

29. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – pray for **Theo** who was forced to flee his home when Islamists attacked his town. Pray that displaced Christians will experience God's provision as they rebuild their lives. Pray that they will be a bold witness to Christ in their new location. Pray that their persecutors will repent and place their trust in Christ. Pray for members of the global body of Christ who travel long, sometimes dangerous routes to worship with these persecuted believers and to pray for one another.

30. BENIN- pray for **Andre Efosa**. He and his wife, Miriam, started a church in northern Benin which is 98% Muslim. Andre is an ordained pastor; he preaches, teaches and evangelizes. Miriam used to lead the women's ministries and Sunday School classes before she was killed by Islamist extremists. They beat her and forced acid down her throat while Andre was away on a ministry trip. She died as a result of the attack. Andre moved his family to another part of Benin for safety but remains committed to bringing the gospel to all. His adult daughters, **Veronique**, 25, and **Delphine**, 14, and his son, **Nicolas**, 8, help him in his ministry. He asks for support in the battle for souls. "I would request that people help me in prayer that the village people could meet God and have their eyes opened," he said. "My prayer request is that this war by Muslims against the gospel would collapse."

31. ETHIOPIA – pray for **Rahel** whose husband, Tesfa, was killed by Muslim extremists after he became a Christian and served as deacon in their church. Now she is active in her church, just as she was for many years with Tesfa. "My situation is very difficult and shocking," she said. "But God always encourages me," reminding her that He is her provider. She asks for prayer for her children and that she will be strong in faith and finish the race.

Heavenly Father, You have called us to pray for the church and the world and for the ongoing ministry of the Gospel, that it might increase and make disciples of all nations. And so we pray. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those in need- the poor and the hungry, the homeless and the unemployed, the sick and the lonely- that they may receive help in their distress, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who do not yet believe, and for all those in spiritual need, that they may find faith, hope, comfort, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our nation and all who govern, that justice and freedom may be preserved for all citizens that we may dwell in peace, so as to give greater opportunity for the spread of the Gospel, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the church throughout the world, and for missionaries, help these brothers and sisters to remain faithful to their calling to proclaim the gospel boldly even in the midst of conflict and so prove to be the light of Christ among the nations, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.* Heavenly Father, grant grace to your people to live as faithful followers of Christ the Lord and as worthy witnesses of Your Gospel. Have mercy on the peoples of the earth and draw the lost into your gracious kingdom. Amen.

-Daily Liturgy Devotional

SOURCES:

CHURCH IN CHAINS; CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE; Mission Network News; OPEN DOORS; PRISONER ALERT; RELEASE INTERNATIONAL; VOICE of the MARTYRS; WORLD MAGAZINE; WORLD WATCH MONITOR

Now I urge you brethren by the Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God. Romans 15:30

STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

August 2026

1. DRC (MNN) — In the Democratic Republic of Congo, where hundreds of Christians are killed each month. Todd Nettleton with Voice of the Martyrs USA says Islamic State Central Africa Province recently beheaded 14 Christians in a series of attacks. The violence is meant to spread fear, and the attacks often come without warning. They leave deep trauma, yet believers continue to endure in faith. Pray that the Lord will strengthen Congolese Christians. Pray that persecutors will repent and turn to Christ through dreams, visions, and bold testimonies they witness.

Call to action

- Please pray that the Lord will strengthen Congolese believers as they face ongoing persecution.
- Pray also that persecutors will turn to Christ through dreams, visions, and the bold witness of Christians.

2. India (MNN) – India recently updated its Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, imposing additional red tape on Christian ministries and non-profits. Included is a ban on foreign funds for religious conversion. John Pudaite with Bibles For The World says if an organization is deemed non-compliant, the Indian government can cancel its registration. Still, God is working. Pudaite reports that they're seeing growing requests for Scripture across India and people coming to Christ! Pray for wisdom as Christian ministries navigate new regulations.

