him and his family, for provision and ministry opportunities in a new place. Pray also for their house church, for new leaders to rise up.

15. Ptr. Shekhar's wife and son were badly affected emotionally, with his wife not wanting their son to follow his footsteps anymore. Please pray against fear that sometimes still linger amongst the family because of what happened.

16. Open Doors was able to help Ptr. Shekhar and his family with immediate needs like groceries and house rent. Pray that God will provide other sustainable sources of income for the family.

17. Pray that God will continue to comfort him when he would remember the painful memories of the past.

18. The constitution of India guarantees freedom of religion, but it's a different story on the ground. Please pray for a change in the religious climate in India, for their leaders to pay attention to this aspect in their society.

19. Even with this painful experience, Ptr. Shekhar's faith is unshakeable! He continues to do ministry and commits his life to serve God 'until my breath', he says. Pray that God will indeed use him mightily!

20. A 2021 report says, "Daily life for many Christian and Muslim communities in urban and rural India has become an excruciating struggle to earn a living and practice their faith while also remaining alive and under the radar." Please pray for the protection of all religious minorities in India.

21. From Ptr. Shekhar: "We can pray for believers and churches, like I do, be it a pastor, leader or a believer. In times of troubles and sufferings, I pray that God strengthens their faith and that in good times, people will call on the name of the Lord. We can have all riches and wealth of this world, but if there's no faith, then we have nothing."

22. "Pray that we may have faith in God and be undeterred, remember God in all suffering and happiness, and live the Word and remain in God. This is how I'd want others to pray for us."

Geetika, India:

23. Geetika* is a single mom of two, who experienced miracle upon miracle from her encounters with Jesus through her sickness. It paved the way for her to hear about God, believe in Jesus, be prayed for, and then joined a fellowship of believers. But she is constantly ridiculed for becoming a Christian. Pray that what God has done for her will continue to overpower the ridicules in her mind and heart.

24. Geetika sells vegetables on the street to try to provide for her children. It is not enough esp. when she needs money for her health. Through Open Doors supporters, she received a vegetable cart so she can sell vegetables to more people. Praise God for the opportunity to minister to Geetika through their livelihood!

25. Geetika's husband was a drunkard and left them years ago, making their lives miserable. But Geetika pressed on for their

children and encountered Jesus along the way. Now, the opposition she is facing because of the faith is nothing more than what she experienced in the past. Praise God that the ugly past has been turned into an encouragement in facing persecution! Pray as well for her husband to also encounter Jesus.

26. "How can I ever leave Jesus? I love him so much," shares Geetika. Her faith is just unshakeable! Pray that God will continue to grow her love for Him as a testimony to the people around her, esp. to those criticizing her for being a Christian.

27. "Peace" is almost in every sentence Geetika makes: peace that she received from God after prayers for her health; peace in times of uncertainties; peace whenever she is in need. Pray that the Prince of Peace will continue to assure, heal, and provide for her needs.

28. Please pray for the pastor and church of Geetika, to minister to more new converts and believers like her. It was a very big blessing for Geetika and her family to have this spiritual family for her in times of need.

29. "When the criticism of others makes me feel sad or when I fall sick, I ask my daughter to read the Bible and then call up my Pastor to pray for me," testifies Geetika. Please pray that God will continue to use His Word mightily in encouraging Geetika.

30. "Please continue praying for my health; sometimes I get sick and then I am not able to earn. Please also pray that our business goes on well and that we can get our daily meal, also pray for my children so that they study well." - Geetika

31. Pray that God will lead Open Doors to more believers in need of support. Thank God for every supporter too from every corner of the world including the Philippines!

How can I help my persecuted family?



HOW CAN I GIVE MY SUPPORT TO MY PERSECUTED FAMILY?

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August 2022

Prayer Calendar

North Korea:

1. Pray for the many secret Christians in North Korea, like So-Mang*, who depend on outside Christian support to survive physical and spiritual hunger. She sent us this carefully hidden thank-you note: "Thanks to your support, my family and my fellow Christians were able to taste fresh, white rice on the national holiday, a rare opportunity of the year. We continue to pray and thank Father God amid the difficulties we face."

2. Pray for underground Christians like So-Mang to be strengthened and encouraged even with the hardships they face. Pray for their faith and for courage to stand firm in God's truth.

3. Please pray that the secret deliveries of food, medicine, clothes, and Christian materials will reach the most needed Christians in North Korea. Pray that all the delivery people and the checkpoints will be blessed in their heavenly provision for the underground Christians in North Korea.

4. Please pray for protection for Susan*, one of our safehouse ministry and project partners. The situation in the border is becoming increasingly sensitive due to the global pandemic and close surveillance against Christian workers.

5. Please pray for our Open Doors workers who do their best to keep up with God's work despite the spreading pandemic, that God will protect their families and identities, our projects and ministries, guide all the plans, and fill all the needs.

6. Bro. Ki-jok* is one of the North Korean new believers our workers have trained through our safe house and shelter ministry. "When I first encountered the Gospel and the Bible,

I struggled to respond, seeing how the teachers are passionate about this. But, as time went by, and as I continued to read from the Word, the truth soaked inside of me, and now I believe," shares Ki-jok. Please pray for his growth in the Lord as a new Christian.

7. Ki-jok commits, "I will live to share the Gospel to the people in North Korea when the right time comes." Praise God for Ki-jok's desire and heart to bring his people to God!

8. Please pray for the safe house and shelter ministry being used as God's unique tools to build and strengthen the church in North Korea. Please pray that God will add His blessings to the workers.

