

26. BANGLADESH – pray for Christians in Bangladesh as persecution against Christians increases since the Islamist group Hefazat-e-Islam has risen to power. Pray for **Saifel** who hosted a secret Christmas program at his house church last year. A large crowd of Muslims descended on the church threatening violence. Pray for Christians and church leaders this Christmas as they seek to celebrate the birth of our Savior in this hostile and restricted nation.

27. TOGO – pray for **Pastor Pierre** who ministers and proclaims the gospel to Muslims despite ongoing threats. For the past 3 years, Muslim villagers have repeatedly destroyed his crops, limiting his income and source of food.

28. MEXICO – Scattered among the agave crops and cornfields of Central Mexico where drug cartels seek to evade government surveillance, poor farm workers live with their families in towns called *rancherías*. These towns have schools, health clinics, and utilities. One pastor and his church are committed to sharing the gospel with these families despite persecution. “There are 5 people who have already been baptized,” he said. These new believers face persecution from drug traffickers because they will no longer buy their products or work as couriers. Pray for wisdom and for protection for them and their pastor.

29. GLOBAL – pray for Bible distribution in restricted nations:

-pray for a pastor in **Cameroon** where the Islamist group Boko Haram regularly attacks Christians. Audio Bibles are needed to help bring freedom to those enslaved to false ideologies.

30. - pray for **Faraj** in **Iran** who distributes Bibles where it is illegal to own, print, import or distribute Bibles. He placed Bibles on empty bus seats, praying that people would read them and come to know Jesus like he did. Eventually the Iranian authorities discovered his distribution program and arrested him. Faraj’s jailers tortured him, knocking out several teeth and breaking his back. Eventually he was able to flee to Turkey where the body of Christ helped him get medical help.

31. - pray for **Gabriel** in **Cuba**, a Bible distributor as well as a church leader and evangelist. He estimates that his network has distributed several hundred thousands Bibles so far.

2 Samuel 22 cont –

He delivered me from my strong enemy,
From those who hated me, for they were too strong for me...
Thou hast girded me with strength for battle.
Thou hast subdued under me those who rose up against me...
The Lord lives and blessed be my Rock;
And exalted be God, the rock of my salvation;
The God Who executes vengeance for me...
Therefore I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the nations,
And I will sing praises to Thy name.

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 torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. In my distress I called upon the Lord. And from His temple He heard my voice. He bowed the heavens and came down. 2 Samuel 22

STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

December 2025

1. CHINA – continue praying for **Pastor Jin**, also known as Ezra, who has been in detention since Oct 12. Pray for his wife, **Chuli Liu**, and the couple’s daughter and 2 sons who moved to the US in 2018 after authorities shut down the main Zion church meeting in Beijing which Pastor Jin founded and led. His wife asks for prayer:

This is a prayer request from Chunli Liu:

🙏 "As Pastor Ezra Jin’s wife, I’m also deeply concerned about his health. Once again, I implore all his family and friends in the Lord to pray earnestly for him and the church: Protect Your devoted servants, and keep them at peace and grant wisdom in their hearts. I pray for their complete freedom, not only a full and unconditional release but also the lifting of Ezra’s exit ban so we can be reunited."

2. NIGERIA - After a four-year hiatus, Nigeria is once again on the U.S. State Department’s Countries of Particular Concern list. The designation announced by President Donald Trump on Friday is long overdue. Islamic extremists and Fulani militants have killed thousands of Christians in recent years. Todd Nettleton with The Voice of the Martyrs, USA says the CPC designation gives the U.S. administration tools to push Nigeria’s government toward greater religious freedom protections. Pray for relief for persecuted Christians and for more Saul-to-Paul conversions.

3. AFGHANISTAN — A 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan in early November. Initial reports say at least 20 people were killed and over 640 injured. Nehemiah with FMI says survivors need tents, food, blankets, and basic medical help. Yet access to these people is limited because of Taliban control and diversion of aid. When FMI partners can help, they tell families that the aid comes from Jesus Christ. Pray for gospel hope to reach Afghans.

