

December continued

... with questions about the Gospel. Pray for wisdom for those involved in follow up.

Tuesday 6th | UZBEKISTAN Please continue to pray for Tohar Haidarov. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison because of alleged drug dealing. The Supreme Court forwarded the case for further investigation to the District Court. Pray that justice will be done.

Wednesday 7th | INDONESIA East Java is a difficult place for minority Christian churches. Religious pressure from the local Muslims is strong, especially when they see a church growing in numbers. Please pray for the body of Christ in that area and for the Lord to guide pastors and church leaders when they face pressure.

Thursday 8th | INDONESIA It is a challenge for Christian workers to disciple new believers from a Muslim background as they need to observe strict security precautions in meeting with these believers. Pray for God's encouragement to be upon them whenever they experience difficulties because of their work.

Friday 9th | LAOS There are still no official or formal Bible schools and seminaries in Laos, meaning that believers with a calling to serve in full-time ministry have to seek theological studies outside the country. Pray for God's provision of resources for these keen servants of God.

Saturday 10th | LAOS Meeting together every Sunday is a challenge for many local churches in the rural provinces of Laos. Unauthorised gatherings of more than 10 people in houses can easily raise suspicion from neighbours and local authorities, which becomes more difficult if the church is growing. Ask God to grant wisdom to the pastors as they find other means to lead their churches under such restriction.

Sunday 11th | MALDIVES Christian children in the Maldives struggle with being exposed to two sets of



Please continue to pray for Tohar, who is still imprisoned in Uzbekistan.

beliefs. At school, they are taught about Islamic beliefs and traditions, but at home their parents teach them about the Christian faith. Pray that the children would come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour and that God would preserve their faith.

Monday 12th | MALDIVES The Maldives is a very difficult place to live for believers of a Muslim background. They have no legitimate access to God's Word and gathering together for worship is prohibited. Ask God to provide ways for them to meet together in safety.

Tuesday 13th | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES Doldani is a Sama lay leader and one of the literacy teachers in the Southern Philippines. Praise God for his ministry which he joyfully carries out in mainly Muslim communities, travelling by both land and sea. Pray for his health and safety as he travels.

Wednesday 14th | SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES New believers among the Tausug people, who have been faithful Muslims, experience immediate persecution from loved ones and neighbours in their villages once they decide to follow Christ. Pray for them to remain strong in their faith despite opposition.

Thursday 15th | VIETNAM A youth worker in Vietnam will be attending an Open Doors' women's training program. She has been arrested three times for reaching out to youth in her hometown and surrounding provinces. Pray that she will continue in her ministry despite these hindrances.

Friday 16th | VIETNAM Youth training among tribal believers is risky because village leaders do not easily grant permission for such events. There have been instances where the classes were stopped and the students and teachers were brought in for questioning. Pray for God to protect all those involved in Open Doors' youth training programs.

Saturday 17th | CHINA Pray that churches in the Jiangsu province will experience healthy church growth despite systematic monitoring and control by the local authorities.

Sunday 18th | CHINA Praise God for the rare opportunity that a group of key house church leaders have to pursue an accredited four-year degree in theology, to further equip

them in systematic theology and ministry. Pray for wisdom, strength and perseverance for them as they balance their time for study, busy ministry and family.

Monday 19th | CHINA A 5.8 magnitude earthquake hit Yingjiang County (south western China) last March, killing at least 25 people, injuring 250 others and destroying over 1,200 homes, leaving tens of thousands more severely damaged. The local government only provided RMB 20,000, a quarter of the cost of rebuilding a new home. Pray for wisdom as Open Doors considers how best to assist the Christians from the ethnic minority groups.

Tuesday 20th | BHUTAN Pray for Samuel who faithfully attended Sunday School classes despite the long hike from his home. Even though his Hindu parents were against him going, he persevered and God answered his prayer. Samuel's parents became Christians. Pray that Samuel and his parents would grow in their faith with an increasing passion for God and ministry.

Wednesday 21st | BHUTAN The church in Bhutan is slowly growing in youth ministry and outreach, and there is a great need for leaders and pastors with the heart and skills to disciple the teenagers. Pray for God to raise up workers who will dedicate their lives to mentoring the youth of Bhutan.

Thursday 22nd | BHUTAN Many local churches struggle to find a place for corporate worship and fellowship. Sunday services are sometimes held in private or rented homes of the pastor or a church member. If they are discovered, the landlords often force the church to leave. Pray that these churches would not give up meeting together and that God would provide them somewhere safe to meet.