9. Please pray that the little mustard seed of the Gospel sowed into the hearts of the North Koreans will grow and become a giant tree that will one day disciple the whole land of North Korea.

Bangladesh:

10. Pray for the Muslims in Bangladesh who are more than 150 million people. They believe Abraham sacrificed his son and still commemorate it, but they do not believe that Jesus sacrificed Himself to save them from their sins. They are still looking for the path to reach Allah (God). Pray for God to open their hearts and inner eyes so that they can find the true way according to their will.

11. An advanced Bible literacy class for adults was conducted last July to help them explore and study the Bible more. Pray for the participants who attended to live out their learnings as a testimony to their families, churches, and communities.

Brunei:

12. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has started an initiative to encourage mosque building within Brunei by raising funds to build mosques via SMS. Please pray for

believers in Brunei to be able to start similar initiatives, and for the Church to be allowed to grow.

Indonesia:

13. Pray for the Christian children who are being bullied for their faith, that they will remain strong and find a fellowship where they will be able to support one another. May God give them the courage to testify what God has done in their lives.



In photo: Children from Indonesia

Malaysia:

14. Pray for Christians who are amongst what they call "stateless individuals" (those who cannot officially register as citizens for legitimate reasons), as such do not have access to the health and education system. Most of them are due to mistaken religious identity. Pray that they would be able to register themselves and their Christian faith.

15. Please pray for Malaysia during this crucial political time. Pray that the government will be given to those who prioritize justice and equality. The Christians continue to hope for leaders and parties to protect them and their rights.

Maldives:

16. Please pray for the women in Maldives, esp. Christian women. Pray that they will receive the justice they deserve,



In photo: Women from Maldives

and for their rights to be equally supported. Praise God for the government's recent efforts to empower and protect them.

17. The government recently launched program to stop radical ideas from spreading within prisons after finding that radicalised religious beliefs quickly spread amongst them due to their close confinement. Please pray for the success of this program.

Sri Lanka:

18. Pray for Shani*, her sister, and their mother who are all believers from a Hindu-background. After a year of going to church, her father threatened to leave them if they continued to do so. They have been going to church secretly since then.

19. Pray for Shani's father to come to know Jesus too, for him to experience God the way his family did.

20. Through Open Doors supporters worldwide, we gave livelihood aid to a persecuted pastor to open a Christian bookstore in a rural part of the country so that Christians in that area will have easy access to Christian books and resources. Please pray that this shop will be a blessing to this rural Christian community.



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Southern Philippines:

21. Praise God for the persecution-preparedness training that happened last month for around 70 believers from a Muslim-background (MBB) in two communities. Thank God for the protection for the facilitators who had to travel by small boat just to get to the communities. Pray that the learnings of the participants will be of help to them esp. in times of persecution and crises.

22. Mariam*, an MBB who attended the same training last year, recalled how her family disapproved of her faith in Isa Almasih (Jesus Christ) by mocking and disowning her. But, with the power of the Holy Spirit and through her constant sharing about God's love, some of her siblings are now believers! Pray that Mariam and her siblings will continue to grow in Isa (Jesus), and their whole family will all come to know Him.



In photo: One of the persecution-preparedness trainings that took place in Southern Philippines last year

Kyrgyzstan:

23. In a small village, a local church distributed gifts to a boarding school. Part of the gift was a book with Bible stories. When

the residents found out, they threatened the pastor and church members through phone calls and WhatsApp messages. They damaged the pastor's car and poisoned his two dogs too.

Please pray for courage at this crucial time for the pastor and the church.

24. The boarding school director also received threats about his job if he continued collaborating with the local Christians. Pray that the director will stand up for the believers, and for wisdom how to proceed next after this incident. Pray for the residents too to know Jesus in their hearts.

25. A sister named Kirimaya* and her child were thrown out of their house as soon as their family found out that they became Christians. She found a job in a café to support herself and her child but was also eventually mistreated. Please pray for her to find a good livelihood and a fellowship of believers to encourage her.

26. Pray for a brother named Kerim*. He shares, "In our small village, the attitude towards Christians is extremely negative. I could not bury my brother Bakur*, also a believer, when he passed away. Before he died, a mullah (Islamic teacher) came to our house and told him to deny Jesus; otherwise, we could not bury him in our village. That's why we buried him in a Christian cemetery 150 km far from us."

27. Pray for Akim* and her sisters. Their newfound faith in Jesus did not sit well with their father who eventually beat them violently.

Turkmenistan:

28. Pray for the people in Turkmenistan, that God will protect and take care of the small Christian community here. Pray for the difficult economic situation as many people don't have enough income to pay the high



MOCKED. BEATEN. UNSHAKEN.

Mehr's world was shaken by persecution. But her faith remains unshaken.

prices of food and medical help. Pray that the new elected president will take care of his people.

Central Asia:

29. "When they beat me, it was painful both physically and emotionally. But instead of doubts and fearing to continue serving the youth, I felt God's love even more. His presence and care for me grew my confidence that this is my calling. And even though it was challenging to go through this situation, it strengthened me and taught me to forgive and love my persecutor – my Muslim uncle," – shares Rasim*. Pls pray for this brother.

30. Last March during International Women's Day, Open Doors organized special meetings for some of our persecuted sisters.

One of them is Harima. She told us that her relatives had shunned her, her husband left her, and was considered a disgrace to her village because of her faith. Pls pray for our sisters like Harima.

Algeria:

31. Since the church closures in the past few years, many believers are without a church. Please pray that they can stand strong in their faith and connect with other believers who are near to them, or in a safe way through online initiatives. Pray that God would open doors for His church to grow.

*Names changed for security reasons



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