

24. INDIA – pray for **Kaveri**, with *Open Doors* as well, who says, “God continues to open doors for me to witness. We must be bold. Nothing will stop me.”

25. NORTH KOREA – continue praying for **Kim Jong Uk**, 61, a South Korean Baptist missionary who worked in China with North Korean refugees. He was arrested in 2013 when he entered North Korea with Bibles. In 2014 he was sentenced to life imprisonment in labor camp. Pray that God will protect him in labor camp and give him good mental and physical health, as well as encouragement and spiritual strength. Pray for his release. Pray that God will comfort Kim's family. Pray for all Christians imprisoned for their faith and for freedom of worship for Christians in North Korea.

26. IRAN – pray for **Simin Soheilinia**, 48, who has been serving a ten-year prison sentence in Tehran's Evin Prison because of her involvement in an illegal house-church. Her family has lost contact with her and is concerned for her safety. Simin was due for release on February 28 but has not been heard from since. Pray that the Lord will watch over Simin and other Iranian Christian prisoners and keep them safe as the war continues. Pray that she will be able to contact her family soon.

27. NEPAL – pray for **Nagenndra** who became a believer when a neighbor invited him to a local church. But this caused his Hindu wife to be very angry and fearful that they would be kicked out of their house. Nagenndra has prayed faithfully that his family will come to faith in Christ. His 3 daughters and 2 sons have believed in Christ, and he continues to pray that his wife will as well.

28. NEPAL – pray for **Pastor Mahesh Mukhiya** who became a Christian after being delivered from the darkness of demonic oppression. He started a church that has grown quickly but because of the radical Hindu Samrat Sena, the church has struggled to find space to worship. They have divided into smaller groups for weekly worship, coming together only once a month for larger fellowship time. He continues to plant churches despite ongoing threats.

29. MOZAMBIQUE – pray for those serving the needs of 700,000, mostly Christians, who have been displaced by Islamist violence.

30. Just knowing fellow believers are praying for them encourages persecuted Christians to stand strong in the face of danger. Join us in praying for the persecuted:

“God, we know all things are possible with You. We pray that You will strengthen our brothers and sisters in places where faith is so dangerous, it should be impossible.

Let their faith not just survive but thrive as they shine the light of Your love into deepest darkness.

Thank You for making us part of your plan to reach the most impossible places!
Amen “ - Open Doors Ministry

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

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will worship before Thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's, And He rules over the nations. Psalm 22:27,28

STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

April 2026

1. IRAN (MNN) – Iranians are under a communication and internet blackout, as the conflict continues – although some are using VPNs and other methods to get around it. SAT-7 is a satellite television ministry broadcasting into Iran with biblical hope and connection to the outside world. John Cerniglia with SAT-7 USA says they reach around half a million Iranian viewers per day and get 50 messages daily. Pray protection for the people of Iran, and for a just end to the conflict. Ask God to encourage believers in their Gospel witness.

Call to action

- Pray for a just end to this conflict that results in freedom for Iranians.
- Ask God to bring peace to the region.
- Pray ultimately for spiritual freedom in Christ as the people seek truth.
- Thank the Lord for SAT-7's persistent and faithful ministry.

2. IRAN - A new joint report by Article 18, Middle East Concern, CSW and Open Doors has found that nearly twice as many Christians were arrested on charges related to their religious beliefs or activities in 2025 (254) as in the previous year (139), while more than twice as many Christians were serving sentences of imprisonment, exile or forced labour in 2025 (57) as in 2024 .

3. NIGERIA – Kidnappers in northern Nigeria murdered Anglican priest **Edwin Achi** after their ransom demands were not met. Kidnappers seized Achi, along with his wife and daughter, from their home in February. Achi's death adds to a list of at least 3 other clergymen killed this year following abductions. Achi's wife and daughter remain in captivity. Pray for their release.

