

# February continued

**Monday 6th | MYANMAR** Believers, especially young men, are sometimes conscripted on Sundays to do errands for the State Army. Whether on purpose or not, it prevents Christians from participating in church worship and fellowship. Pray for the pastors to have divine wisdom in working out how to minister to their congregations in these circumstances.

**Tuesday 7th | BHUTAN** Bhutan struggles with a high rate of domestic violence and drug use amongst teenagers. Pastors and believers are in need of training opportunities that will teach them biblical principles on marriage, families and parenting. Pray that God would provide the right people to implement these programs.

**Wednesday 8th | BHUTAN** The majority of Christians in Bhutan are of Nepali origin. Even though they desire to reach out to other ethnic groups, they are prejudiced because of their faith and ethnicity. Pray that God will open doors for the Nepali believers as they share the Gospel with people of other tribal backgrounds.

**Thursday 9th | LAOS** The Khmu people comprise half of the Christian population in Laos and, historically, have been the most receptive to the Gospel. However, they are at the bottom of the ethnic groups in terms of social status. Pray blessing over the Khmu believers, and that God will use them as channels of Christ's Good News.

**Friday 10th | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES** Praise God for Daniel\* and Peggy\*, who operate a day-care centre as an outreach ministry to their Muslim community. Pray for divine favour with government officials, as they need to complete the registration process. Pray that God will use them in amazing ways as they witness to the families of the malnourished children who are in need of food and education.

**Saturday 11th | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES** Two Christian workers returned to Jolo after two weeks



Pray for the day care centre operated by Daniel and Peggy as an outreach to their community.

of hiding because of a threat of abduction. After much prayer, they decided to continue their ministry among the Tausug believers. Pray for God's protection to be over them whenever they share the Gospel message, and pray for wisdom as they look for ways to carry out their ministry in the midst of restlessness in the area.

**Sunday 12th | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES** Sulga\* spends most of her time at home taking care of her six children, while her husband is working as a fisherman. From Monday to Thursday, she assists a teacher in literacy classes at Sangali. Her desire is to teach, instead of being an assistant. Pray that the Lord will bless Sulga in her work and provide the opportunity for her to become a teacher.

**Monday 13th | MALAYSIA** Ministry to MBBs\*\* in Malaysia remains underground because the government relentlessly hinders the sharing of the Gospel among Malay Muslims. Pray that the workers will be persistent in sharing Christ with the MBBs in this region.

**Tuesday 14th | BRUNEI** Many Malay people in Brunei come to Christ through information on the internet. Pray that these resources will continue to be available and accessible to believers and those who are interested in finding out more about God.

**Wednesday 15th | BRUNEI** Christians in Brunei do not think they need to reach out to Muslims, which comes from the attitude that it is impossible to change the mind of a Muslim. Pray for a change of heart in the local Christians, and that God would give them courage and boldness to speak to the Muslim people.

**Thursday 16th | INDONESIA** A group of Christian workers in Indonesia are based in a strongly Islamic area and, in their ministry, they experience opposition from civil and religious leaders. Please uphold these courageous workers in your prayers. Pray for the Lord to protect them, their families and all those who come to Christ as a result of their ministry.

**Friday 17th | INDONESIA** Thank the Lord for the retreat that Open Doors held in Sumatra in the last

quarter of 2011. Positive feedback was received from the 125 believers from Muslim backgrounds that attended. They were encouraged by the event and expressed the desire to be open about their faith with their families. Pray that God will give them the strength and courage to do this.

**Saturday 18th | BANGLADESH** In Bangladesh, families that are suspected to have converted to Christianity are alienated in the villages. These MBBs\*\* are prohibited from accessing the community wells and going to the market to buy provisions. In some cases, they are thrown out of the village. Please pray that God's strength and presence will be with them.

**Sunday 19th | BANGLADESH** Open Doors will be printing 1,500 copies of the Bible story for children and distributing them to MBB\*\* children. It will be done with the assistance of the Isai Fellowship of Bangladesh and other local churches. Pray that God will use these Bibles to bring spiritual nourishment to the young believers in Bangladesh.

