

24. CHINA – pray for **Pastor Wu Huizhi** and his wife who serve in a Christian school where Christian children are educated so that they know God's Word from an early age. But they have experienced a lot of outside pressure in recent years.

25. CHINA – *China Partnership* asks for prayer for the city of **Fuyang**. The government is growing increasingly concerned about children's education, drawing more scrutiny of families who choose Christian schools. Pray that the Lord will protect the children of Christian families. Also, modernization has led to tightening controls. More surveillance cameras have been installed around the city and local communities have adopted stricter social management making it increasingly more difficult to gather. Pray for the Lord's protection.

26. EGYPT – praise God that the Egyptian government has legalized 191 more church buildings. This brings the total number of churches and buildings granted legal status to 3,804 since the government committee began its work in 2017. Pray for these churches and leaders as they move forward to ensure that their buildings are safe to meet in.

27. NIGERIA – praise God that justice has been done in a court case where four defendants were found guilty of the 2022 attack on **St Francis Catholic Church** in Owo in southern Nigeria. They said that they believed that the Catholic Church was committing blasphemy. 40 worshippers were killed and over 100 were injured in the attack.

28. CHINA – continue praying for **Pastor John Cao** who was recently released from prison and has late-stage prostate cancer. He is undergoing chemotherapy.

29. IRAN – Christian ministries in Iran say a growing number of Iranians are disillusioned with Islam and are looking elsewhere for answers. **Edwin Keshish-Abnous** fled the Islamic state and is now CEO of *Heart4Iran*, a ministry that broadcasts Christian programming into the nation through its satellite TV station. It also operates a 24/7 call center. It has seen engagement rise as opposition to the regime has intensified. "The Iranian people's perspective regarding Islam has changed a lot, long before the attack," Abnous said.

30. CHINA – Police raided a worship service in a hotel conference room and took away 33 church members, including 2 elders of **Early Rain Covenant Church**. They were taken to a local detention center. The remaining church members were held at the hotel while their identity documents were recorded before being released later. Members of Early Rain shared prayer requests: Pray that the Lord will enable us to trust deeply in His love whenever we face attacks from the enemy, overcoming our natural fears through His heavenly power. Pray that the Lord will comfort the children who were frightened during the raid and cried amid the chaos and confusion.

31. CHINA – continue to pray for **Pastor Ezra Jin** who founded **Zion Church**, one of the largest underground churches in the country. He was arrested and imprisoned in Oct 2025, along with 170 other Zion leaders. They are being held incommunicado on charges of anti-government online activities. His daughter, **Grace Jin Drexel**, moved to the US in 2018 with her mother and siblings following a previous crackdown. Grace is now an international advocate for her father and other Christians imprisoned in China for their faith. She asks for prayer for the prisoners, that God will give them hope and guard them and ultimately for the miracle of their release. Pray also for family members who take comfort in knowing that their loved ones are being comforted and sustained by God's power supernaturally even inside prison by the prayers of believers.

It isn't known when Jin will stand trial or what defense they will be able to mount. Some attorneys representing him have had their legal licenses revoked.

From his cell, Jin has sought to energize his congregants. "The Lord calls us to be overcomers, giving us courage that David had when he faced Goliath." - WSJ

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

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.
Colossians 4:2

STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

July 2026

1. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO(MAF/MNN) – American missionary Dr. Peter Stafford has contracted Ebola amidst an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. While Dr. Stafford was evacuated to Germany, Mission Aviation Fellowship flew his wife and four children to Uganda. Ebola has an over 50% fatality rate. Thankfully, Dr. Stafford's condition seems to be improving. MAF's Brad Hoaglund says MAF staff involved in the evacuation remain healthy and committed to their Gospel work in the DRC. Pray for Dr. Stafford's healing.

Call to action

- Pray for healing for Dr. Stafford and others battling Ebola.
- Ask God to protect MAF crews during evacuation flights.
- Pray for peace and strength for missionary families.
- Pray for an end to the Ebola outbreak.

