

27. CHINA – continue praying for the city of Fuzhou. One pastor says, “Children’s Sunday Schools are not allowed to operate now.” Also, there is a corruption of the Three-Self Churches that often fly the national flag and sing the national anthem inside the church. Pray that God will deliver those in Three-Self churches from this corruption and false teaching.

28. IRAN – pray for Iranian Christian convert **Mehran Shamloui**, 37, who fled to Turkey after being sentenced to 10 years in prison for his house church activities. He has been detained following deportation back to Iran. He was taken to prison to begin serving his sentence. Pray for protection for Mehran’s body, mind and spirit while he is in prison. Pray for hope and strength for him as he faces such a long prison sentence.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.” (Isaiah 43 v 2)

The early days and weeks of imprisonment following arrest are often the hardest times for Iranian Christians. Threats, ill-treatment and constant interrogation are common as the authorities try to find out about the contacts of the person arrested. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen all those who’ve recently been imprisoned in Iran.

29. GAZA – An airstrike on the **Holy Family Catholic Church** in Gaza killed 2 and injured several. Starvation is spreading in Gaza; one in 3 people goes hungry for days. *Uncharted Ministries* partners with the Baptist Church of Gaza to distribute food, help people find shelter, and share the hope of Christ. Pray for a breakthrough in the ceasefire negotiations.

30. SYRIA – Christians are mourning those lost in June’s suicide bombing attack, which claimed 2 dozen lives and injured more than 60 people at **Mar Elias Church**. Pray for Syrian Christians as they grieve lost loved ones and look to Christ for hope. Pray that they will continue to be bold in the face of uncertainty and persecution.

31. SOUTH AFRICA – Police in South Africa rescued American missionary **Josh Sullivan** in a deadly shootout days after he was kidnapped from his church near Gqeberha in South Africa’s Eastern Cape region. According to authorities 4 armed men burst into Fellowship Baptist Church on April 10 and abducted Sullivan while he was delivering a sermon. A native of Maryville, TN, Sullivan moved to South Africa with his family to plant a church for the Xhosa-speaking people in 2018.

And the God of grace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Amen

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

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life. Whom shall I dread? Psalm 27:1

STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

August 2025

- 1. CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for continued prayer for the city of **Changsha**. One pastor says, “We believe persecution will only get worse, not better. It’s hard to keep large churches going so we hope to train up younger pastors who can take on this responsibility. The older generation is now passing on. I’m preparing to help our church transition to many small groups with the hope that these house churches will be interconnected, like the early church.”
- 2. SUDAN** – pray for believers to hold fast during the brutal civil war. Pray for **Darrell Templeton** with *MegaVoice*, a partner of *Samaritan’s Purse*, who is bringing audio Bibles to the area. Pray for strength and resources for medical workers.
- 3. IRAN** – continue praying for Christians in Iran. **Greg Kelley** with *Unknown Nations* says partners in Iran requested immediate relocation for up to 500 Christian leaders and their families. Pray that these strategic moves will result in long-term gospel ministry in Iran. Iranian believers ask for prayer for boldness rather than their safety! Pray for the Gospel ministry of Christians to increase in Iran.
- 4. SYRIA** – On June 22, an Islamist suicide bomber attacked the **Greek Orthodox Church** of Mar Elias in Damascus during the evening mass, killing at least 30 people and injuring up to 90. Syrian police closed all churches in the region due to fears of further violence. Pray for comfort and strength for all victims of this attack. Pray for sufficient medical care for all those injured. Pray for hope and peace for the Christian community in Syria.
- 5. IRAN** – pray for imprisoned Christians in Evin Prison following the Israeli strike on the prison. Iranian authorities have stated that at least 71 people were killed by the strike. It is believed that 35 of those were staff and the rest included soldiers, visitors, and 2 prisoners. Continue praying for the safety and wellbeing of all Christian prisoners in Iran.
- 6. CHINA** – On June 23, **Linfen Covenant House Church** published a statement revealing that church members **Li Jie, Han Xiaodong, and Wang Qiang** were recently handed prison sentences in Shanxi province. The 3 church members, who have been in detention for almost 3 years, were sentenced on charges of ‘fraud’ in relation to the collection of donations from church members – a common charge against leaders of unregistered churches in China. Pray for encouragement and hope for these men, and for provision for their wives and children.
- 7. CHINA** – continue praying for **Elder Zhang Chunlei** of Guiyang Ren’ai Reformed Church who is serving a 5-year prison sentence. Pray for good mental and physical health for Elder Zhang. Pray he can continue to be salt and light until his release from prison in March 2026. Pray for strength, comfort and hope for his wife, **Yang Aiqing**, and their 2 daughters, **Qing’er and Xi’er**, and their grandchild.
- 8. NIGERIA** – Still recovering from last month’s attack by Fulani herdsmen that killed 200 Nigerians in a predominantly Christian community, fear has grown that another large-scale attack could be coming. **Greg Kelley** with *Unknown Nations*, explains that because the Fulani hold many influential positions within Nigeria’s government, the cries of Christians for protection are often ignored. Yet on the ground, frontline believers take the gospel to the Fulani and other Islamic groups. Pray for the gospel advance! Pray the Lord of the harvest to send more workers to Nigeria’s north, and that the gospel will transform Nigeria from the inside out.

