



30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR AFGHANISTAN



Open*Doors*



INTRODUCTION: PRAY GOD'S NAME OVER **AFGHANISTAN**

“Only Emmanuel is left: Jesus is with us.”

This is what believers in Afghanistan tell us. Since the Taliban took over last August, the lives of secret Christians in this country took a turn for the worst. But it has never been easy, it has only gotten harder. Even before the Taliban returned, living as a Christian in Afghanistan has been unbearable. With the Taliban back, secret Christians are more vulnerable than ever.

Imagine, you grew up as a Muslim, and one day, out of nowhere, you meet God in a dream. A bright figure draws you in, calls you by name, and says “Follow Me.” You’ve heard that this happened to others, but never to people you knew. You’ve seen the angry mob stoning the woman who was accused of being a traitor to Islam in the streets. You knew that asking questions, pursuing this dream, and following that man had consequences.

*Names have been changed throughout for security purposes.
Photos are illustrative unless otherwise captioned.*

Yet that voice – that light – and the fact that He knows your name intrigues you. Against all odds, you decide to follow Him.

Whatever that takes. Whatever that means.

Now, if they knew, your family would never look at you the same way. They will hate you, shun you for bringing a curse upon them, and spurn you for shaming the family name. You are a traitor to your culture and your faith. If anyone else knew, you would be flogged or caned. You can also be killed, and the ones closest to you could be the very people pulling the trigger.

But miracle upon miracle, you learn that you're not the only one. God in His sovereignty leads you to another person – and eventually, to a group of people who meet rarely, secretly, to talk about that figure you saw – the man with scars in His hands, the man who radiated that bright light, the man who shone. You learn to trust them. And not long after, you become friends with them. In hushed tones, you tell your new friends that this man called you – that He *knew* you. Together, you go deep and learn about His love.

More importantly, you learn His Name: *Jesus*. The Name above all Names.

On August 16, 2021, the Taliban returned. Week after week, you've heard about their ranks charging from the outskirts, closing in on one city after the other. Today's the day US forces are leaving, and now, men in rifles stand tall and proud in the Presidential Palace. Outside, it's complete chaos. Your neighbors are crammed on top of trucks – here are entire families wanting to

exit your country. Your airport in Kabul is the only way out, and these people are risking everything to board a plane.

At home, your phone does not stop ringing. The messages keep coming. Your friends are concerned. They text, "*How are you? Are you alright?*"

But one message catches your attention. The number is unknown. "*We know you follow Jesus. We know your name.*"

A chill runs up your spine, followed, incredulously, by a strange sense of calm.

The Taliban is back and there's no knowing what they can do, but *Emmanuel* – Jesus – you *know* He is with you.

The above is a mere retelling of the dangerous reality that secret believers in Afghanistan live. In the early days of the Taliban's return, our source in the region told us: "Every fellow believer I speak to asks for only one thing: prayer. That's genuinely the only thing they ask for. All earthly protection was taken from them."

Our founder Brother Andrew once said that our prayers can go where we cannot. "There are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray."

This month, we invite you to come to the throne room and intercede for the country of Afghanistan. More than that – we ask you every week to pray God's Name. For in His Name, there is hope, power, and salvation.

Yet, He saved them for His name's sake, to make His mighty power known.

WEEK 1

EL ROI – THE GOD WHO SEES ME

There is a very small minority of secret believers in Afghanistan – and because of the threat of death upon their faith being found out, many of them don't ever tell the people they love that they have chosen to seek and follow Jesus. Not knowing who to trust, not all of them have communities to lean on to for support.

When the Taliban returned to power, rumors of what they could do to Christians have spread, and surprise house visits from armed men became a common occurrence. In fear, secret believers took off to go into hiding, and many have tried to flee the country. Yet, in this frenzy, there are still believers who have chosen to stay with the prospects of a very grim future. They are trusting God for what comes next.