4. IRAN – pray for **Hormoz Shari'af** with *Iran Alive* as the ministry shares the gospel with Iranians. Pray that believers are strengthened as they share the good news amid uncertainty. Pray for boldness. Pray for those grieving loved ones they have lost and for those currently detained by the Iranian government.

5. UKRAINE – It has been 4 years since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine. *Trans World Radio* is working with local ministry partners in both Russia and Ukraine. One gospel worker with TWR says that their Ukraine ministry partners have experienced the power, water, and food shortages. Yet they stay 4 years later to broadcast the comfort of Christ. Pray for peace and for the gospel to reach those searching for hope. Ask the Lord to protect and encourage TWR ministry workers.

6. IRAN – pray for **Christian prisoners** in Evin Prison. Food distribution and access to basic supplies have been disrupted because of the war. Relatives said prison wards have been locked down and many inmates are surviving on small quantities of bread. Evin Prison is known for holding political prisoners and activists. Iran's judiciary said that airstrikes killed 71 people, including guards, staff, inmates, visiting relatives and nearby residents. A campaign supporting political prisoners has called for immediate release of political prisoners, saying their safety cannot be guaranteed under wartime conditions. The responsibility for the safety of prisoners lies with Iran's judiciary and the prison organization.

7. **YEMEN** – Following a three-month campaign of arbitrary detentions against Christians between November and February, it is believed that more than 50 Christians are now being held by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels who control northwest Yemen. The authorities raided Christians' homes, broke doors, and arrested them by force, without showing arrest warrants or stating any reason, while other Christians were taken from the streets.

8. **LEBANON** – pray for gospel hope and help to reach Lebanon's people.

A lack of Lebanese military personnel leaves villages vulnerable to Hezbollah infiltration. Then Israeli strikes follow. At least 780,000 people have been displaced already. **Nuna** with *Triumphant Mercy Lebanon* says many are open to the gospel. Pray for those in this ministry, as they bring hope and help to the region.

9. **SYRIA** – pray for Christians in Syria as the war escalates. Pray for resolution and peace in Syria. Pray for God's word to go out and His name received amidst Syrian refugees and their families at home.

10. **IRAN** – **Fadi Sharaiha** with *Mena Leadership Center* asks Christians for prayer for peace, for wisdom for leaders, and the spread of the gospel. Pray over Iran's future during this pivotal time.

11. **IRAN** cont – continue praying for Christians in Iran. Right now, there are around 43 Christian prisoners in Iran, all arrested because of their faith in Jesus. Many are incarcerated in Evin Prison where conditions have deteriorated. Food distribution and communications have been cut off, and some prisoners are being moved to undisclosed locations, leaving them vulnerable to harm from both internal realities and the ongoing external conflict. Believers are asking God for freedom, justice, courage, peace, and salvation for their nation.

Pray for **Maryam**, a Christian sister from southern Iran.

Pray for **Sahar**, another Iranian believer.

Pray for **Ahmad**, a Christian man from a port city.

Pray for **Behzad**, a Christian man from Iran.

Pray for **Mary**, a Christian woman who fled Iran and now lives as a refugee.

Pray for **Arina**, another young Christian woman who recently fled Iran with her family and now lives abroad.

Pray that the light of Christ will shine through the darkness, bringing hope and transformation to Iranian communities.

12. **UNITED STATES** – In early March, *Alliance Defending Freedom's* attorneys filed a federal lawsuit against Tuscaloosa and city of Northport, on behalf of **Eagle Forum of Alabama**. The suit claims that the cities' public library has refused to allow Eagle Forum, a Christian organization, to use publicly available space solely because of its religious character and activity. The library invites a wide variety of groups to use its Rotary Room meeting space, but library staff has denied Eagle Forum access to its meeting space. "The Tuscaloosa Public Library can't close its meeting spaces to religious groups like Eagle Forum while swinging them wide open to every manner of secular organizations. Such religious discrimination blatantly violates the Constitution," said ADF senior counsel **Travis Barham**. – 1819 News

13. **AFGHANISTAN** – pray for **Zakie** who fled the Taliban with a newborn baby and a wounded husband. Even though she is now far from home, she is ministering to women, building God's kingdom one woman at a time.