**Monday 20th | MALDIVES** Many Maldivians go to other countries, particularly Sri Lanka, for educational and employment opportunities and where they also get the chance to hear the Gospel. Pray for their hearts and minds to be open, for God to plant faith in their hearts, and that when they return to the Maldives they will be salt and light to their families and friends.

**Tuesday 21st | MALDIVES** In the Maldives, youth finish secondary school at the age of 16 and many of them are unable to get a job. Due to unemployment and idleness, the youth get into drugs, crime and sexual immorality. Pray that Jesus Christ would restore hope and purpose in their lives.

**Wednesday 22nd | CHINA** With a population of over 23 million, Shanghai is China's largest, busiest and most developed city. The church has grown since it was allowed to reopen in 1979-1980, but there are only 22 registered churches, and house churches are kept to a small size. Pray that the government would become less restrictive in cultural and religious matters.

**Thursday 23rd | MEXICO** Please pray for wisdom for the Christians who would like to return to Chilil, as the people of the Chilil community do not want the Christians there.

**Friday 24th | MEXICO** In the Zapatista community, the acceptance of the Gospel depends on the leader of that community. The people there want the Gospel, but they are waiting for their leader's approval. Pray that God will open the heart of their leader, and that the leader will welcome the message of the Gospel in the community.

**Saturday 25th | ETHIOPIA** "Every time Muslims attack our churches," said a leader in Ethiopia, "we report it to officials. But their passive and inadequate measures only encourage the persecutors to keep the pressure up." Pray for the safety of these believers, and that officials will acknowledge the rights of all citizens and take the necessary steps to protect believers from further harassment.

**Sunday 26th | ETHIOPIA** Several Christians in the Oromia region, whose homes were destroyed by Muslim extremists in March last year, are still struggling to rebuild their homes and lives. Pray that God will provide their every need. Pray that they will put their trust in Him and that they will become stronger as a result.

**Monday 27th | ETHIOPIA** A church in western Ethiopia has been looted by Muslim suspects. The area is notorious for hostile behaviour towards believers. Just recently, two MBBs\*\* were beaten to death for attending secret believer meetings. Church leaders say the situation is getting worse. Pray for the church elders to lead with divine wisdom and to be strong amidst this turmoil.

**Tuesday 28th | NIGERIA** Thank the Lord for His provision of funds through many sources which are being used to reconstruct churches in Northern Nigeria. There are some congregations that are yet to start the rebuilding process. Pray that they will reach their targets in the near future.

**Wednesday 29th | NIGERIA** Praise God for each supporter who made it possible for many children and youth in Northern Nigeria to receive their own Bible last year. Pray that they will read their Bibles, apply the Lord's instruction in their life, and be great witnesses in their communities.

\* Name has been changed to protect identity

\*\* MBB - Muslim Background Believer

\*\*\* SSTS - Standing Strong through the Storm

Source: Open Doors International and Compass Direct News



Pray for congregations in Ethiopia that have lost their meeting places due to attacks on churches.



Praise God for the 1,500 children's Bibles that will soon be printed and distributed in Bangladesh.

**There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

*Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)*



If you would like to join or start an Open Doors prayer group please contact Jeanette on (02) 9451 2999 or prayergroups@od.org



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Information provided by Open Doors and Compass Direct sources.

## prayerguide

### JAN - FEB 2012

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

*Psalm 90:14 (NIV)*

# January

# February

**Sunday 1st | YEMEN** Thank the Lord for the growing demand for the New Testament Bible in Yemen. Local believers distribute to people they know and then request more copies when they run out. Pray that God will protect these Christians as they distribute Bibles.

**Monday 2nd | ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN AREAS** Pray for the Christians in Gaza. They often feel isolated from the world as well as the body of Christ. Pray that they would feel the presence of God in their lives.

**Tuesday 3rd | ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN AREAS** Please pray for the Israel College of the Bible in Netanya. Recently it has been facing a lot of opposition, apparently because it is Messianic. Pray for protection for the director, the teachers and the students.



Pray for protection for the workers at the Israel College of the Bible.