"The list has been circulated with our names on it," local believer Saad shares. "Some [of us] have been killed. Some have been kidnapped, some have disappeared. It feels like the morning after a massive cataclysmic explosion."

When the slave girl Hagar fled to the desert after experiencing maltreatment in the hands of Sarai, she felt alone, unsafe, and isolated. Yet, the Angel of the Lord found her and gave her a promise – that her descendants will be too numerous to count. In the end, Hagar gave a name to the Lord who spoke to her – she called Him El Roi, saying: "You are the God who sees me."

This week, remember El Roi as you pray over our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan who feel isolated in their faith.

"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

GENESIS 16:13-14



@unsplash

DAY 1: PRAY AGAINST FEAR

"When the Taliban took control, it was everything we feared. You cannot understand it like I do. I cannot explain it in words," says Saad. "The night the Taliban took control, I felt someone step into my memories and try to snuff them out, to speak fear to me."

Today, pray that secret believers in Afghanistan will not let fear of the Taliban reign over how they live. Pray that the word of God will give them courage.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

ISAIAH 41:10

WEEK 1

DAY 2. PRAY FOR THE LONELY

Saad continues: “For us, everything has been taken away. We need you to ask God on our behalf. We need to know you are strong. Everyone seems to have forgotten God. This is very frightening. We feel disoriented. We feel alone.”

Saad echoes the loneliness that many secret Christians in Afghanistan feel.

Pray that today, and for the rest of this crisis, they would be surrounded by God’s presence and that they would find comfort in His nearness.

“But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.”

PSALM 73:28





DAY 3. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE MISSING

Prior to the Taliban's return, Said Farishte, a young Christian girl from the Gulf, once shared this about their situation: "Many of us live in the fear of being kidnapped. My cousin was kidnapped because she was a Christian and someone wanted to hurt her for that. Knowing I am God's beloved reminds me that no matter what someone does to me, the Church will not forget me because Jesus will not forget me."

Now that the Taliban is back, there are reports of people who just randomly disappear. Believers could be kidnapped not only by the Taliban, but also by angry relatives or disgruntled neighbors. Believers say there are people they know that they still can't reach.

Ask God for His protection over these missing believers. Pray that they will not be harmed and pray for God's presence to give comfort to the loved ones they've left behind.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all."

WEEK 1



DAY 4. PRAY FOR THE FLEEING

Desperate locals have tried everything to leave Afghanistan – they’ve climbed up military planes, stampeded at the airport, and sought the help of illegal smugglers to get them across the desert to neighboring countries. They gamble their fate on a perilous journey to find a ‘freer’ future. Not all of them have survived. Believers are not exempt – there are Christians who have fled or have attempted to flee, but there are also those who pretend to be followers of Christ to gain sympathy from governments and NGOs.

A field partner in the region says: “We are not able to say if or how many Christians were able to leave. Of course, like all citizens, Christians are afraid. They might want to stay in Afghanistan because of their beliefs but want to stay hidden and serve Jesus in secret. Or it might also be that they make a run for the border, or they would like to escape but they can’t – all of these scenarios are happening.”

Pray for the Lord to protect the believers attempting to flee, making their way as asylum seekers in strange lands – pray for provision for food, transport, and favor in their journeys.

"You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has made me great. You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way."

PSALM 18:35-36

DAY 5. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND

Sharifullah is a traditional craftsman. He has been a secret believer in the country for a long time. For a while now, he has been including symbolism that mean a lot to Christians in his art, but when the TB came, his livelihood was temporarily closed.

“Three weeks ago, the TB marched in. Within weeks of taking over the country, many artisan shops in the capital were warned about the designs being used in the crafts on display. You see, the TB want their ideology reflected everywhere, and so all signs of color, life and hope have been removed. Signs of joy have been painted over and replaced with TB slogans, which are a far cry from hope.”

On top of the risks of being a follower of Jesus, Sharifullah’s livelihood is stopped indefinitely, affecting his family and his employees. He isn’t the only one – many believers who have chosen to stay are just as unsure of the future, and their livelihood and education are hanging in the balance.