Friday 23rd | MYANMAR One church worker, whose identity can't be revealed, has a heart to reach out to the Buddhist Burmese people. Praise God for her servant heart! She is praying and waiting for opportunities to do so. Pray that the Lord will open doors for her to minister to this major people group in Myanmar.

Saturday 24th | MYANMAR Because Christians are contained in certain areas of Myanmar and are limited in their mobility, the children and youth have no access to basic education. Pray that God will use His church in Myanmar to bring hope to the young believers.

Sunday 25th | BANGLADESH Christian children in Bangladesh face jeers and discrimination in their schools and communities, and sometimes they are physically

harassed. Their parents may file a complaint, but local police are often apathetic and don't always take action on these cases. Pray that God will protect these children.

Monday 26th | BANGLADESH A number of MBB** churches in southern Bangladesh do not have a pastor. They depend on travelling ministers for biblical teaching. Please pray for God to provide them with shepherds who will lead with compassion. Pray also for believers to be strong in their commitment to Christ as they live out their faith in strongly Islamic communities.

Tuesday 27th | INDIA Please pray for Christians in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh, where there have been numerous attacks on Christian leaders recently. Pray especially for Pastor G N Paul, whose liver was damaged as a result of the attack on him.

Wednesday 28th | INDIA Pray for Pastor Jayaraju who was beaten severely and has had to undergo surgery. His jaw was completely broken, teeth smashed and he sustained multiple fractures in the head. Pray for peace to prevail in these trying circumstances.

Thursday 29th | SRI LANKA Praise God for the SSTS* seminars and workshops that took place in critical areas in northern Sri Lanka. Many of the participants will be future pastors and Christian workers. Pray for God's wisdom and grace to be with them, especially when they experience assaults and threats from Buddhist monks and neighbours.

Friday 30th | SRI LANKA Children of Christian parents struggle in schools because there is no Christian teacher there to provide religious instruction which is part of their grading system. When there is no Christian teacher in public schools, children have to study Buddhism or Hinduism and perform its rites. Pray that God would provide Christian teachers to teach in Sri Lankan public schools.

Saturday 31st | SRI LANKA Open Doors has extended practical aid to Christian families in northern Sri Lanka. Because of the longstanding civil war, they have been removed from their homes and livelihoods. As they rebuild their lives and heal from the trauma, pray that they will feel the presence of God in their lives. Pray also that the church will be an instrument of reconciliation between the Sinhala and Tamil people.



Pray that believers among the Tausug people will remain strong in their faith.



Pray that God will protect the children in Bangladesh, who often face discrimination in their schools.

* SSTS - Standing Strong through the Storm

** MBB - Muslim Background Believer

*** Name has been changed to protect identity

Source: Open Doors International and Compass Direct News



International Day of Prayer
for the Persecuted Church 2011

November 6th, 2011

Stand with persecuted Christians
around the world and unite in
prayer for them.

For more info go to www.idop.org.nz
or www.opendoors.org.nz

If you would like to join or start an Open Doors
prayer group, please contact Open Doors New Zealand
office on (09) 620 4200 or opendoorsnz@od.org



Open Doors

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

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Registered Charity in New Zealand: CC24946

Information provided by Open Doors and Compass Direct sources.



prayerguide

NOV-DEC 2011

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons
of the world. On the contrary, they have divine
power to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (NIV)

November

Tuesday 1st | NIGERIA

Thank God for the outpouring of His grace on the believers affected by the post election violence and for granting them courage to move on with their lives. Pray for unity amongst the leadership of the church in Northern Nigeria, so that they speak out with one voice for the benefit of believers in the country.



Thank God for the outpouring of His grace on believers in Northern Nigeria.

Wednesday 2nd | NIGERIA Yusef (36) has been struggling with his health for the past 6 months. He has a wife, two children, an aged mother and four siblings under his care. Pray for his healing and for God's provision over him and his family.

Thursday 3rd | ETHIOPIA Pray for new breakthroughs for God's work in the Somali region of Ethiopia. Pray for abundant grace and strength for each missionary, so that their passion for God's work and their vision for persecuted Christians will increase. Missionaries are at risk of being exposed by Muslim spies and are therefore dependant upon the Lord's guidance and wisdom in identifying genuine converts. Pray for their protection.