**Wednesday 4th | IRAQ** Christmas Day in Iraq is celebrated on 7th January. Pray for the Christmas and New Year celebrations to go ahead, as last year they were cancelled due to security threats. Pray for protection during the festivities.

**Thursday 5th | IRAQ** Praise God for all the training opportunities coming up this year. Pray that the trainers will be good channels in passing on the Good News of Christ and that they will be a blessing to the trainees. Pray also for the translating of books and Bibles. May they reach the hands of spiritually hungry people in Iraq.

**Friday 6th | MOROCCO** Pray that Moroccan Christian leaders would build strong relationships between each other, based on prayer and love. Pray that God would put a seed in their hearts to build a strong church in Morocco that would focus on discipleship.

**Saturday 7th | LIBYA** Pray for people in Libya who hear the Gospel message and turn to Christ. Ask God to provide Christians to lead new believers in their walk with God.

**Sunday 8th | LIBYA** Pray for this country after the demise of the Gaddafi regime. Pray that a stable society will emerge in which there will be more freedom for believers.

**Monday 9th | ALGERIA** In the second half of 2011, the pressure on the church in Algeria increased significantly. Pray that the pressure will lessen and for believers to have freedom in worshipping and evangelising despite the anti-Christian sentiments.

**Tuesday 10th | ALGERIA** After granting an official registration notice to the EPA (council for the Protestant Church of Algeria), the government is now trying to control the church. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as the pastors and church leaders continue to lead their congregations.

**Wednesday 11th | MAURITANIA** Leaders are often forced to operate in small networks because of great pressures on the believers. Pray for unity amongst the networks and for increasing cooperations between the groups. Pray that God will help them to focus on training believers, supporting those who are ill and being good examples for their church members.

**Thursday 12th | IRAN** Bible confiscation is common in Iran. In 2011 the government seized more than 5,000 Bibles. Pray for God to make 'seeing eyes blind' as believers distribute biblical literature and Bibles throughout various towns in the country.



Pray for a stable society in Libya.

**Friday 13th | IRAN** As a result of many arrests of house church members in 2011, Christians in Iran are now living in an environment of increasing instability. Pray for the Lord's protection over the members of house churches and their leaders.

**Saturday 14th | LEBANON** Pray for the Christian multimedia programs running in Lebanon. The writers, directors and producers need a lot of knowledge matched with grace to produce programs that will really make a difference in people's lives.

**Sunday 15th | LEBANON** Many Christians from the Middle East region emigrate to Lebanon for the relative freedom that it provides. Pray that the freedom will remain and that the church will make the most of the freedom they have in sharing the Gospel.

**Monday 16th | ARABIAN PENINSULA** Praise God for Dr. Said who, as a foreign Arab worker, found Christ and has expressed his new Christian faith. However, he lives two hours from the nearest known believer and really needs fellowship. Pray that he will find a local community of believers to fellowship with.

**Tuesday 17th | ARABIAN PENINSULA** Pray for Johanan. He came to faith through the media and an Orthodox church in a nearby country. But he is disappointed because the church he visits isn't able to baptise him because of security and relations with the government. Pray that Johanan will understand the security risks of being a Christian and that God will guide him in his faith.

**Wednesday 18th | SYRIA** Pray for wisdom and guidance for the church leaders in Syria, that they will look for God's reply and not the wisdom of man. Pray for protection of God's people in Syria and that the Gospel will be preached at all times despite ongoing opposition.

**Thursday 19th | TUNISIA** Pray for new believers in Tunisia. They often face a lot of pressure from their family to return to Islam. Pray that God will give them the strength to stand firm in their faith.

**Friday 20th | TUNISIA** With increased levels of internet and mobile phone technology in Tunisia, more and more people are gaining access to the web. Pray that these technologies will be used by the Lord as tools to spread His Word throughout the country.

**Saturday 21st | AZERBAIJAN** Give thanks that even though there are increasing restrictions against Christian activities in Azerbaijan, a Bible study seminar took place with participants from various churches. Azeri Christians ask us to stand with them in prayer for their country.

