

28. LAOS – pray for **Duang Ma Nee** and his wife **Gade**. He teaches school in a poor, rural part of Laos, which was predominantly Buddhist. He has led many to Christ, and he and his wife host worship services in their home. Villagers have also come to him for prayer and experienced healing. The number of Christians in his village has nearly doubled. As Duang leads more people to Christ, his school administrators have continued to oppose his bold faith by reducing his salary and trying to get him fired. Yet despite the increasing opposition, many continue to respond to the gospel in the village and remain firm in their commitment to Christ.

29. KENYA – pray for **Melissa** who was 4 years old when her mother was killed by militant al-Shabaab terrorists at their church in Garissa, Kenya in 2012. Now as a young adult, she continues to grow in her faith despite the suffering she endured.

30. CENTRAL ASIA – pray for **Pastor Damir Kashgari**. He pastors a church in his hometown high in the mountainous region. In 2009 a new law was passed saying that they cannot have children at all in the church, so they have had to find creative ways to get around the law. Today the laws are even broader so that even parents are prohibited from disciplining their own children. Damir says that the government of the Central Asian nation where he lives can seize children and take away the rights of parents who teach their children about Christ. “According to the law, the children belong to the government,” he said. Damir experiences pressure not only as a pastor but as a father; his youngest child is 11 years old. He requests prayer that he and other Central Asian pastors will persevere as they continue to serve amid increasing government scrutiny. “Especially pray for leaders and pastors because they have the most pressure,” he said. “I think it is like a strategy of the evil one to target pastors.” Damir believes that with prayer and the support of the body of Christ, the Central Asian Church will stand firm in faith, at any cost.

Pray from Psalm 33-

The Lord looks from heaven

He sees all the sons of men

From His dwelling place He looks out

On all the inhabitants of the earth.

He who fashions the hearts of them all

He who understands all their works.

The king is not saved by a mighty army;

A warrior is not delivered by great strength.

A horse is a false hope of victory;

Not does it deliver anyone by its great strength.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him

On those who hope for His lovingkindness,

To deliver their soul from death

And to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the Lord.

He is our help and our shield.

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

And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about what or how you should speak in your defense or what you should say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say. Luke 12: 11,12

STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

September 2026

1. INDIA(MNN) — Anti-conversion laws in India are supercharging Christian persecution. Seven Christians were arrested for allegedly “luring people to convert” at a birthday party. Despite no evidence, Todd Nettleton with The Voice of the Martyrs, USA says the Christians are still going to prison for five years. Conditions in prison are brutal, yet pastors share stories of supernatural protection. Through anti-conversion laws, even tea and cookies in church are called illegal enticements. Pray that God would make Himself known despite obstacles.

2. NiGER(MNN) — There is major reason to praise God, as missionary pilot **Kevin Rideout** has been released after nine months of captivity. Illia Djadi with Open Doors International says that Rideout was kidnapped outside his home in Niger. Neither the ISIS or Al-Qaeda affiliate groups there claimed responsibility. So far, the conditions surrounding his release are unclear. Niger is under the rule of a military junta and faces increasing terrorist violence. But the release of Rideout shows that God is still working. Pray for Christians in Niger.

Call to action

- Thank God for Rideout's release!
- Pray for protection for all the missionaries who are still serving in Niger and for the Christian minority in Niger.
- Pray for the church to be resilient and continue to serve Christ and their communities despite the danger.

3. FINLAND – continue praying for Finnish politician **Paivi Rasanen** who plans to appeal her criminal conviction to Europe's top human rights court. In March, the Finnish Supreme Court found Rasanen guilty of hate speech for a 20-year-old booklet called “Male and Female He Created Them: Homosexuality Relationships Challenge the Christian Concept of Christianity.” She has been fined several thousand Euros for authoring the booklet; the court characterized it as insulting to homosexuals as a group.

