

**23. CAMEROON** – pray for **Alexandris**, a Muslim woman who had worked as a prostitute. She came to Christ through the witness of some Cameroonian front-line workers. She soon began sharing the gospel with others in her Muslim neighborhood, drawing the attention of a local Muslim cleric. He threatened her life. The threats forced her to flee to another part of Cameroon where she now attends a Bible study. She wants to become an evangelist and has led another Muslim woman to faith in Christ.

**24. SYRIA** – pray for Christians here as the EU lifts economic sanctions in Syria. Minorities are deeply concerned about the direction Syria's new government might take the nation. Many Christians have left because of economic pressure and persecution. But some have stayed and are seeing Alawite and Druze minorities respond to the gospel more than ever. Pray for these responding to the gospel. Pray for strength and encouragement for Syrian believers who have remained.

**25. VIETNAM** – praise God that **Pastor Y Yich** of the banned Dega Protestant Church in Vietnam's Central Highlands has been released after serving a twelve-year prison sentence. Following his release he must serve a three to five years' probation. Praise God for US Republican Congressman **Glenn Grothman**, who since Oct 2021 has been advocating for the pastor's release. Pray for recovery for Pastor Yich who was treated badly in prison and has several health issues. Pray that he will 'experience the peace and dignity he has long been denied', as Congressman Grothman put it.

**26. VIETNAM** – pray for **Xiong**, a 34-year-old Christian father of 5. With the help of *Open Doors*, he has brought the **Cow Bank Project** to his area of northern Vietnam where tribal Christians struggle to survive. The cows provide income allowing families to send their children to school, put food on the table, and tithe to their local congregation.

**27. LAOS** – pray for **Lavee and Pa-yang**, a young couple who tragically lost their son after he was poisoned by relatives who wanted to punish Lavee and Pa-yang for becoming Christians.

**28. NORTH KOREA** – Thousands of North Korean women are trapped in abusive marriages, made even harder if they are Christians. Pray for **Jin-Sun**, an *Open Doors* field worker. She and her team visit North Korean women who live in areas close to the border to provide them with financial support, pastoral care, and Bible study. Pray for these women:

**29.** - **Seo-Yeon** who is a member of one of the women's groups. "I want to follow and trust in God and Him alone," she says.

**30.** - **Eun-ji** who admits that because the meetings are illegal, she is often afraid. But she says, "God is my help and my refuge."

**31.** - **Iseul** who wants a life of true repentance.

Pray from Psalm 21

Thy hand will find out all Thine enemies...

The Lord will swallow them up in His wrath.

Though they intended evil against Thee...

They will not succeed.

#### 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

Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; We will sing and praise Thy power.  
Psalm 21

## STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

July 2025

**1. IRAN** – *Elam Ministries* asks for prayer for Christians in Iran:

🙏 We pray for **mercy** — for the innocent, for families gripped by fear, and for those most vulnerable in both Iran and Israel. We ask for protection over lives and cities, and for comfort for all.

🙏 We pray for **peace** — that this conflict would be short-lived and that its resolution would not simply be a pause in violence, but a step toward real and lasting peace.

🙏 We also pray for **the church** in Iran. For many years, the church has quietly grown in courage and love. In whatever new season Iran is entering, the church has a profoundly important task: to be salt and light, to care for the hurting, and to point all people to the love of Christ.

🙏 Lord, have mercy. Lord, bring peace. Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done.

**2. CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for continued prayer for the churches in the city of Wuhan. "The persecution has intensified," says a Wuhan pastor. "Both the Three-Self Churches and the house churches are facing significant persecution. The local government wanted us to incorporate things like the national flag, the national anthem, religious regulations, socialist core values and so on- all very secular things. We flatly refused. This led to persecution." Pray for these churches to hold fast to Christ in the midst of persecution. Another pastor shares that their church has moved many times, but the authorities always find them. All of the constant moving and relocating has caused members to be weary and discouraged. Pray for a permanent location for this church and for God to give them strength in the midst of weariness and discouragement.