Pray that God would strengthen their faith as they do their best to survive with new leaders and an unknown economic future in the country.

“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”

PSALM 16:8



WEEK 1

DAY 6. PRAY FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Historically, the Taliban has been known to treat women harshly and prevent them from going to school. Since the takeover, they've promised the world that this time, they would treat women differently.

"There is a complete cloak of silence around any kind of violation of a woman's space and dignity," a local source tells Open Doors. "A cloak that could be likened to the burqa, a shroud that hides a devastating narrative of the destruction of millions of Afghan women who will bear the next generation but who in 20 years' time, if the situation persists and worsens, will no longer be able to bring the hope and enlightenment of education to future generations."

Lift the young girls and women up to the Lord today. Pray that opportunities to grow and thrive would not be snatched away from them. Pray specifically for the women who work with Sharifullah in his craft business. They haven't gone back to work yet, as they are unsure of how the Taliban would respond.

"God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day."

PSALM 46:5





DAY 7. PRAY FOR THE SEPARATED

Samad is not a secret believer, but a Muslim man who fled Afghanistan to a Central Asian country. He was separated from his wife and children.

When our frontline partners met with him, they supported him as best they could, but nothing hurts like enduring his current separation from his family. Our frontline partner says: "Samad couldn't hold back tears when he told us about his family and how hard the situation was in country #2. He shared that his biggest desire is to 'save his wife and children from TB hands and return here with them too.'"

Pray for Samad to be reconciled with his family and pray for all the families that will have to withstand indefinite or even permanent separation because of the TB upheaval.

"My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word."

WEEK 2

JEHOVAH SHALOM - THE GOD OF PEACE

Afghans have gotten used to the hostilities in their backyard – the fighting just never seems to stop. Just 10 days after the Taliban's victory, the Islamic State splinter group in the country, IS-Khorasan, carried out a suicide bombing at Kabul airport. The attack killed more than 150 and injured many others. This is not a standalone event – it's part of a string of attacks that have later plagued mosques, hospitals, and the roadsides of Kabul, Kundur, Kandahaz, and Jalalabad.

"Attacks such as these have always been a reality for us," says a local source. "It's not a matter of if, but when, and when it comes, we are almost never ready to contend with what's before our eyes. It's always a terrifying thought – we are afraid – but it is only by the grace and mercy of God that we are able to go on."

One of God's most popular names is Jehovah Shalom. 'Shalom' means peace, but it also means wholeness, well-being, and an end to strife and war.

This week, call unto Jesus, our Prince of Peace, to cover Afghanistan with His Shalom.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

JOHN 14:27

DAY 8. PRAY FOR HEALING AND FORGIVENESS

The back to back terrorist attacks have left many dead and more injured. In 2021 alone, hundreds of locals have been injured by the series of blasts. “Some injuries may be minor, but others take years to heal – their lives have been permanently changed,” says a local source.

“Ask God to heal the victims of the terrorist attacks from their wounds. Pray for their physical recovery. But more than that, pray for the Lord to help the victims to forgive their attackers. Pray for God take away the anger, bitterness, and resentment in their hearts.”

"For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord."

JEREMIAH 30:17



WEEK 2



DAY 9. PRAY FOR REST

Living in such a hostile environment has made fear, worry, and anxiety a constant companion for Afghan locals. Aside from the relentless violence and threats of extremist attacks, secret believers face much higher stakes: their faith in Jesus alone can have them killed.

Today, pray for secret believers to find rest in Christ. Pray that they would surrender their worries and concerns unto the feet of Jesus, and that they can fully, completely entrust their future to him.

"In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety."

PSALM 4:8

DAY 10. PRAY FOR TRANSFORMATION

“The [Taliban] soldiers are not committed to human dignity,” says local believer Fatimah. “Their eyes are looking all the time at how to have power and how to demean anyone who wants to think and dream.”