14. **LEBANON** – pray for **Pierre Housney** with *Horizons International*. This ministry is providing practical aid to 130 evangelical churches it partners with, opening the way to share the hope of Christ.

15. **PAKISTAN** – continue praying for **Ashfaq Masih**, 39, a Pentecostal bike mechanic from Lahore who was arrested in 2017 on blasphemy charges. He was sentenced to death in July 2022 and is awaiting an appeal hearing. He and his wife, **Nabella**, have an 11-year-old daughter. Ask God to protect Ashfaq in prison and give him hope. Pray that he will be transferred to Lahore jail so he will be closer to home. Pray that he will be acquitted soon. Pray for courage and protection for lawyers and judges and for reform of Pakistan's blasphemy laws.

16. **PAKISTAN** – pray for **Mishal** who was abducted in 2022 at the age of 18 in Lahore, capital of Punjab province. She was forcibly converted to Islam and married to her abductor. She remained in captivity for three and a half years until she escaped last month with her baby daughter. While in captivity, Mishal, now 21, says she endured physical torture, threats, humiliation and isolation. Her left eye bears a scar resulting from the abuse. She and her daughter have been returned to her family who had to move due to security concerns. Pray for their protection from the abductors. Pray for physical, mental and spiritual healing for Mishal.

17. **CHINA** – praise God that **Elder Zhang Chunlei** has been released from prison. He appears thinner, but he was reported to be in good spirits. *China Aid* reported that "Five years of imprisonment have left a deep mark on the elder's body." During his detention he was hospitalized for gall bladder inflammation, liver cirrhosis, and hypertension. He will face long-term residential surveillance, travel restriction and social isolation after completing his sentence. Elder Zhang is married to **Yang Aiqing** and they have 2 daughters, **Qing'er** and **Xi'er** and a granddaughter.

18. **LEBANON** – pray for the ministry *Heart for Lebanon* which has recently added 1500 families to its care operations since the war began. The ministry works with churches throughout Lebanon to reach as many people as possible. One program serves young women ages 13-21, an especially vulnerable group during times of crisis. Ask God to provide safety, shelter and provision for the nearly one million people on the move.

19. **IRAQ** – pray for **Samuel** with *Redemptive Stories* ministry. He says that believers in Iraq have had to shelter in place at times during the hostilities. Iraq contains US military bases and armed groups loyal to Iran, so it is a target for both sides. Ask God to preserve stability in Iraq and enable more people to hear the gospel.

20. **RUSSIA** – pray for **Park Tae-Yeon**, a 70-year-old Korean missionary. Russia has filed new charges since her arrest in January. She faces charges related to immigration, but Eric Foley of *Voice of the Martyrs Korea* says the motivation behind these charges is religious in nature. The charges carry a maximum of 17 years in prison. Ask the Lord to encourage Park as she waits for His deliverance.

21. **AFGHANISTAN** – continue praying for the more than 6 million **Afghan refugees** who have fled their country due to warfare. Some of these Afghans have become followers of Christ while living as refugees; others are Afghan Christians who sought safety when the Taliban took over, fleeing to Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan. Many of these refugees have been forced to return to Afghanistan. Front-line workers say Afghan Christians could be arrested and charged with apostasy which carries a death sentence. But the forced mass reimmigration back to Afghanistan will also present opportunities for Afghan Christians to share the reason for the hope that lies within them with the other former refugees struggling to resettle in their homeland.

22. **NORTH KOREA** – pray for **Eun-Yeong** and **Cheol-Ho** with *Open Doors*. "God is calling us to return to North Korea to share our faith with people desperately in need of the Gospel."

23. **SOMALIA** – pray for **Aweis**, also with *Open Doors*, who says, "The growth of the church here is huge. What was once seen as impossible is, in fact, possible."