9. **AFGHANISTAN** – US Congressman Bill Huizinga says Afghanistan has once again become a sanctuary for terrorists, even though the Taliban denies it. **Greg Yoder** of *Keys for Kids' Ministry* that distributes Bible audio players in Afghanistan and Pakistan, said that the Taliban recently raided one of their production facilities. Despite growing pressure, hope remains strong. Pray for the protection of those distributing the Bible audio players.
10. **SUDAN** – pray for believers in Sudan as the rainy season approaches with fears of flooding, a worsening cholera outbreak, and the ongoing civil war. Pray for believers as they risk their lives to reach the lost. Pray for *Unknown Nations* whose workers make the gospel known in Sudan.
11. **YEMEN** – **Greg Musselman** of VOM/Canada, reports that the ties between Somali's al-Shabaab and Yemen's Houthi rebels are deepening, giving increased access to more advanced weaponry systems, shared intelligence, and expertise in piracy. As the radical control grows in Somalia and Yemen, believers continue to quietly share the hope of Christ. Pray that the Gospel will penetrate the hearts of many hopeless people in Yemen and Somalia.
12. **CHINA** – pray for **Bob Fu**, founder and President of *China Aid*. He has recently reported that the persecution of Chinese Christians has risen to the worst level in 40 years. Pray for God's continued blessing on *China Aid* as it serves the persecuted church in China and advocates on its behalf.
13. **IRAN** – Further news has emerged about the whereabouts of Christian prisoners who were in Evin prison last month when there was an Israeli air strike on the facility.
- **Joseph Shabazian, Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh and Hakop Gochumyan** are understood to be among those taken to Greater Tehran Penitentiary where there were reports of overcrowding and unsanitary conditions.
 - **Mina Khajavi and Aida Najafloo** were among those taken to Qarchak Women's Prison. Aida said in an audio message of Qarchak, "There is suffering in the prison. 62 women were transferred from Evin to Qarchak in such a disgraceful manner, handcuffed. And worst of all, the suffering of about 1,200 female prisoners in Qarchak prison, without clean water, cooling or heating, lacking hygiene and proper food, entangled and helpless."
 - pray that the Lord will supply all the needs of these believers.
14. **IRAQ** – pray for **Yasin** who became a believer after being raised in a Muslim home. He has been threatened, attacked by his own brother, and his home was firebombed. Still, he evangelizes to those around him and has brought his wife and children and others to Christ. Pray for his protection as he continues to share the gospel.
15. **CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for prayer for the city of **Fouzhou**. One pastor says, "The economic crisis affects church offerings. Many churches are finding it difficult to support their venue and the pastor's salary." Pray for God to support the churches, the pastors and their families in the midst of the financial strain.
16. **INDIA** – pray for **Farooq** who grew up in a fundamentalist family that practiced Sunni Islam in a majority-Muslim region of India. He became a believer in 2020 when a friend gave him a Bible. After keeping silent about his new faith for 4 years, in 2024, Farooq was publicly exposed as a Christian and severely beaten. He and his family have been forced into hiding. Pray that they will be able to practice their Christian faith.
17. **SUDAN** – pray for **Musa**, a pastor and senior Christian leader in Sudan. Because of the civil war and because the warring generals often target Christians, hundreds of Christians, including Musa, evacuated Khartoum to the relative safety of the Nuba Mountains. Musa's home was later bombed, killing 2 people inside. Pray for Christians trying to survive in the Nuba Mountains where resources are limited, and life is a struggle.