It may seem impossible to think that members of extremist groups could ever turn from their ways, but let’s think about how God called the apostle Paul and changed his heart on the road to Damascus. From being a persecutor of Christians, Paul became zealous for Jesus and his Gospel. Truly, nothing is impossible with God!

Ask the Lord to transform the hearts of the Taliban and ISIS-Khorasan today. Pray for them to turn their hearts towards God’s call to repentance – pray that they will be reconciled to Jesus and that they will finally find God’s peace.

“For this is what the high and exalted One says —he who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”

ISAIAH 57:15



WEEK 2

DAY 11. PRAY AGAINST DISINFORMATION

Because of the Taliban's takeover, local journalism dwindled in Afghanistan. Fearing retribution from the TB for being tagged as being in cahoots with the West, media companies have closed shop. Aside from this, and because of the lack of reliable news sources in the country, fake news has been proliferating around the world about what's going on inside. Much of this unverified information also concerns Christians, causing fear, panic, and undue alarm.

Pray that only the truth about what goes on in the country will come out. Pray against censorship and misinformation. Pray for God to preserve the stories of His people.

"Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others."

PSALM 15:1-3





DAY 12. PRAY AGAINST THE SPREAD OF EXTREMISM

Islamic groups across Asia have been inspired by the Taliban's victory. And it's possible that extremism, especially in Southeast Asia, would be on the rise. Experts say that terrorist groups Jemaah Islamiyah, Abu Sayyaf, and other factions previously connected to Al-Qaeda could be encouraged anew to take action and incite terrorist attacks within the region. Muslim hardliners in Bangladesh have also been strengthened in their resolve, so much so that they've publicly declared that they'll travel to Afghanistan to join the Taliban's ranks.

Pray for the Lord to confuse their plans – pray that extremism will not spread in Southeast Asia and beyond as a result of the Taliban's newfound rule.

“Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.”

WEEK 2



DAY 13. PRAY FOR THE VIOLENCE TO END

One believer from the region says: "How we survive daily only God knows. He knows because He has been kind to dwell with us. But we are tired of all the death around us."

Many people thought that the end of the US-Taliban war also marks the beginning of peace in the region, but not long after the Taliban took the seat of power, the IS-K seemed to be declaring an all-out offensive against their new rules, and have launched several bomb attacks in public spaces. For IS-K, the Taliban is not 'extremist' enough. However, the Taliban themselves are known for their brutalities and their terrifying brand of Sharia Law. They have been known to cut off body parts as punishment, flog infidels publicly, and carry out snap executions.

Today, ask God to put a stop to the violence that has become the norm in Afghanistan. Pray for the Prince of Peace to reign over this country.

"He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight."

PSALM 72:14

DAY 14. PRAY FOR RENEWED COMPASSION

As Afghanistan fades into the headlines, it could be easy for us in the global church to forget about the suffering of our brothers and sisters in this country. Or it could also be the opposite – as news of terrorist attacks in the Gulf constantly bombard us, our hearts could also grow weary and apathetic.

Today, as you trust God for His mighty hand to bring an end to the violence in Afghanistan. Check your own heart and how you respond to human suffering. Have you grown tired? Callous? Insensitive?

1 Corinthians 12:26 says we are part of the body of Christ. As one part suffers, the other parts suffer with it.

As you end the week, ask God to fill your heart with His Shalom and to renew your compassion towards His people. Shalom also means having the right relationship with God, others, and yourself. As you pray peace over Afghanistan, also pray for God's peace to grow within you.

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

COLOSSIANS 3:15





PRAY GOD'S NAME OVER AFGHANISTAN

The media report a lot about Afghan people trying to escape their country. It's not difficult to imagine how trapped most feel. At the same time: not everyone tries to cross the border. There are true secret believers in the country who want to be salt and light in Afghanistan, even though the environment has become even more hostile to them - like Christian traditional craftsman Sharifullah. Even with the temporary loss of his livelihood, he says: "We will never let that hope be silenced... We will make sure the world hears the Gospel through every breath we take. Please continue to stand with us."