4. NIGERIA – continue praying for the *Church in Chains* partner **Stefanos Foundation** which has long prioritized caring for widows and orphans in its humanitarian work supporting Christians whose homes, churches, and villages have been attacked by Muslim Fulani militants. *Church in Chains* recently sponsored a **Trauma Counseling Workshop** for a group of widows from Plateau state. Pray that the widows who attended the workshop will be encouraged as they continue to live their lives and care for their children.

5. INDIA – Seven Christians have begun serving five-year prison sentences under Madhya Pradesh's anti-conversion laws, two years after they were falsely accused at a child's birthday party. Pray for the 7 men in prison, including **Chhot Singh Dhurve**, that they would encourage each other and be good witnesses of the Lord Jesus. Pray that efforts to secure their release on bail and to lodge an appeal will soon be successful.

6. PAKISTAN – continue praying for **Amber Nadeem**, 13, who was abducted and married to a Muslim man. The court recently granted custody to the alleged kidnapper. Pray that the Lord will protect Amber. Pray that the Pakistani authorities will act to reverse this decision and that Amber will be rescued and returned to her parents.

7. **SYRIA** – continue praying for Christians in Syria as the country continues in the grip of a devastating economic crisis, with millions living in extreme poverty. Pray for **SAT-7 and Christian Solidarity Worldwide** which provide spiritual broadcasting, trauma care, and advocacy for Syrian believers.
8. **UGANDA** – President Museveni, 81, won a landslide victory in controversial elections in January, extending his 40-year rule. Pray that he will make religious freedom a priority and act to ensure that those who attack Christian converts are brought to justice.
9. **UGANDA** cont – pray for **Ochora Awali**, a 28-year-old father of one child who recently converted to Christianity. His wife left him and his Muslim in-laws beat him severely. Pray that the Lord will heal Ochora's body and encourage him in his new faith.
10. **UGANDA** cont – pray for **Sowed Kashejjea** and **Gad Katusabe**, 2 Christian converts from western Uganda who were recently released on bail after 2 years in prison on false charges following the intervention of an Anglican minister. Pray for Sowed and Gad as they seek to make a new life amidst great uncertainty.
11. **UGANDA** cont – pray for **Pastor Emmanuel Mwondha**, a *Church in Chains* partner who runs the **Tower of Prayer Revival Ministry International** that cares for Christian converts giving them shelter, provision, and education. Pray for strength, wisdom, and protection for him. Pray for **Mubiru Nicholas** who does similar work among a smaller group in eastern Uganda.
12. **CHINA** – pray for **Pastor Bao Guohua** who was detained in 2015 for resisting China's cross removal policy and is serving a 14-year sentence. Pray for hope and for protection over Pastor Bao's physical, mental and spiritual health.
13. **CHINA** – pray for **Hao Zhiwei**, a Chinese pastor serving an 8-year prison sentence and has suffered several bouts of acute pancreatitis in prison. Pray for good medical care and complete recovery.
14. **ERITREA** – continue praying for **Pastor Kidane Weldou** who has been in prison since 2005 and is believed to suffer from diabetes. Pray for his health, for encouragement and for his release.
15. **ERITREA** – continue praying for **Mussie Ezaz**, who was an evangelist and youth leader before his arrest in 2008. He is held incommunicado with no release date set. Pray for hope, strength, and an awareness of God's Presence, and pray for his release.
16. **NORTH KOREA** – continue praying for South Korean missionary **Kim Jong Uk** who was arrested in North Korea in 2013 and is serving a life sentence in a labor camp. Ask God to protect him and that he will be released soon.
17. **CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for prayer for the city of **Suzhou** on China's east coast. Because of the vast network of waterways, Hudson Taylor used the city as a base for evangelism. Suzhou is now home to many large Buddhist, Daoist, and folk religion temples, making idol worship a common practice among the locals. Pray that God will open the eyes of Suzhou's citizens to know the one true God.
18. **RUSSIA** – pray for **Park Tae Yeon**, 70, a *Child Evangelism Fellowship-Korea* missionary in Russia. She faces a possible 17-year sentence in a trial that began July 28 in Khabarovsk, in southeast Russia. CEF has recently been added to Russia's list of 'undesirable organizations' which resulted in Park's criminal charges. Missionary Park has lived in Russia since 1993 and was arrested in January, just one week before she was due to retire and return home to South Korea. Pray that Park will know the Lord's presence with her as her trial continues. Pray for justice to be done and that she will be acquitted and released.