**3. MALAYSIA** – A new report says Christians in Malaysia are being reclassified as Muslim on their identification documents without their consent. **Floy Brobbel** of VOM/Canada says this kind of administration manipulation has a clear goal : To shift the country's religious and political landscape toward Sharia law. Pray for Malaysian believers facing legal opposition. Pray that they would stand firm in their faith and continue to live out and share the Gospel.

**4. INDIA** – Ten Christian families (about 45 people) were attacked with sticks at a meeting in their village in Chhattisgarh state on April 24. The families had to flee for their lives. They took refuge in a church building 10 km away. Villagers have threatened to kill them if they return as Christians. *Church in Chains* partner *Persecution Relief* has delivered food aid and practical items to the displaced Christians. Pray for hope, provision and a future for the 10 displaced families.

**5. IRAN** – pray for Christian convert **Aida Najafloo** who was arrested 3 months ago but remains in Evin Prison because she is unable to afford the extremely high bail of 115,000 Euros set for her. She suffers from health problems. Lack of medical care in prison has worsened her condition. Pray for comfort and hope for her 2 sons, ages 10 and 13. Pray that she will be released soon.

**6. UGANDA** – pray for **Asimwe Peace**. She became a believer after she experienced physical healing. She and her children were then locked out of her house by her husband. Asimwe and her 4 children wandered for days looking for food. With VOM's help, she acquired a home and is now able to send her children to school. She says that Jesus' words help her not to worry, especially Matthew 6.