18. **SUDAN** cont – pray for **Nyandenga**, a Sudanese woman who was separated from her husband during the attacks and is now living in a camp for IDP's in the Nuba Mountains. "The attackers were raping girls and taking boys to go and train them as fighters." She fled to the camp where she is now helping care for 12 children, including her own.
19. **SUDAN** cont – pray for **Anduv**, a village chief who lost his 16-year-old daughter when the Sudanese Armed Forces began bombing the Nuba Mountains, including a school filled with children. 12 students and 2 teachers were killed, including Anduv's daughter. His 10-year-old son was seriously injured in the legs by shrapnel, but he and 40 others who were injured inside the school are recovering. Anduv requested prayer for his community, "Most of the children are traumatized and don't want to come back to school again."
20. **SUDAN** cont – pray for **Dr Zachariah**, the sole doctor in the remote Christian-run hospital near the IDP camp of 45,000. He too is a survivor of a bombing by the Sudanese Armed Forces in 2001 when government planes bombed his school killing 15 students and a teacher. Dr Zachariah begins every surgical procedure by praying that God will guide his hands and heal his patient.
21. **SUDAN** cont – pray for **Gada**, whose village was stormed by the Rapid Support Forces. She fled the village and hid in a dry riverbed for hours. 5 of her friends were killed. She has since received help from local Christians who invited her to attend a conference at a local seminary. The seminary has 6 newly dug fox holes for shelter in case the campus comes under attack. Pray for God's protection.
22. **SUDAN** cont – pray for **Halima** who received an audio Bible. Halima said it would help drive away her fears. Pastors and other ministry workers in the predominantly Christian area have requested Bibles for those living in the camp. Often Bibles are needed to replace those that Christians lost while fleeing the violence.
23. **SUDAN** cont – pray for **Pastor Matta**, a senior church leader in the Nuba Mountains. He declared, "One day Satan will regret starting this war because it has made so many opportunities for the gospel." God is using the vibrant witness of the Sudanese Christians to help transform the lives of Muslims who have taken refuge there and in other predominantly Christian areas. The difference is clear between how the Muslim army groups are treating them and how the Christians are treating them. They aren't just hearing the gospel; they are also experiencing love in that context.
24. **PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES** – pray for Christians in the Christian village of Taybeh on the West Bank. There was an attack by Israeli settlers on July 7 when homes and cars were damaged. Pray for the Christian community in Taybeh 'that their presence may be secured and that they can live in peace to worship freely and grow crops without danger,' as requested by a group of Christian leaders from Jerusalem who visited the Christian-majority town.
25. **SUDAN** – A group of up to 30 extremists accompanied by police officers and members of the Sudan Armed Forces demolished a Pentecostal Church premises in the El Hay Yousif area of Khartoum on July 8. They destroyed the worship hall, the administrative offices, guest house and other attached buildings. Pray for over one hundred churches in Sudan which are left without premises after their buildings were deliberately destroyed or bombed and burned during the ongoing civil war.
26. **IRAN** – At least 21 Christians were arrested in 5 Iranian cities in the 2 weeks after the ceasefire with Israel came into effect on June 25. Ministry of Intelligence agents arrested Christians in Tehran, Rasht, Orumiyeh, Kermanshah, and Varamin. Pray that the Lord will strengthen each of the 21 Christians who have been arrested.