4. UKRAINE- In Ukraine, Russian forces are tightening their control over occupied territories. **Pastor Mykhailo Brytsyn** of Voice of the Martyrs Canada says churches must now register. This way authorities can monitor loyalty in sermons and prayers. In Berdiansk, **Pastor Ilya** was arrested and tortured before escaping. Brytsyn’s church in Melitopol was turned into a club. Its cross was removed and painted over. Persecution recalls Soviet times as believers meet secretly to pray for Ukraine. Learn more at missionnews.org.

5. MALI — The African Union has appealed for an international response to rising terrorism in the Sahel region. Cities across Mali are being strangled by blockades from an al-Qaeda linked group. Illia Djadi is the senior Africa analyst with Open Doors International. He says the central Sahel region has become the new epicenter of international terrorism. Insurgents are scattering the church by forcing Christians to convert, flee, or face death. Pray for resilience for believers and for global support for Mali.

6. IRAN – praise God that on Oct 20 **Mina Khajavi** was released from Evin prison after completing her sentence which had been reduced earlier this year from 6 years to 2 years. Pray for recovery and healing for Mina, who walks with a limp since a car accident and has developed arthritis.

7. **NIGER** – On Oct 21, American citizen and missionary pilot **Kevin Rideout** was abducted by armed men in the capital of Niger. Authorities suspect Rideout was taken west toward an al-Qaeda-affiliated group. Pray for his release and for faithful witness in unimaginable circumstances. Pray for Niger's 8 foreign nationals kidnapped this year. Pray for strength for the church in Niger which is deeply affected by Islamic insurgency.
8. **INDIA** - On Oct 23, a minibus transporting a group of 10-15 preachers was attacked by Hindu extremists in India's Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The attackers claimed that the visiting preachers were attempting to convert Hindus to Christianity, but the authorities stated that no evidence of forced conversion had been found. The attackers were armed with iron rods and sticks and smashed the bus's windscreen and attacked passengers. Pray for full recovery for the preachers who were injured in the attack.
9. **UGANDA** – A Muslim in eastern Uganda severely beat his wife and 2 children for converting to Christianity. He also demolished their church building in Muguti Village, Bidaka District. Pray for **Kulusumu**, 41, and the 2 children, ages 9 and 12, who were beaten so severely that they had to be hospitalized for 3 days. Pray for healing for them and for provision of a safe place to live. Pray for her husband, Soicha, 44, to repent and come to Christ.
10. **International (MNN)** — YouVersion recently hit a mind-blowing milestone since its launch 17 years ago: one BILLION downloads of the YouVersion Bible app. *Bibles for China's* Kurt Rovenstine attended the YouVersion celebration Monday in Oklahoma City. He says it was an encouraging reminder of the importance of Bible distribution – whatever the format! Even so, digital Bibles can be restricted in countries like China. Pray more people in China and around the world get their hands on God's Word.
11. **MYANMAR** – pray for **Pastor Yang** who asks for prayer for Christians in Myanmar during the ongoing civil war and religious persecution, and recovery from the earthquake earlier this year. "The prayers of believers around the world protect us. Despite feeling desperate and hopeless at times, we know God is with us," he says.
12. **CHINA** – praise God that the 11 believers put into criminal detainment for 15 days in October have been released. And praise God that no further charges were brought against them. The pastor of the church shared, "The process became an opportunity to share the gospel with the other detained criminals."
13. **PHILIPPINES** – pray for **Herman Moldez** with A3 ministries that says disasters like Typhoon Kalmaegi turn into awakenings as people cry out to God for help. Pray that churches will be able to give hope and help. Ask God to give endurance for the long road of recovery ahead.
14. **MALAYSIA** – praise God that a Malaysian High Court ruled that the Malaysian government is responsible for **Pastor Raymond Koh's** kidnapping, and the judge has rewarded over 8 million dollars in damages to Koh's wife, **Susanna**, plus daily payments until he is found. Pray that the truth of Pastor Koh's fate will come to light.