WEEK 3

JEHOVAH JIREH – GOD OUR PROVIDER

Hundreds of thousands of Afghans have fled the country through airlifts organized by sympathizing governments, or in trucks across the desert through the help of human traffickers. Hordes of Afghans seek asylum in Central Asia or in the West. Some have left the country with just the clothes on their backs and are still settling into their new lives with the possibility of not ever seeing their loved ones again. Many still have no place to call home, no food, and no cash on hand to keep them afloat. Inside the country, institutions like banks and corporate spaces are crumbling, which means people are unable to withdraw their savings, and income generation is at a halt. Winter is tough for everyone in the country, and humanitarian groups are expecting a terrible famine.

Our local source shares this about the needs of locals: “Their needs are the same as for all Afghan people: safety, food, clean water, medical care. There is a lot of violence in the country, supply chains have broken down and clinics have stopped functioning. Clean water still runs from the taps, but we have to hope that stays that way. If this water supply gets contaminated, this could lead to lots of illnesses and diseases. If large scale fighting breaks out and schools and hospitals are damaged it will impact the health care needs of millions of people and access to medicine and professionals.”

This week, trust Jehovah Jireh, God our Provider, to meet the Afghan people's needs.

“Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.’”

GENESIS 22:13-14

DAY 15. PRAY FOR FOOD

According to the UN, 22.8 million Afghan locals are facing starvation. A great drought looms over the country and many nations have pulled humanitarian aid to dismiss the legitimacy of the Taliban government. This leaves locals in dire conditions, without access to sufficient food. Since the takeover, the prices of goods have also climbed and made it even more difficult for the ordinary Afghan – whose income has already been stripped from either the covid lockdowns or the conflict – to buy anything.

Today, pray for the Lord to provide sustenance for the Afghans facing hunger.

"For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

PSALM 107:9



WEEK 3

DAY 16. PRAY FOR OPEN BORDERS

One of our frontline partners, Nazim, describes the situation on the ground for the refugees: “Recently, Afghan drug dealers who crossed the border illegally killed a border guard. Our government doesn’t let the Afghan refugees in, including Christian refugees, and send them back to their country, which, as we know, means death for them because the Taliban kills those who try to flee, especially Christians.”

Another partner who works with refugees shares an anecdote from his pastor friend, that every day, people from Afghanistan swim across the river and hide in fields and reeds. “The border guards search for such people in that area, find them and send them back to their country.”

When refugees flee their country, they are controlled by the army of the country they’re entering. They are given temporary shelter in transit camps, then they have to go through the registration process. After this is when they would only be allowed to be part of the camps.

“The displaced have nowhere to go, and are going back and forth, being passed around by border control. So many locals are still in the middle of their journey out and have no idea what waits for them on the other side of the border,” says a local partner.

Call unto God to grant refugees safe passage. Pray that they will find shelter.

"The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

PSALM 121:7-8





DAY 17. PRAY FOR HEALTHCARE

The raging covid pandemic has not spared Afghanistan, and on top of that, child malnutrition and measles outbreaks are also simultaneously affecting the country. Many experts say that with the change in government and the lack of attention the Taliban has given to hospitals, the state of public health in the country is simply at the brink of collapse. A doctor tells the media: "Basic medical equipment and facilities are lacking in the city hospital – what more could the state of health look like in the areas that are further away?"

The good news is the Lord is providing vaccines, with around 40,000 people being inoculated every day. Praise God for this provision!

Today, ask for God's provision in Afghan hospitals. Pray for the Lord to revitalize them – pray that the TB government would give healthcare sufficient attention, so that the sick would be given proper treatment. Ask God to heal the sick and restore their health.

"He sent out His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction."

