December 26
The Cuban government systematically tries to suffocate the church through fines, forced registration, monitoring and declaring churches as “illegal entities.” Ask God to raise up strong believers to spread His gospel through the island.

December 27
Iran jailed Christian convert Hamed Ashoori because he left Islam and refused to cooperate with police and spy on believers in order to turn them in. Pray for Hamed’s physical protection, and that his faith will only grow greater in prison.

December 28
When India’s anti-conversion laws are enforced, believers can be accused of coercing others to convert. Pray for God’s hand of protection over each brave believer in India who seeks to bring others to Christ.

December 29
Pray for renewed strength for the team of local partners in Syria. A handful of people are carrying the weight of the work in the whole country. Pray for God’s wisdom as they carry out His work.

December 30
Erbil, Iraq has been a target for explosive devices that upset the security of the city and the believers living there. Pray for an end to the bombings, and for believers to live peacefully in their homes.

December 31
The number of Christians in Iraq has decreased from 1.5 million to just 250,000 in recent years. Pray for our local partners who are working to raise awareness of the issue. Pray also for the government to recognize and protect the Christian minority.

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!

December 19
Yunita Tambunan’s father died of COVID-19, and she had to pay a large fee to bury him because he was a Christian. Pray for hurting families in Indonesia who are facing such discrimination, that God would intervene on their behalf.

December 20
Ask God to use His people around the world as lights in a dark and frightening time, with wisdom and compassion to reach out to others, rather than giving in to fear. (2 Tim. 1:7).

December 21
Pray for believers who are in areas where there are still bans on group gatherings. They can’t gather for church and fellowship. Ask God to ease the restrictions and bring them together safely again.

Governing with persecution
Some places opposed to Christianity have written persecution into their laws. There is no escape for minority Christian populations in these areas; the power of the state helps to persecute. These believers need your prayers to let them know they are not alone.

December 22
Six Christian families in Vietnam were denied government grants to build vital water storage tanks. They must walk six hours to a stream. Pray for God to intervene and for government officials to give the funds.

December 23
The Algerian government requires that a church obtain permission before setting up a non-Muslim worship location—but then refuses to grant any such licenses. Pray for a change of policy in the Algerian government to make it possible for 16 churches to reopen.

December 24
It is illegal in Qatar to tell a Muslim about Jesus. Conversion to another faith from Islam is not officially recognized and brings legal problems. Pray that God will break through this wall of intolerance and allow religious freedom in Qatar.

December 25
Give thanks that we worship a Savior where “the government will be on His shoulders” (Isaiah 9:6). As we celebrate Jesus’ birth today, thank God He is bigger and more powerful than any earthly government.

*Representative name or photo used to protect identity.
December 1
Maria (10) and Sophie (7) live near Bethlehem; there are tensions between religions all around them. Pray with them for peace in the Holy Land. “We ask Jesus to be born again in our heart,” says Maria.

December 2
In Kenya, Mary (13) and her family go through their town, sharing the Christmas message of Jesus. They are followed by hecklers who pour water on them and shout at them. Thank God for Mary’s willingness to undergo this treatment to share the gospel.

December 3
Things in Qaraqosh, Iraq are less restrictive now that the Islamic State group’s influence has waned. But Iraq is still a hard place for Christians. Join with Lydia (11) and Youssif (12) as they pray: “We need You today and every day; lend a helping hand and protect us from the harm. We are begging and trust on You, to bless the coming year.”

December 4
Hawi (9) lives in Ethiopia. Her father ministers to Christians who came from Islam, and the threats and pressure on the family increase at Christmas. Pray with Hawi as she celebrates Christmas, “the day God has shown His love for His people.”

December 5
Alya (10) celebrates Christmas in January, disguised as her own birthday. In Iran, it would be dangerous for her family to do otherwise. Pray for the family’s safety, and for Alya’s biggest prayer “to one day celebrate Jesus’ birthday with Him, face-to-face.”

December 6
In Syria, Ahmad (14) and Lian (10) celebrate Christmas with family. But some of their Muslim neighbors “make a lot of noise during our celebration, and bang on our door.” Pray for a peaceful Christmas in Syria this year.

December 7
The church in Laos is heavily monitored by the government, but that doesn’t stop Deng (12) and her friends from preparing a joyous dance to celebrate the birth of their Savior. Thank God for the hearts of children who brave persecution to love their Lord.

The power of forgiveness
Amazing blessing has come out of persecution when unbelievers look on with shock as Christians forgive their persecutors. The power of forgiveness changes lives—the life of the forgiver, the life of the forgiven and the lives of those watching. Celebrate this power with brothers and sisters who have lived it.

December 8
Pastor Lwin* in Laos learned to face persecution with forgiveness through Open Doors’ persecution training. Pray for effectiveness and encouragement of partners around the world who bring this life-changing training.

December 9
Pray for the Christ-like reaction of persecuted believers around the world when they are attacked for their faith. Ask God to use it to break open the hearts of their persecutors.

December 10
We have told you about Eldos, who was severely beaten by radical Muslims in his own home. Eldos chose not to demand compensation from his attackers, and his testimony has impacted many in his community. Continue to pray for his physical safety and spiritual growth.

December 11
Proverbs 15:1 says that a soft answer turns away wrath. Pray for supernatural softness and gentleness for believers facing harsh persecution today, and protection for them as they show it.

December 12
Pastor Hasim was gunned down in the Philippines for his faith. His daughter Emelyn was able to surrender her feelings of vengeance and let God get justice. Praise God that she was able to follow Him and forgive.

December 13
Martyrdom can tear a family apart or draw them closer to God. Pray for the families of martyrs around the world today as they seek the heart of God to forgive.

December 14
Jesus commanded us to love our enemies (Luke 6:27). Pray for the enemies of Christians who even today are persecuting believers and seeking to break their spirits. Pray these oppressors might come to Christ.

A pandemic of persecution
Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic has become a tool of persecution toward believers in some countries. They have been denied government aid, medical care and even food, passed over for those who follow the predominant religion of the area. Many church leaders and believers have died, and others are still suffering in lockdown isolation.

December 15
Growing depression among Christian healthcare workers in India has even led some to commit suicide because of what they’ve witnessed. Pray for God to strengthen the heart of each Christian health worker today and give them peace that passes understanding.

December 16
Pray for health and strength for Open Doors partners who are trying to provide help to persecuted Christians in rural areas of many countries, despite the pandemic.

December 17
The church in Myanmar has lost dozens of leaders to the virus. Pray for God to raise up new leadership that is strong in the Word and can minister to the believers.

December 18
Lift up the Christian leaders and church partners who are working to help others. Pray for the families of those who have lost loved ones, and ask God to provide for their needs.