15. **CHINA** – continue praying for the detained **Zion Church** leaders and their families who are also suffering trauma and ongoing struggles. Pray for **Huhe Tuya** and her daughters. Their home was raided by 7 police officers as part of the crackdown. She was taken away to the detention center. Pray for her release and for peace and strength for the family.
16. **IRAN** – continue praying for **Aida Najaflou**, a 43-year-old Christian convert who has been detained in Tehran's Evin prison since April 2025. She recently suffered a spinal fracture after falling from the bunk bed in her prison cell. She was denied proper medical treatment for her serious injuries. Pray for healing for Aida's body and mind after this terrible ordeal and that she will be released soon.
17. **NORTH KOREA** – praise God that **Deacon Jang Moon Sook** was released from prison in November and returned to his home in China after serving 11 years of his 15-year sentence. Deacon Jang ministered to North Koreans in China until he was abducted in Nov 2024, brought across the border in North Korea and imprisoned. Pray that Deacon Jang will adjust to life in China and for good physical and mental health for him.
18. **CHINA** – praise God that **Pastor Xing Wengxiang** of Holy Love Christian Church in Jinhua, Zhejiang province, has been released from prison after a two-year reduction in her 12-year sentence. *China Aid* reported, "These 10 years in prison inflicted significant physical and mental trauma to her." Her husband, **Pastor Bao Guohua**, remains in prison with an expected release date of 2029. Pray that Pastor Xing will experience healing and restoration to her body, mind, and soul. Pray that Pastor Bao will also be released.
19. **IRAN** – pray for **Morteza Sassi**, a Christian convert from the city of Varamin in northern Iran who began serving his 9-year prison sentence in November. Human rights sources report that he was tortured during the 6-months of pre-trial detention in Tehran's Evin Prison after he was arrested in June 2024. Pray for hope and strength for Morteza in prison and that he will be encouraged by fellowship with other Christian prisoners.
20. **IRAQ** – praise God for recent elections in Iraq that point to optimism, according to **Samuel** with *Redemptive Stories* ministries. He says that the large voter turnout points to a deeper shift as people begin to trust elections. He asks for prayer that the church in Iraq will be a beacon of hope, reminding people to put their ultimate hope in Christ. Pray for continued peace and stability as Iraq finalizes election results.
21. **LEBANON** – pray that Hezbollah will lay down its arms as part of the ceasefire agreement. **Camille Melki** of *Heart for Lebanon* says citizens know that if it fails, Israel's conflict with Hezbollah is heading toward war. *Heart for Lebanon* recently celebrated 46 baptisms which shows people are hungry for the truth. Pray for God's mercy and for true peace.
22. **MEXICO** – pray for **Alicia**, 12, who lives in rural Mexico with her family. When her family wouldn't celebrate local pagan religious festivals, her father was arrested and beaten. She says, "They wanted to ban us from going to school or getting medical care." Eventually, Alicia's village let the Christians gather to worship, but they still face restrictions on their faith. They can't build a church or share their faith with others, and the threat of more persecution always looms.
23. **CHINA** – praise God that **Pastor Zhang Shaojie** from Henan province has been released from prison at the end of his 12-year sentence. He has been reunited with his 84-year-old mother. The Chinese Communist Party has installed facial recognition cameras all around his house and has not permitted visits. Pray for Pastor Zhang as he adjusts to life outside of prison. Pray that he will be allowed to have visitors in his home again.
24. **CHINA** – pray for **Pastor Lian Changnian** and his son, **Pastor Lian Xuliang** of Xi'an Church of Abundance. They were both re-arrested for 'fraud' on Nov 2. They were previously detained on fraud charges in 2022 and held for 2 and a half years until April 2025 and tried in July 2025 with no verdict announced. Pray for healing and protection for Pastor Changnian's body and mind. He was immediately hospitalized when he was released from prison due to multiple health issues. Pray that he and his son will be released again soon.
25. **NIGERIA** – continue praying for Christians in Nigeria as President Trump enforces the 'Country of Particular Concern' designation because of continued attacks on Christians. Pray for those involved in recent attacks and kidnapping of Christian school girls.