WEEK 3



DAY 18. PRAY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Aid organizations and governing bodies have decided to cut their support of Afghanistan in an attempt to snub the leadership of the Taliban. Without foreign aid coming in, it is the locals who suffer with food scarcity and lack of resources the most. Now, aid organizations and governments are working out how to navigate Afghanistan's food and health crisis without compromising their stance against the Taliban's blatant disregard for human rights and prevention of education for women.

Pray for God's wisdom for global policy and decision makers – ask the Lord to lead them to the way of reaching more locals with basic necessities as they also uphold justice, righteousness, and truth.

"May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him. For he will deliver the needy who cry out and the afflicted who have no helper. He will take pity on the poor and needy and save the lives of the oppressed. He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their blood is precious in his sight."

PSALM 72:11-14

DAY 19. PRAY FOR COUNSELING

Aysha is one of our frontline partners ministering to the Afghan refugees in Central Asia: “There are lots of refugees pouring into my area – families, women with children. Refugees, especially women, are emotionally broken, very stressed, and often crying because they lost their homes, because of what they experienced in the last weeks, and because of the situation in their country.”

She continues, “We need prayers for wisdom, strength and new opportunities to serve the women, such as trauma counselling, and helping them assimilate in this new country.

Pray that we can share the Gospel with them and bring them to local churches. Please pray for the refugee women, for the Afghan people and for our ministry.”

"The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

PSALM 147:2-3



WEEK 3

DAY 20. PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

The Word of God is a firm foundation— the solid ground on which Afghan believers stand.

Secret believers in hiding are desperately seeking a safe community where they can live out their faith and have spiritual feeding, but they don't know if that at all is possible.

Ask God to keep the faith of Afghan believers alive through His Word. Pray that He will lead them to churches and communities of faith where they can grow in Jesus. Pray that the promises of God in their hearts will take root and bear fruit, and that they will find strength in every situation. Pray that He will provide pastors, ministers, and teachers of the Word to exhort them and give them encouragement.

"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

COLOSSIANS 1:9-10



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DAY 21. THANK THE LORD FOR HIS PROVISION

God continues to be faithful in reaching the needy in Afghanistan. Nazim, one of our frontline partners shares that they are thrilled about being able to help locals in their need: “We [have] supported other families in this area, Christian and non-Christian, with some food packs and clean water as there has been almost no clean water there for around three years. The rivers are drying up and are heavily polluted, so people take water from dirty ditches and residual rivers.”

A local believer also told us this once: “It’s only thanks to you, to your prayers, that we’re still here. If it had not been for your prayers we would have been long gone, because the situation is very difficult.”

Today, give praises to God for how He reaches out and strengthens Afghan locals physically and spiritually. Indeed, He is Jehovah Jireh, our God who provides!

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

WEEK 4

JEHOVAH NISSI – THE LORD IS OUR BANNER

Even though the current situation in Afghanistan is disheartening, God assures us that the battle is His.

In Exodus 17, Moses and Joshua led the Israelites in a battle with the Amalekites. When Moses held up the rod, Joshua and the Israelites won the battle below. When Moses lowered his arms, the Amalekites won. When he grew tired, Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands, one from each side. In the end, Moses built an altar to the Lord and called it Jehovah Nissi, 'The LORD Is My Banner,' because the Lord gave them the victory.

Hana, one of our partners in the region describes how, despite the challenges, she has seen snippets of God's victory in Afghanistan in the past two decades:

"In the last 20 years, persecution has continued. It has spiked, it has not gone down, it has not decreased. There has been little or no space in the conversation for religious freedom. Those who have believed in Jesus and

follow Christ have been persecuted for their faith. Yes, persecution has been on the rise, but so has access to knowledge and freedom – and 20 years of access is a lot.

Twenty years of access means more generations have been impacted. Two of them have been impacted directly, and one generation, not yet born, is yet to be impacted by the gifts of freedom. The exercise of freedom, and the fight, the battle, the war, it is going on at this moment in the hearts of the most resilient communities in the face of the earth.