2. Pakistan (MNN) – Two car bombings last month in northwest Pakistan targeted both military and civilians and killed 24 people. The Pakistan Taliban has claimed at least one attack. Nehemiah with FMI says Pakistan's disturbing terrorism trends are only getting worse. According to the 2026 Global Terrorism Index, Pakistan surpassed Burkina Faso to take first place for worst terrorism impact. Yet, God is moving through the Church, and FMI sees people coming to Jesus! Pray for peace.

Call to action

- Pray for the Gospel to bring peace in Pakistan.
- Ask God to comfort the grieving families.
- Pray for terrorists in Pakistan to come to Jesus.

3. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO(MNN) – In eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, more than 80 Christians were killed in a series of Islamist attacks last month. The extremists have a dire message for "worshippers of the cross" – convert, be subjugated, or die. Greg Kelley with Unknown Nations says this persecution surge is disturbing since the DRC is largely a Christian nation, and Muslim radicals want to expand their ideology. Pray for the persecuted Church's faith.

Call to action

- Pray for displaced Christian families to find safety and shelter.
- Ask God to strengthen persecuted believers in the DRC.
- Pray also that Muslim extremists would surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

4. NIGERIA (MNN) – Recent reports about the Nigerian army say it rescued 360 hostages from a Boko Haram stronghold in northeast Nigeria. Todd Nettleton with The Voice of the Martyrs, USA says to praise God for that good news. At the same time, reports of kidnappings and killings by militants have only continued this month. Believers in northern Nigeria continue to advance the gospel despite danger, says Nettleton. Pray for their endurance and pray that even terrorists will meet Jesus.

