

Prayer Guide

“And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.”

1 Peter 5:10

October

Men in Sub-Saharan Africa

01 Pray with Jemal*, an Ethiopian believer whose successful woodworking and steel businesses were destroyed in Islamic extremist mob attacks. “Pray for [Christians to regain] influence in our community,” he says.

02 Where Jemal lives, Muslims have isolated the Christians. It’s difficult, even dangerous, for children to go to school by themselves. He asks us to pray: “In every place I go, pray for God to give me boldness.”

03 Pray for God to strengthen Pastor Zumai* in Nigeria. He is walking daily with his wife through the trauma she suffered in militant captivity.

04 Pray for men throughout Sub-Saharan Africa whose families are displaced from their homes due to violence. Extremists know that men struggle with feeling inferior and weak when their families must depend on others to survive.

05 Praise God for His provision. Pastor Barnabas in Nigeria shares a thank you message. While his family still lives in an IDP camp, his children are now back in school, “because of the support I received from the ministry,” he says.

06 Pray for God’s strength for Christian men in Cameroon’s Far North, a region terrorised by Boko Haram. Men carry the weight of providing for and protecting their family from attack and kidnapping.

07 Adam and his family of six are also displaced from their home in Far North Cameroon. He has been kidnapped twice. Pray with him that the nightmares will stop.

08 Praise God with us for Adam’s escape from captivity. He escaped when the men guarding him fell into a deep sleep—the night before he was to be executed.

09 Adam leads his local Christian community. Pray for protection. “We keep fleeing because there is no peace,” he says. “Pray with us that God will make a way.”

10 Pray with pastors throughout Sub-Saharan Africa who are often targets of persecution. Thank God for pastors who take this risk to lead and disciple the Church.

11 Pastor Soré shares an update: His Muslim father has come to live with him on the land Soré’s family settled on after his family was displaced. “Pray for the conversion of my father and his family,” Soré asks.

12 Speak Bishop Wilfred Anagbe’s name today. And pray for his village in Nigeria’s Benue State. His testimony before the U.S. Congress drew threats by both Islamic extremist groups and the Nigerian government.

13 Pray for God to use Bishop Wilfred’s testimony to wake up world leaders to the violence against God’s people in Nigeria and throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Pray for conviction and urgent action.

14 Pray for Father Solomon Atongo in Benue State who was shot in the leg returning from a memorial service. His two companions were abducted. Pray for his comfort and perseverance.

15 Pray for fathers in Gwer West in Benue State, where a string of armed attacks left more than 40 people dead. God, we pray right now for the fathers who are hurting and feel emasculated. Please bolster them with Your strength and peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

16 Kidnapped women who escape captivity often come home with children born in captivity. Some return pregnant. Pray for the men who are struggling to accept these children or pregnancies. Extremists use sexual assault as a weapon against both women and men.

Women in Sub-Saharan Africa

17 Rifkatu* was kidnapped four weeks after her wedding. She endured unimaginable violence at the hands of her captors. Praise God for her release and pray for continuous healing.

18 Terrible nightmares of Fulani militants chasing her continue to plague Rifkatu. Pray that the Prince of Peace will take away these nightmares and give her much-needed rest.

19 Rifkatu desperately wants to relocate for her family’s safety. “Pray that God will change the area where I live,” she asks. “I have a strong desire for God to change it.”

20 Today, pray with Hakuri*, a widow in Niger. “Pray for peace in our region; pray against insecurity,” she asks. “We are afraid of what is happening. Every day we hear guns shoot.”

21 Pray with widows who often ask for faithful resilience. Hakuri says: “I beg Christians around the world to pray for us—we need peace; pray so that God will make our faith to be strong in Christ to endure persecution.”

22 Pray that widows would be economically resilient and not susceptible to lures and schemes. Poverty can often result in desperation and surrender.

23 Pray with widows who are also mothers and must protect and care for their children as single parents. One widowed mother shared with us: “Every day, I pray for peace and the health of my children.”

24 Pray for women in Sub-Saharan Africa today who are waking up in tears, grieving for their husbands, children, and those they have lost to Islamic extremist attacks on their villages.

25 Pray that God will protect women in Sub-Saharan Africa who have suffered sexual violence for their faith—restoring them in every area.

26 Rifkatu found healing at Open Doors' trauma care centre in northern Nigeria. Ask God to bless the Shalom Center and its workers abundantly.

27 Ask God to raise up more trauma care workers. Pray for workers' emotional and spiritual well-being as they listen to repeated accounts of sexual violence.

28 Pray for women who have suffered so much for their faith to be reminded in unimaginable ways that, through their faith, they are daughters of God (Galatians 3:26) and co-heirs with Christ.

29 Pray with female captives who are physically enslaved to their captors. Pray they will remember that, because of Christ's work on the cross, they are no longer spiritually enslaved.

30 Pray for women in Sub-Saharan Africa—the torchbearers for the next generation, the hand holders, the tear catchers. Ask God to give them special blessing.