Let us not forget that the people we speak of are warrior people. People who will not give up the fight for what they believe in."

As we uphold Afghanistan in prayer in our final week, remember that Moses and Joshua did not win through force or impressive battle strategies – they won only through being under the banner of God!

"For the Lord your God is He who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory."

DEUTERONOMY 20:4

DAY 22. PRAY FOR OUR FRONTLINE PARTNERS

Putting their own selves at risk, our frontline partners labor on to meet with, pray for, and minister to Afghan refugees. Sometimes, they too are scared that conflict would blow up in their cities, but they have faith that God will protect them and the work of His kingdom.

“As Christians, I think we should be open to accept suffering people, but what if radicals come among them? We need wisdom and leading from God in this,” shares our partner Hamad, “Of course, as Christians we don’t reject refugee people, but accept and serve them.”

Thank God the Lord for our frontline partners. Lift them up as they work around the clock to step up to the plate of the needy. Pray for the Lord to sustain them and give them energy and capacity for the work. Pray that they will carry God’s banner as they serve and love the refugees.

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

MICAH 6:8



WEEK 4

DAY 23. PRAY FOR GOD TO OPEN DOORS

It's a challenge to transport goods, to go through checkpoints, and to have access to the believers in the refugee camps to give them the support that they need most. Transporting help and working in the frontlines is fraught with difficulties, but praise God for how he continues to open doors for His work to prosper.

Today, pray that God would continue to open doors for our frontline partners to build connections on the ground.

"I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."

REVELATION 3:8





DAY 24. PRAISE GOD FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO MINISTER

Sharinah escaped Afghanistan with her child, and they have become asylum seekers in Central Asia. Her child had pneumonia, and she had no money, as she only received 8 USD monthly from the government. By God's providence, Sharinah ran into one of our frontline partners, Ali, while he was arranging food deliveries. Ali was led by God's Spirit to help Sharinah's child get proper healthcare right then and there.

Praise God for this opportunity to show God's love and care to Sharinah. She is a Muslim, but she is now in regular contact with Ali for encouragement. Continue to pray for healing for Sharinah's child – pray for his complete recovery from pneumonia. Pray that the Jesus would reveal Himself to Sharinah. Pray for Ali as he continues encouraging her and spurring her on in her faith.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven."

WEEK 4



DAY 25. PRAISE GOD FOR HEARTS RECEPTIVE TO THE GOSPEL

Samad (the same man we prayed for on Day 7) is officially Muslim, but after meeting with our frontline partners who supported him and shared the Gospel with him, he admitted that he had become so disappointed in Islam because he could see the way the Taliban acts. After he heard about Jesus from our frontline partners, Samad became very close to accepting Christ. At the moment, he is still searching for his family as they were separated during the takeover.

Praise God for Samad's seeking heart. Pray that He would open His heart to Jesus. Pray that he would be reunited with his family.

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh"

EZEKIEL 36:26

DAY 26. PRAY FOR BELIEVERS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT

Whether in the country or displaced elsewhere, pray for God to strengthen the faith of Afghan believers. Pray that they can be His witnesses wherever they are. Pray that there would be opportunities for them to be salt and light.

A local source says: "In the Asian context, family ties are very close knit. Many believers who leave the country have left with their close families, who don't know Jesus yet. Pray that they would have the courage to share the truth of Christ within their families. However, when they do so, they must be prepared for the consequence. Honor killings happen within Muslim families, so if they share Jesus, even among the people closest to them, there would be no guarantees as to how their loved ones would respond."

Today, pray for the secret believers to have courage to be a witness for Christ despite the high risks.

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control. So do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me, His prisoner. Instead, join me in suffering for the gospel by the power of God..."

2 TIMOTHY 1:7



WEEK 4

DAY 27. PRAY FOR THE CHURCH TO WELCOME REFUGEES

With Afghans in diaspora, the opportunities for the church all over the world to come together and welcome them have multiplied. Today, pray for all the church communities reaching out to Afghan believers – may it be in Central Asia, or anywhere in the western world.