Call to action

- Pray for wisdom for Christian ministry leaders.
- Pray for bold, faithful Gospel witness despite restrictions.
- Ask God to soften the hearts of India's leaders.
- Thank the Lord for continued Gospel growth across India.

3. CHINA – praise God that **Pastor Sun Long** and other leaders of **Beijing Zion Church** who have been detained in Belhai since October 2025, have secured a rare concession from Chinese authorities resulting in Pastor Sun receiving a Bible. Observers hope this development will establish legal precedent that will benefit other detained Christians. Give thanks for the work of the lawyer that resulted in this positive development. Pray that the Lord will encourage Pastor Sun through this copy of the Bible.

4. EGYPT – continue praying for Christian convert **Said Abdelrazek** whose case was recently adjourned to September. He faces terrorism-related charges relating to his conversion from Islam and his attempt to change his religion on his identity papers. Pray that the Lord will protect Said in prison and give his lawyers wisdom as they prepare for the court hearing in September.

5. CANADA – A recently passed bill called the 'Combatting Hatred Act' has many Canadians concerned that it removes a 'good faith' religious belief defense previously in place. Critics also say its definition of 'hatred' could be misused. Pray for wisdom and justice for government leaders and for godly boldness for Christians.

6. **UKRAINE** – A Russian missile and drone barrage in Kyiv killed 11 people and sparked a blaze at the **Dormition Cathedral**, which holds deep religious and cultural significance. Pray for comfort for those grieving loss and destruction in Kyiv. Ask God to strengthen Ukrainian churches proclaiming Christ amid suffering.
7. **CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for continued prayer for the city of **Fuyang**. Pray for wisdom for pastors, that they will know how to relate to the government and how to handle relational tensions with officials. The pastors struggle with anger and resentment when faced with those who persecute them. They request prayer for calm, Spirit-given wisdom. Pray for pastors' wives and their children who struggle with tics and other psychological issues.
8. **CHINA** – praise God that nine church leaders from **Zion Church** were granted bail and released June 18 after more than 8 months in detention. Pray for them as they reunite with their families. Nine other leaders, including founding pastor **Ezra Jin Mingri**, remain in detention and face serious charges.
UPDATE – praise God that **Pastor Jin**, 54, has been released from detention after diplomatic talks. He arrived in Los Angeles on July 4, He had spent 9 months in prison. Pray for him as he adjusts to life in the USA with his wife, **Anna Chunlei Liu**, and his daughter, **Grace Jin Drexel**, and a new one-month old grandson. Pray for the 8 co-workers of Pastor Jin who remain in prison and for their legal teams as they seek to secure justice.
9. **IRAN** – continue praying for **Mary Mohammadi**, 27, a well-known human rights defender, journalist and Christian convert who has been disappeared since February. *Amnesty International* believes she is being held by the Iranian authorities. Mary converted to Christianity at a house church meeting at the age of 17. She has been arrested on several previous occasions for her faith and her human rights activities. Pray that Mary's location and circumstances will soon become known.
10. **INDIA** – The BJP, the Hindu party led by Prime Minister Modi, strengthened its control of India in state elections held in May. It now controls 21 of India's 28 states. Pray that PM Modi will act to halt the attacks by Hindu extremists on Christians across India. Last year, 747 incidents of hostility, discrimination, violence and intimidation were recorded against Christians across India.
11. **INDIA** cont – pray for **Pastor Hunga Mandavi** and his pregnant wife who were among 25 worshippers injured when a crowd of extremists attacked a worship gathering in Sadrapal, a village in Sukma district in Chhattisgarh. Pray that the injured Christians will receive the care they need to recover from their injuries.
12. **INDIA** cont – pray for **Shibu Thomas**, founder of *Church in Chains'* partner **Persecution Relief**, as he works as a liaison with persecuted Christians and arranges aid and support to those who are in need.