7. **INDIA** – pray for **Deepak Yadav**. When his family discovered that he had embraced Jesus, he was brutally beaten. He was told to renounce his Christian faith and accused of defiling his village. No one in his family came forward to rescue or help him. Deepak was led to Christ while he was in the hospital suffering from tuberculosis by a pastor there who shared Christ with him. Deepak learned more about Jesus, began to pray and was gradually healed from his illness. Local *Open Doors* partners helped him open a bicycle repair shop. Now he can provide for his family, and his children can attend school. Even through the ongoing persecution, Deepak has shared his testimony with those around him and brought many people to Christ. Pray that God will continue to protect Deepak, his family, and his ongoing witness to his community.
8. **MEXICO** – praise God that members of the **Great Commission Baptist Church** from Coamila and Rancho Nuevo villages in Hidalgo state have begun to settle in a new location in the neighboring state of Veracruz. The 151 Christians were forced out of their villages last year by village authorities who cut off electricity and water, vandalized their church building and blocked access to homes. Praise God for the provision of land to build on and for the progress that has been made in building new homes. Pray for continued wisdom for **Pastor Rogello Hernandez Baltazar** as he leads the church community.
9. **IRAN** – praise God that on May 31, **Laleh Saati** was released from Evin Prison on the condition that she refrains from speaking with any media or contacts abroad. Laleh has been in prison since Feb 2024 and is reportedly in a ‘psychologically unstable state.’ Pray for healing for Laleh and that she receives the care she so urgently needs. Pray for wisdom, hope and guidance for Laleh in her life outside of prison.
10. **UKRAINE** – Persecution is constant for Protestant churches in Russian-controlled territories of Ukraine. A religious freedom watchdog describes substantial fines, barriers and even church closures handed down by Russian courts this year. **Eric Mock** with *Slavic Gospel Association* says even so, Christians are stepping forward with a sense of God’s calling. Pray for these believers living in these territories, that they will experience God’s strengthening help during this time.
11. **PAKISTAN** – Last month, Pakistan set the legal age for marriage to be 18 in the Islamabad territory. But Muslims follow their imams, not this law. Islamic leaders say that puberty, not age, is the deciding factor in marriage. Pray for God’s wisdom and strength for Pakistani Christians whose young daughters are widely targeted for kidnapping, forced conversions and marriage. Pray for justice. Ask God to build up His church in Pakistan to be a safe place where vulnerable girls are advocated for.
12. **CHINA** – As the Gospel spreads in China, authorities continue to attempt to sever Christians from the global church. Now international travel is being hailed as ‘illegal border crossing.’ **Bob Fu** of VOM/Canada, says, “In recent weeks, we have learned another 4 Christians were criminally arrested for going to South Korea and Malaysia, attending Christian conferences. They are going to be tried and sentenced for criminal imprisonment.” Pray that God would strengthen Chinese Christians as they face increased hostility in travel.
13. **CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for prayer for churches in the city of **Changsha**. “There has been a crackdown on churches in Changsha,” says one pastor, “with some being disbanded or banned. Our church was affected too, under government control and surveillance. So we gradually shifted to meeting in small groups. Our members have dropped by about two-fifths. The spiritual fervor isn’t as strong as before.” Pray for these churches who have shifted to the small group model to have good fellowship and for discipleship to occur even if they can’t meet together.
14. **MYANMAAR** – pray for **Pastor Myint**, and his wife, **May**, who lived with their children in a Buddhist-majority area in central Myanmar. Some Buddhist leaders were annoyed with Myint’s presence and Christian faith. After the military coup of 2021, the democratically elected government was usurped, and Christians became very vulnerable. After threats were made to his family, Pastor Myint moved his family to a new location. The attackers looted their house and took all their possessions and then burned the house down. His wife shares, “We have been in the ministry for many years, and we have seen many people come to Christ. Because of the war and persecution, many believers are displaced, and we have lost connection with them. Please pray that God will be with them and that they will remain faithful to Jesus.”
15. **LAOS** – pray for **Xing, Nang**, and their 3 children. They are the only Christian family left in their village after daily threats and pressure from the community forced the other Christian families out. They have suffered destruction of their crops and livestock, but they remain committed to following Christ. Pray for God’s provision and that they remain strong in faith.
16. **CHINA** – continue praying for the city of **Changsha**. A pastor says, “There’s always anxiety about the police knocking on the door.” “Sometimes we get harassing calls from the authorities,” says another pastor. “It’s always a bit nerve-wracking. The more you interact with them, the braver you get, but it’s still a struggle.” Pray for believers to know peace, strength and comfort of Christ in the midst of increasing persecution and harassment. Pray for wisdom when dealing with the authorities. Another pastor asks for prayer, “Pray for a freer environment so we are not always being harassed. Pray for the mental health of pastors, especially those in midlife, who face pressure from family, church and the outside world.”
17. **MALAYSIA** – **Pastor Raymond Koh** was abducted on Feb 13, 2017, by a dozen masked men. He had earlier been threatened by Malay Muslims who accused him of trying to convert Malay Muslims to Christianity. While ethnic minorities in Malaysia may identify as Christian, ethnic Malays are prohibited from converting to Christianity and it is illegal for anyone to share the gospel with them. Since that February day more than 8 years ago, the family has received little new information about Raymond. His car has never been located, and no one has been held responsible for his kidnapping.
18. **MALAYSIA** cont – pray for Pastor Koh’s wife, **Susanna**, and his daughter, **Esther**, who continue to seek answers about what happened to Raymond. Esther says, “God knows.”
19. **NIGERIA** – On June 13, armed Fulani militants attacked sleeping Christians in Yelewata in Benue state in Nigeria’s Middle Belt. The victims were Internally Displaced People who had sought safety and shelter in Yelewata after being forced from their homes and lands in previous violence. Over 120 victims were killed. Pray for medical and trauma care for the survivors. Pray for a safe place for them to move to. Pray that the Nigerian government would work to halt the killings.
20. **CHINA** – pray for **Pastor Lian Changnian**, 71, who was hospitalized June 13 due to a recurrence of severe cervical and lumbar spine conditions. He was released from prison on bail due to very poor mental and physical health after 2 and a half years in prison. Pray for healing and relief from pain for Pastor Lian. Pray for his son, **Lian Xuliang**, who also endured torture during his time in detention.
21. **VIETNAM** – pray for **Tian** whose father Tuong, was killed because he was sharing the gospel with his neighbors. Tien is helping to raise her brothers, **Mau and Dang**.
22. **AFRICA** – pray for **Miriam and Philip**, VOM missionaries who help heal trauma wounds suffered by the tens of thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters. They seek to meet tangible needs like food, clothing, and shelter, and also the need for emotional and spiritual healing.