Pray that the church would provide a caring and loving community for Afghan refugees. Pray that they would receive the refugees with genuine warmth. Pray that the refugees would assimilate well in their new lives, and that through the testimony of the church, they would know and accept Christ gift of salvation.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, if you did it to me.’”

MATTHEW 25:35-40





DAY 28. PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

The trauma of war and the sudden uprooting of their entire lives can be difficult for children to adjust to. Take the time to pray for the children whose educations have stopped, who have been separated from their parents, or who lost parents in the violence. “The children are our hope,” says our local partner. “Now they are at a loss, they have no schooling, and their future is unknown. But even then, they still have their whole lives ahead of them!”

Pray that they will know Jesus growing up. Pray for God to fill the hole left by war in their hearts, and that they would be made whole in Him. Pray for opportunities for them to continue with their education.”

Once the dust settles, our frontline partners are hoping to help refugee children with literacy. Pray for God’s favor – pray that this would be a springboard for them to have a brighter future.”

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

WEEK 4



DAY 29. PRAISE GOD FOR THE VICTORIES

We can't tell specifically how many people the Lord allowed our partners to help with your prayers and support, but we rejoice that our trucks with fruits, meat, rice, clothes, diapers, and sanitizers have reached refugee families. In areas that need it, OD frontline partners have also been able to supply clean drinking water. Praise the Lord!

For the future, our frontline partners are already looking for ways to help refugee families for the long term – possibly with small scale businesses like variety shops, or with tuktuks or local taxis.

Today, praise God for allowing us to see these victories. Praise God for the overwhelming support and generosity of the global church towards Afghanistan, and for the kingdom work He is doing in their midst!

“The LORD will indeed provide what is good, and our land will yield its increase.”

PSALM 85:12

DAY 30. PRAISE GOD FOR HOPE!

Even against the backdrop of violence, a health crisis, and shortages of every kind, secret believers in Afghanistan remain confident in Jesus. The same day the Taliban took over, Saad and his wife Fatimah welcomed their child to the world. For them, this is a sign of hope: "The birth of our baby girl is a sign that God has not given up on our country."

This hope is shared by craftsman Sharifullah. Even with the temporary loss of his livelihood, he says: "We will never let that hope be silenced... We will make sure the world hears the Gospel through every breath we take. And we know you will help us by living the Gospel, using your freedom and sharing Jesus with those who have come to your neighborhoods. Please continue to stand with us."

Praise God for the hope He gives for the Afghan believers to persevere. Pray that in spite of their situation, secret believers and Afghan refugees would stand strong in their suffering. May they put their hope and trust in Jehovah Nissi – The Lord, Our Banner, our God who provides victory.

"The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

EXODUS 14:14



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WHAT NEXT?

THANK YOU FOR STANDING IN PRAYER WITH YOUR AFGHAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS THIS MONTH.

The biggest thing they've asked for is prayer, and they draw great strength from knowing that there are believers around the world praying for them. Fatimah, a secret believer, says, "When you pray, you meet us in the room of God's throne. You meet us there and we can have communion there."

Afghani refugee, Zabi, gives expression to the hope she find in the prayers and support of her global church family, "You are a strand of hope to me. There's a chance I may live."

We will be praying for Afghanistan for the rest of the year. If you would like to continue standing with your persecuted family in prayer, visit us at www.opendoors.ph or contact us (via SMS/Viber) at 0998-8830821.

If you haven't yet, subscribe to our quarterly **Open Doors Magazine**, monthly **Prayer Calendar**, or weekly **Prayer Email Alerts** at www.opendoors.ph.

A close-up, profile view of a woman wearing a black hijab. She is looking off to the left with a contemplative expression. The lighting is soft, highlighting her facial features against a dark background.

**"ONLY
EMMANUEL
IS LEFT: JESUS
IS WITH US."**



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