

continued



## Syrian Christians express gratitude

Mourad—the coordinator of our work in Syria—often hears how welcome your support is to the church in Syria. He shares this message from Syria: “A bishop [in Syria] said we are the lungs that help the Christians in Syria breathe. Christians in Syria appreciate our fast response to their needs and our efficient way of working, besides the fact that we give all the credit to what we are doing to the local church since we want to connect the people to God and their local churches.”

### September 21

Praise God for the more than 1 million food kits given to needy families.

### September 22

Pray for the 75,000 families that received hygiene kits each year for the last five years.

### September 23

Pray the 1,734 income-generating projects that were started in the past two years will not only produce continual income but hope as well.

### September 24

Thank God that, in the last five years, we have been able to rebuild or fix 518 houses so 2,608 people can live in a permanent home again!

### September 25

Pray the seeds sown in the lives of the 12,000 attendees of various training programs and workshops in the past five years would bear fruit.

### September 26

Pray for continued healing for the many recipients of trauma counseling.

### September 27

Ask God to bless the work of the 40 Centers of Hope as they seek to point people to Christ by being beacons of His light in their communities.

*\*Representative name or photo used to protect identity.*



## COVID-19

Coronavirus has laid bare the persecution suffered by so many of our brothers and sisters. The COVID-19 lockdowns, combined with economic hardship—on top of the denial of government aid to Christians—has left thousands of believers suffering. Let's stand with them and carry their burdens (Gal. 6:2).

### September 28

Pray for the success of trainings, ministry and church services that have moved online during the pandemic.

### September 29

Ask God to tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted and shield the joyous, in Jesus' name.

### September 30

Pray for Open Doors partners who have lost family members or friends to COVID-19. Pray they would be comforted and see God at work even in their suffering.



Get up-to-date requests from persecuted Christians around the world through our free Prayer App.

**Text PRAYER to 32500**  
to download the app now!



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# Prayer Force Alert

Prayer request bulletin for  
persecuted believers worldwide

September 2021

# September



## Work continues in Syria

Open Doors continues to work through our partners in Syria to strengthen what remains—when the civil war started in 2011, there were an estimated 1.8 million Christians; the estimate today is 677,000. With an ongoing war (10 years and counting), a deepening economic crisis and the consequences of COVID-19, the church continues to need support. “We work now with about 130 churches in Syria, [and] we are widening our presence and our network in the country with about 12 churches per year,” shares Mourad\*, the coordinator of our work in Syria.

### September 1

Pray for the success of the new trauma classes for pastors and schoolteachers that began this summer. Working through trauma is a vital part of Christians’ healing.

### September 2

Pray young Christians in Syria can have hope to stay in their country.

### September 3

Ask God to continue to give Open Doors partners wisdom in listening to the Syrian church and meeting their needs.

### September 4

Pray Syrian communities are encouraged and empowered by income-generating projects supported by Open Doors.

### September 5

Pray for renewed strength (Is. 40:31) for pastors who stayed behind to continue leading their churches.

### September 6

Ask God to bless the students and teachers of vocational programs—such as mobile phone repair, sewing, computer maintenance and

construction—provided by Centers of Hope, supported through the work of Open Doors partners.

### September 7

Pray Christians across denominations continue to work together as peacemakers (Matt. 5:9).



## Family is everything

In Central Asia, the persecution faced by believers often comes from their families. “Since there is a very developed shame culture in Central Asia, for families it is a big shame to have a family member who has ‘betrayed’ the Muslim faith,” shares Timur,\* a local partner of Open Doors. The role of family as the primary support system makes it even more devastating to be rejected and vital for believers to know they are part of a global Church family.

### September 8

Pray for provision for believers who choose Jesus and lose the support of their families.

### September 9

Ask God to remind believers in Central Asia that they are part of the global Church.

### September 10

Pray believers abandoned by their families can find comfort in the arms of Christ.

### September 11

Ask God to give Timur—and others like him—wisdom as they minister to both believers and non-believers in Central Asia.

### September 12

Pray relationships in Christian communities in Central Asia are strengthened and protected from division of any kind.

### September 13

Pray Christians have the courage to share the love of Christ with their neighbors, families and communities.

### September 14

Ask God to protect believers physically, emotionally and spiritually.



## Chinese church under pressure

Recently, two ministers from Beijing Zion Church were arrested and detained by police without any warrant or official notification. A local source of Open Doors commented: “Their arrest was intended as a warning to their senior pastor, Ezra Jin, who has remained very active in ministry despite the closure of his church in Beijing in 2018.” Sadly, this is just one example of pressure the church in China is feeling.

### September 15

Pray the church in China would remain strong and steadfast in the power of God.

### September 16–17

Pray for leaders of the church in China—such as Pastor Wang Yi and Pastor Li Juncai—who are serving nine- and six-year prison sentences (respectively). Pray they are bold in sharing the gospel, even while in chains.

### September 18

Pray Pastor Ezra Jin would have wisdom and discernment as he leads Beijing Zion Church in following Jesus, despite pressure and building closure.

### September 19

Pray the children of believers in China would grow in their knowledge of and love for Christ.

### September 20

Join Pastor Jin in praying: “Pray [China] can indeed fill its responsibility of constructing democracy [and] protect the citizens’ right of freedom of belief as stipulated in the Constitution.”