5. **INDIA (MNN)** — Believers in India's Punjab State are concerned about a new amendment to the state's sacrilege law. Punjab's population is majority Sikh, a monotheistic religion that reveres their holy scripture. Joe Handley with A3 explains the new legislation was fueled after someone tore up a copy of that sacred book. Now, anyone accused of sacrilege against the Sikh holy book faces increased prison time, with immunity given to police in the process. Pray for religious freedom. If God allows protections to end, pray for continued resilience for believers as they adapt gospel ministry.
6. **CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for prayer for the city of **Zhengzhou**. Believers are alienated and persecuted for their faith. They are afraid of sharing the gospel because of the religious policies. They often are called in and questioned by officials. Pray that they will not be fearful as they seek to evangelize.
7. **IRAN** – continue praying for the Christians in Iran as they continue to be harassed and helpless under increasing economic and government pressures. However, Christians are traveling across the nation, taking great risks to bring the gospel to others. Pray for God to speed and protect these believers in this mission.
8. **NIGER** – pray for **Kevin Rideout**, a missionary pilot kidnapped by Isis in October.
9. **IRAN** – pray for restored internet access in Iran. Iran's president announced recently that internet access would soon be restored to the nation, but an Iranian court quickly suspended the order for further review. Pray that **Heart4Iran's** satellite signals will reach more people with the gospel.
10. **SAUDI ARABIA** – pray for Muslims as they make pilgrimages to Mecca. Pray that they will find true answers to their spiritual questions. Pray for **Nehemiah** and *FMI* ministries as they equip Christians in Muslim-majority nations to reach their Muslim neighbors with the true hope of Christ. Pray for **Pastor Saleem Shalash** of Beit Hallel Congregation. He encourages Christians to invite Muslims to investigate who Jesus really is, especially as they celebrate Eid al-Adha, commemorating Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.
11. **BURKINA FASO** – Attacks by Islamist insurgents have displaced over 131,000 Christians according to church leaders. Hundreds of Christians have been killed, leaving many widows and orphans displaced. Pray for them, that God will provide the resources and care they need.
12. **LAOS** – Three families were driven from their homes in Oct 2025 while villagers demolished their houses and confiscated their land and livestock. Since the attack, the families have been forced to live under a lean-to in the center of the village, closely watched and prohibited from seeking help. District church leaders have attempted to provide relief but have been refused entry into the village. Christians in 3 nearby villages face similar threats.
13. **CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for prayer for the city of **Fuyang**. Early evangelism consisted of fundamentalists and moralistic teaching, part of the rural house churches like Watchman Nee's Little Flock. Pray that the Lord will refine his church in Fuyang and let the beauty of the gospel shine through even imperfect teachings.
14. **KENYA** – pray for **Pastor Galgalo**, 49, who pastors a church in Merti. While Kenya is a majority-Christian nation, Merti is in a predominantly Muslim area. The town has 13 mosques and 95% of the population identifies as Muslim. The church faced persecution but once the members dug a well with the help of the global body of Christ, and shared the water, the Muslim community has apologized. Pastor Galgalo continues to minister to the community, "I give my life full-time to the ministry of the gospel."
15. **COLOMBIA** – pray for **Edgar and Isabella**. They are front-line gospel workers amid ongoing threats from the FARC guerrillas who work to stop their ministry.
16. **CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC** – pray for **Pastor Patrick Sylvian** who lives in N'dele, a town on the northern edge of CAR where he has lived all his life and where Islamist rebels regularly cross the nearby border with Chad unchecked. For more than 30 years, Patrik has served N'dele as a minister of the gospel. He has been attacked and beaten by Islamists. "A church that is living in the midst of persecution needs to be ready to start again, and in prayer, to continue," he said. "We face this situation with prayer, and we will finish this situation with prayer."
17. **CHINA** – In one of the largest coordinated prosecutions of Chinese Christians in recent years, 31 members of an unregistered house church in Suizhou in Central China's Hubei province, have been given prison sentences ranging from 2.5 years to 4 years. "These are innocent Christians, not criminals," says Bob Fu, president of *China Aid*. "We strongly condemn these faithful leaders being sentenced on trumped-up charges." Pray for health and strength for **Pastor Yang Zhijin**, 77 who was sentenced to 3 years in prison. Pray for endurance for **Pastor Song Yude**, 73, who was given a 4-year sentence.
18. **INDIA** – On May 31, between 25 and 30 Christians were injured, including a pastor and his pregnant wife, when a crowd of extremists attacked a worship gathering in Sadrapal, a village in Sukma district in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh. Eight people sustained severe head injuries, and their conditions are critical. Pray that the injured Christians will receive the care they need and will recover from their injuries. Pray that the local authorities will act to restore order.
19. **TURKEY** – pray for Iranian Christian converts and asylum-seekers **Sam Khosravi and Maryam Falahi**. They recently attended an interview with Turkish immigration officials during which questions were raised about whether they have legal custody over their adopted daughter, **Lydia**, age 8. Pray for wisdom for Sam and Maryam, and for the Turkish officials as they seek viable solutions to this complex situation.
20. **IRAN** – pray for these Iranian Christian prisoners:
 - **Ghazal Marzban** who has recently gone on hunger-strike in protest of her 10-year sentence.
 - **Mahshar Parandin** who was sent to the hospital in early June for a test but was returned to prison without being treated.
 - **Mary Mohammadi**, a well-known human rights defender, journalist, and Christian convert who has been 'disappeared' since late February. It is believed that she is being detained by the Iranian authorities.
21. **UKRAINE** – pray for peace in Ukraine. In early June, Russia struck Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine with dozens of missiles and over 650 drones. Eric Mock of *Slavic Gospel Association* says things are growing worse for Ukrainians and losses are mounting. SGA comes along side hundreds of local churches to help provide practical aid in their gospel ministry. Pray that many will turn to Christ in the midst to suffering.
22. **LEBANON** – pray for peace in Lebanon. Pray for *Heart4Lebanon* which distributes aid with the help of the Red Cross. Each delivery leaves encouragement for believers and a gospel introduction for those who don't know Christ.
23. **INDIA** – Ethnic violence continues in Manipur state. Last month 3 church leaders from a primarily Christian people group were killed. Pray for *Mission India* which hosts children's Bible clubs. Pray for courage for club leaders and that the gospel will continue to spread. Pray for peace between the ethnic groups of Manipur state.

