

continued



*Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,
Although we never met in person, know
that through our Father who art in
heaven, we all are connected.
"Wherefore take unto you the whole
armour of God, that ye may be able to
withstand in the evil day, and having
done all, to stand." (Ephesians 6:13)*
Nathalie

Hope on social media

Open Doors USA is part of a massive encouragement campaign that reached thousands of Syrian and Iraqi Christians in just the first three months of 2021 through a special Facebook page. The messages are simple—a favorite verse, a story of an encounter with God or a prayer—but the hope stirred in hearts of believers who have been through so much is not. To participate, visit: opendoorsusa.org/letterwriting

October 21

Ask God to water the seeds of encouragement that are planted through the messages on the Facebook page.

October 22

Pray believers who are blessed through the campaign share their joy with others.

October 23

Pray God inspires believers to write an encouraging message to their Iraqi and Syrian family and that they feel blessed in doing so.

October 24

Pray participants in the campaign feel connected to the body of Christ in other parts of the world.

October 25–26

Pray the believers in Iraq and Syria experience a hope that does not disappoint (Romans 5:3-5).

October 27

Ask God to give the staff and volunteers that run the encouragement page wisdom and joy in their work.



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).

October 28

When COVID-19 hit, our partners in Iraq had to adjust their plans to help with basic needs; pray they have wisdom in how to get other types of programs up and running again or for the first time.

October 29

Pray for the church leaders whose income is impacted by the pandemic and lockdowns. Ask God to provide for them.

October 30

Pray for the Open Doors partners in India who are trying to provide help to persecuted Christians, despite the pandemic. Pray these partners are not falsely accused of converting people.

October 31

Pray Christian dayworkers whose livelihoods were affected by COVID-19 will be able to find a new income source. Pray that God will provide them with all their needs.

 **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!**



Prayer Force Alert

Prayer request bulletin for persecuted believers worldwide

October 2021



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OpenDoorsUSA.org

*Representative name or photo used to protect identity.

October



Missing Christians in Iraq

Seven years after the ISIS takeover of the Nineveh Plains in northern Iraq, there are still many families waiting for their loved ones to come home. Sana is one such heartbroken person—her husband and two sons were taken in 2014. The pastor at her church shares: “People like Sana need the full support of the church. They need someone to be close to them, listen to their needs. Someone to help them to find hope for the future.”

October 1

Ask God to provide a way for any believers who are still trying to make their way home.

October 2

Pray for the broken hearts of families who had loved ones taken. Pray they are filled with the hope of the Lord.

October 3

Pray the mental health system in Iraq would be developed and serve people well.

October 4

Pray believers like Sana reach out to Centers of Hope for practical and emotional help.

October 5

Ask God to heal the survivors of ISIS brutality.

October 6

Pray Christian volunteers trained to recognize trauma at Centers of Hope would be able to help show Christ’s love.

October 7

Pray for provision for women such as Sana and her daughter, Tania, who have been left to fend for themselves in a society where it’s very difficult to be a single woman.



A pastor’s heart

In many countries where Open Doors works, pastors can be the targets of not only spiritual but physical attacks. Pastors like Tony continue their ministry, no matter the cost. Pastor Tony remains with his flock in Syria: “I know I am committed to staying here and to the mission that the Lord gave me. I always say this: If only one Christian stays here in this area, I will stay for them and serve them here.”

October 8

Pray the joy of the Lord would be the strength (Neh. 8:10) of pastors as they shepherd, strengthen and care for God’s children.

October 9

Pray for an Algerian believer, Pastor Rachid. Pray he has wisdom in navigating his legal appeal and ask God to provide a way for his church to remain open, despite a court ruling.

October 10

Thank God for pastors who have answered His call around the world and ask that they experience Christ in a special way today.

October 11

Pray God would sustain and encourage pastors as they seek to follow Him. Pray they would be protected from burnout and fatigue.

October 12

Pray for strength for Pastor Tony and the other leaders who have decided to stay and serve in their churches in Syria, no matter what.

October 13

Ask God to raise up new leaders to come alongside pastors who lost co-laborers and congregants to COVID-19.

October 14

Pray for Pastor Bandula* in Sri Lanka and others like him, to have wisdom as they work to build churches despite opposition.



Young, rejected and imprisoned

In a remote village in Laos, a young believer named Soy* was 14 when she was sent to prison for her faith. She refused to renounce Jesus and, after six days, was set free. However, the joy of her release was cut short when she arrived home. She was ignored at school; friends became bullies. Eventually, Soy moved to the city to continue her studies, far from her home and away from her family. Thankfully, God provided a community for her—Pastor Sanguan* looks after students who have been persecuted because of their faith, and Soy has made new friends.

October 15

Pray the Lord leads Soy every day and protects her from further harassment and persecution.

October 16

Ask God to bless the work of Pastor Sanguan and give him wisdom to disciple and provide for the persecuted children in his care.

October 17

Pray the people in Soy’s village come to know the freedom and love found in Christ.

October 18

Pray the Lord strengthens Soy’s faith so she can stand strong for Him, despite her confusion and doubts.

October 19

Pray Soy’s family continues to worship God despite the hardships they face.

October 20

Pray the students in Soy’s community would find healing and comfort by learning and growing together, knowing they are not alone.