31 Pray for the women of Sub-Saharan Africa to remember that God El Roi (Genesis 16:13) sees them, is mindful of them, and loves them. Ask Him to reveal Himself to them in new ways.



Christian woman at a trauma centre, Nigeria

November

Syria

01 Pray with Razzouk Al-Akhras, a worker in the Alliance Church in Homs, Syria. He shared his prayer for the church, as Syria's new government takes power: "I pray the coming time is for Lord's glory and that this government will support the church in its mission."

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

02 As the global Church, let's join in prayer for our persecuted family. Pray for **strength** (Ephesians 3:16-19), **provision** (Philippians 4:19), and **for the gospel to advance** (Philippians 1:9-11).

Syria

03 Also in Homs, Pastor Edward Mossa helps lead a home for youth. He hopes you'll pray with him: "We pray for each other in all circumstances. We call upon you to pray for us, that these times may pass as peacefully as possible."

North Korea

04 In North Korea, a small number of believers have access to hidden Bibles—buried in the ground and concealed in walls. Pray that hidden Bibles will be protected, preserved, and used to build up and empower the body of Christ.

05 Ask that Christians who no longer have access to a Bible will remember Scripture they once knew and receive encouragement through it.

06 Pray for believers who have access to portions of the Bible to share these scriptures and discern when and how to share their testimonies and teach others.

07 Pray for brave Christians who share the gospel in the most dangerous circumstances. Pray for comfort and spiritual encouragement for those imprisoned or suffering due to their courageous testimony.

08 Pray for opportunities and divine appointments so that even in secret, the message of hope continues to spread in North Korea.

Central Asia

09 Pray by name today for your 65-year-old brother, Pastor Pavel Schreider, in Kyrgyzstan. He's facing five to seven years in jail. Pray Psalm 91 over him, and ask God to bring Scriptures to his mind.

10 Pray for Yildan* and his daughter. The secret police picked him up and interrogated him about distributing Christian literature. The court fined him a hefty \$625. Pray for his family's provision.

11 During the interrogation, Yildan courageously explained he wanted people to know about the true and living God. Now, his family is living under the authorities' scrutiny. Pray for their perseverance as they suffer under surveillance.

12 Pray for a church who was deceived by a man who attended a church meeting, faking interest in Christianity. He was a spy. Police raided the church and detained them for two days without food. Pray for recovery; the group is traumatised.

Vietnam

13 In the northern region, authorities banned 17 Hmong Christian families from attending church and stripped them of their government benefits. Ask God to keep His hand on them and provide for them.

14 Despite the hardship they face, these 17 families continue to seek ways to worship in secret. Pray their faith remains strong during this difficult time.

15 Ask God to make a way for all Vietnamese believers to attend church services without fear. God, please be ever-close to our sisters and brothers today.

16 Praise God for a local partners' satellite Bible school program that reaches people from rural areas who can't afford to travel to pursue full-time training.

17 By the end of the course, students earn a certificate, making them eligible to serve in local churches and plant churches. Pray that word of the program will spread.



Arabian Peninsula

18 A group of disciple-makers and their friends are asking us to pray, as Christians in the Arabian Peninsula are being asked to leave their respective countries. Pray for believers and church plants, that they will withstand this pressure.

19 Pray for our brothers and sisters to abide in Christ, praying daily, and leaning into His Word. Pray they will not succumb to fear and worries (Philippians 4:6).

20 Pray for leaders in power, for both softened hearts and open minds. Ask God to give His people favour with authorities—the same favour we see in Scripture.

21 Ask God to order their steps and that His people will hear His voice and obey Him. Father, we pray that You would be so pleased with them that even their enemies will treat them well.

China

22 The senior leader of a house church in West China was taken from his home by police officers and unjustly accused. Our field partner shares: "Your urgent prayers are needed to support the church and its members who are suffering for their faith."

23 Police also summoned other key members and staff of the West China house church for questioning. The church has a positive reputation across all of China. Pray that God will loose these chains.

Bangladesh

24 Pray with your brother, Nahid Babu, today. He's one of the first groups of students who graduated from a youth discipleship program led by Open Doors' local partners.

25 Before, Nahid had no training to read the Bible. Now, he can respond to the growing scrutiny and questions of family members and friends. Pray for courage for Nahid, that he will continue to serve the Lord faithfully without fear.

26 Pray for God to fulfill Nahid's dream of establishing a library at his church where many people can come and begin to know God and study the Bible.

Iran

27 Pray with your brother Hakob Gochumiyan, an Armenian Christian serving a 10-year sentence in Iran. Hakob has described severe mistreatment, including death threats. Ask God to intervene.

28 Hakob's two appeals for a retrial were rejected by Iran's Supreme Court. Pray for justice to prevail and that Iranian authorities will overturn this false conviction and release him immediately.

29 Pray for wisdom and courage for Hakob's legal advocates and for doors to open internationally to bring attention to his case. God, we intercede for our brother Hakob and ask You to intervene in this difficult situation.

30 Pray for all imprisoned Christians in Iran—may they feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, be strengthened in hope, and remain steadfast in truth.

***Names changed for security purposes**