**Sunday 22nd | UZBEKISTAN** Thank God for His protection over various study seminars and youth events held recently in Uzbekistan. One of our contacts wrote: "God protected the youth

camp... people heard the call to serve and responded. All 5 days were protected. Half an hour after we left, security police came for a check up. It was a miracle, because according to the program we were meant to stay one hour longer. God saved us from arrests."

**Monday 23rd | UZBEKISTAN** Praise God for the courageous believers in Uzbekistan who are faithful to God despite opposition and pressure. Please pray for protection and safety over the many Christian activities that are held throughout the country.

**Tuesday 24th | KYRGYZSTAN** Give thanks to the Lord for Aisul\*, a Kyrgyz Christian lady who participated in a biblical training session. She now understands what it means to believe in God. Pray that she may be able to continue putting into practise what she has learned.

**Wednesday 25th | TAJIKISTAN** Pray that Christians in Tajikistan will be brave in preaching the Gospel to the people in their country. Many people are quite hostile to Christians, especially if they are Tajik or Uzbek.



Pray for pastors in Azerbaijan, that they will follow God's guidance as they lead their congregations.



Praise God for the safe-houses operating in Central Asia.

**Thursday 26th | AFGHANISTAN** Pray for those involved in the follow-up of people responding to Christian radio and TV programs. One team member said, "We never get discouraged when people swear at us. We get discouraged when people ask us for Bibles and we can't give them one." Pray that they would be able to disciple these new believers despite their limited resources.

**Friday 27th | AFGHANISTAN** Pray for a poor Afghan family who left their country and settled elsewhere within the region. They are new believers and their young daughter has cancer meaning she can hardly lie on her back because of the extreme pain. Pray for strength and comfort for this family.

**Saturday 28th | CENTRAL ASIA** Praise God for the safe-houses in Central Asia where Open Doors has been able to provide a safe refuge to help several believers. The safe-houses are used to give believers a place to rest, and also to receive encouragement and training when their circumstances are just too much to bear.

**Sunday 29th | CENTRAL ASIA** Thank God for the safe delivery of thousands of copies of children's materials in Central Asia. 13-year-old, Elano, is very thankful for the literature, and has asked for more to be sent to her sisters in Christ. Please pray that these Christian materials will keep impacting the lives of believers and non-believers.

**Monday 30th | INDIA** Please pray for the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill that has been challenged in the Himachal Pradesh High Court by the Evangelical Fellowship of India. Pray that this verdict has a favourable outcome.

**Tuesday 31st | INDIA** Many attacks on Christians have been reported throughout various states in India, spreading fear amongst the communities. Pray for God's protection over the many believers in these areas, and for them to continue trusting in God.

**Wednesday 1st | NEPAL** Rough roads and hours of trekking deter Christian leaders from evangelising and equipping believers in rural areas. Please pray that God will sustain the believers spiritually, physically and financially, and pray that the Christian leaders will be motivated to reach out to them.

**Thursday 2nd | VIETNAM** Activities of local churches in the Central Highland provinces of Vietnam are monitored. Pastors and their congregations are rounded



Pray for leaders participating in youth training programs in Vietnam.

up during Easter and Christmas seasons by local authorities who want to know activity, program and event details in advance. Pray for courage and wisdom for the believers.

**Friday 3rd | VIETNAM** Dau\*, a participant in an Open Doors youth training program, desires to see more youth in his church grow in their love

for God. He wants to develop the confidence to lead more young people to Jesus Christ. Pray that God would make this possible for Dau.

**Saturday 4th | SRI LANKA** Printed resources for the large Sinhala-speaking church are very few, and the lack of theological materials continues to be an issue for the church leaders and pastors in Sri Lanka. Pray that God would provide more skilled translators and writers.

**Sunday 5th | SRI LANKA** A small, but growing, number of MBBs\*\* are settling along the border provinces of Sri Lanka. This year Open Doors will hold a 3-day discipleship training program for 50 believers from Muslim backgrounds, where SSTS\*\*\* topics will be discussed. Pray that the seminar will be a blessing to all those who attend.

**For Letter Writing information please see the Frontline Faith.**

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