13. **INDIA** cont – pray for **Pastor G** and 24 Christian families who have been denied access to the community drinking water in their village. *Persecution Relief* is exploring the possibility of an independent water source for the families.
14. **IRAQ** – pray for the **National Evangelical Baptist Church** in the capital of Bagdad. Pray for its members and leaders who continue to reach out and organize special events for women and children and who recently shared the Gospel at the Iraq International Book Fair.
15. **CHINA** – continue praying for **Pastor Wang Yi** of Early Rain Church who is serving a nine-year prison sentence with an expected release date of Dec 2027. Pray for his health. Pray for his witness while in prison.
16. **CHINA** – continue praying for **Yang Rongli** of Golden Lampstand Church who is serving a 15-year prison sentence. Pray for medical care for her diabetes and for early release.
17. **ERITREA** – continue praying for imprisoned pastors in Eritrea, especially for **Rev Gebregiorgis** who has been in prison since 2004, and for **Rev Menghisteb**, also in prison since 2004. Pray that they will be released soon.
18. **IRAN** – continue praying for Iranian Christian convert **Mehran Shamloui** who is serving a 10-year prison sentence for his house church activities. Pray for encouragement for him while in Evin Prison.
19. **VIETNAM** – pray for **Y Pum Bya**, a church leader who is serving a 14-year prison sentence for peacefully promoting religious freedom and human rights. He is due for release in 2032. Pray for good health and for an early release.
20. **PAKISTAN** – continue praying for **Shagufta Kiran** who was sentenced to death in 2024. Pray that she will be acquitted on appeal.
21. **PAKISTAN** – continue praying for **Asif Pervaiz** who was sentenced to death in 2020. Pray that his appeal will be heard soon and that he will be acquitted.
22. **IRAN** – An appeals court has upheld sentences totalling over 70 years imposed on 5 Christians last October for their religious activities. Pray for Christian convert **Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh**, Iranian- Armenian **Pastor Joseph Shahbazian** and his wife, **Lida Alexani** and converts **Aida Nagaflo** and a woman whose name has not been made public. Pray that the Lord will strengthen and provide for each of them as they continue to live in prison.
23. **PAKISTAN** – pray for **Nadia Nadeem and Nadeem Masih** who are appealing for the return of their kidnapped 13-year-old daughter, **Amber**, who was abducted in mid-June, converted to Islam and married to a Muslim man. She is currently in police custody while legal proceedings are ongoing. Pray that justice will be done and that Amber will be returned soon.
24. **INDIA** – The state of **Maharashtra** is on the verge of becoming India's 13th state with an anti-conversion law. Pray that believers in Maharashtra will remain faithful. Pray that God will open Gospel doors and that the church in India will continue to grow.
25. **IRAN** – pray for **Ghazal Marzban**, a Christian convert beaten in prison on July 14 after protesting the overcrowding in the women's ward of Evin Prison following the arrival of 50 new prisoners. The beating resulted in a broken bone in her left hand and severe pain. Pray that she will receive treatment for her injuries in hospital as recommended by the prison doctor. Pray that the Lord will heal and strengthen her as she continues to serve her prison sentence in Evin Prison.
26. **INDIA** – pray for **Pastor Prakesh Singh**, 46, from Punjab state who was falsely accused of assault and had his church building and home set on fire. He says he has been threatened on several previous occasions by the Sikh neighbor who is suspected of starting the fire. Pray that the false charges against Pastor Singh will be dropped and that the Lord will provide for the needs of his family.
27. **INDIA** – pray for **Pastor Jawahar** and his wife, **Amulya**. He is currently out on bail with his appeal still waiting to be heard by a higher court. He has been accused of forced conversions.
28. **INDIA** – pray for **Pastor Philip**. He and his family settled in a place where there were no Christians so that he could share the Gospel. As his church grew, community leaders withheld food support, tools, and seeds; church members were beaten, chastised, and boycotted. Finally, the church members were forced to leave. Pastor Philip moved with 9 families into the jungle to start a new life, calling their community **The Church People Village**. The church continues to grow in their new location.