UPDATE: The judge has rescheduled her trial, and a verdict is not expected until late September.

19. **EGYPT** – pray for the **Christian Coptic Church** in Minya province. Last month in the village of Tal Al-Quildya, the Christians were attacked as they attended mass. Dozens of Muslims threw stones, shouted insults and chanted hate slogans. Several Christians sustained injuries when they were struck by stones, and the mob also stoned the doors and windows of several Coptic homes. Pray that the Christians in the village will be able to live and worship in peace. Pray that the Egyptian authorities will uphold the right of freedom and worship for all.
20. **ISRAEL** – pray for **Bethlehem Bible College** which equips Palestinian Christians to be the hands and feet of Jesus, speaking peace in a region full of hostility. Pray for struggling families and for churches and ministries providing food, medical care, employment and other essential support.
21. **SYRIA** – pray for **Nihad Hassan**, a Syrian Kurdish pastor in Lebanon who has been detained at the Afrin Central Civil Prison in northern Syria. Pierre Houssney with *Horizons International* says that the charges against him are an excuse by those who don't like what he is doing. He leads Horizons' Kurdish Church ministry in Lebanon and has played a crucial role in reaching Muslims in several countries. Pray for fruitful ministry while he is in prison.
22. **VIETNAM** – pray for **Pastor Y Nuen Ayun**, who is from the Ede ethnic minority in Vietnam's Central Highlands. He recently received a long prison sentence at the end of a two-hour trial. His defense lawyer says prosecutors failed to establish any specific acts that constitute a crime under Vietnamese law. His church says that the sentence is intended to intimidate members into abandoning their faith. Pray that the Lord will encourage Pastor Ayun as he begins to serve his sentence and that he will be a blessing to fellow prisoners and guards. Pray that the Lord will provide for his wife and children.
23. **CHINA** – pray for **Wu Qiuyu** of Beijing Zion Church. She is in prison awaiting trial. Pray for strength for her and her family through the trial. Pray that the Lord will watch over the growth of her 2 children who are being cared for by grandparents.
24. **NEPAL** – pray for **Jeevan** and his wife **Gamyra**, front-line workers in Nepal. They, along with their daughter, moved to an area in Nepal where there wasn't a single Christian and began sharing the Gospel. Hindus were gradually placing their faith in Christ. When his congregation outgrew the small bamboo building where they worshipped, Jeevan decided to build another structure for their services. Hindu extremists began a campaign to oppose the church and other churches Jeevan had built in the area. His life has been threatened but he continues to share the gospel.
25. **CHINA** – continue praying for city of Suzhou. One church was recently raided by the government and had to disperse and gather in small groups for worship and fellowship which required pastors to divide up their time and attention among different places. Pray that God will alleviate the anxiety of these pastors and give them adequate rest from their work.
26. **NIGERIA** – pray for the ministry **21Wilberforce** that is helping Nigerian Christians. They are helping Nigerians face the question of who bears responsibility for past violence. They are also helping Nigerians build institutions capable of preventing future violence by strengthening the rule of law, overcoming tribal and ethnic politics and filling the policy vacuum. Pray for the strengthening of justice, security and the rule of law in Nigeria.
27. **INDONESIA** – Separatist rebels recently killed Catholic charity AMA pilot and American **Nicholas Gosselin** and burned his plane July 2 after he and 7 civilians landed at Balinggama village in Highland Papua. Rebels suspected that his plane carried military equipment,