Pray for Susan, a Ugandan girl who was severely beaten by her Muslim father after she accepted Christ.

Friday 4th | UGANDA Pray for Susan (14) who was severely beaten and almost starved to death by her

Muslim father after she accepted Christ about a year ago. Neighbours became suspicious when they no longer saw the girl around, so they called the police. They found her locked up in a small room, underfed and unable to walk, and she was admitted to hospital. She is now in the care of Christians and has since regained her strength. Thank the Lord for His intervention in her life.

Saturday 5th | UGANDA William Masolo's son was brutally killed by Muslim extremists almost a year ago. Since the murder William has been continuously threatened by his Muslim neighbours, and the case has yet to go to trial. Pray that God will protect William and his family and give them courage to continue in their faith.

Sunday 6th | IDOP Worldwide, millions of Christians are facing persecution for their faith in Jesus. This year thousands of Christians worldwide will engage in International Day of Prayer (IDOP) on 6th November. We are calling the Body of Christ to stand with persecuted believers and pray for them to withstand the powers of darkness. Pray that persecuted Christians will know we are praying for them.

Monday 7th | EGYPT Egypt is due to have their parliamentary elections this month, followed by the writing of the constitution. Pray that the right people will be elected who will benefit the nation. Pray that the election period will be peaceful, without violence or trouble.

Tuesday 8th | TUNISIA Believers in Tunisia from a Muslim background are often totally cut off from their family because of their decision to follow Christ. It seems these Christians are facing more pressure from their families these days, which sometimes results in people leaving the church and their faith. Pray for boldness and a full commitment to Christ in the life of each believer.

Wednesday 9th | TUNISIA There is need for new leadership within the church of Tunisia. Pray that God would raise up leaders to teach and disciple His people in Tunisia.

Thursday 10th | ARABIAN PENINSULA Pray for local believers who know each other, that they will minister to one another in wonderful ways and build each other up. Pray that they will be greatly encouraged as they grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Friday 11th | ARABIAN PENINSULA Abdullah*** was inspired to tell his family about his faith in Christ. His mum was very upset and rejected him. She dumped a lunch plate of rice on him and said he must move away from the neighbourhood. His family and neighbours have given him one month to repent from his faith in Christ. Pray that he stands firm in his faith in Christ and that his family will come to accept his decision.

Saturday 12th | IRAN Pray for the Lord's protection of house church leaders and pastors of Armenian and Assyrian churches. They are under high pressure. Many are regularly interrogated by secret police. Ask God to keep them safe.

Sunday 13th | IRAN Despite harsh actions against Christians from the Iranian government and clerics, there is a great openness to the Gospel in Iran. Pray that many people will be reached with the Gospel and that God will guide and protect new believers.

Monday 14th | IRAN Pray for the children in Iran whose parents are detained. Pray that they may experience the love of God abundantly. Also pray that all prisoners may find comfort in the Lord.



Please pray that God would give strength to the believers and pastors who have remained in Libya

Tuesday 15th | LIBYA

Although the majority of foreign believers fled Libya at the start of the violence, some still remain in the capital and they are meeting daily for prayer at lunchtime. Pray for them as daily life in the capital grows more difficult. May God give them strength as they remain in Libya.

Wednesday 16th | LIBYA

Over the past few months many people in Libya have been injured and killed, and families throughout the country are experiencing great loss. Pray for the spiritual and emotional healing of the people in Libya.

Thursday 17th | ALGERIA Praise the Lord for the official recognition of the EPA (Protestant Church of Algeria). However, the recognition of the EPA does not automatically equate to the recognition of the churches. Pray for wisdom for Mustapha Krim, president of the EPA, as he negotiates with the government about registering the churches in Algeria.

Friday 18th | IRAQ Pray for those who have been direct victims of violence, cruelty, torture and killings in Iraq. Pray that God will minister to their hearts and minds, and that He will protect them with the peace that goes beyond understanding.

Saturday 19th | IRAQ Pray for the water situation in Iraq, where water is a rare commodity. In certain regions, such as the Ninevah Planes, it has been very hot this summer, with no rain for several months and leading to underground water levels dropping considerably. Pray for a good winter with at least two months' continual rain.

Sunday 20th | IRAQ Despite the many emigrations, there are wonderful followers of Jesus meeting together to worship God in various parts of Iraq. Pray that more Christian leaders in this country will feel the need to stay in Iraq and continue meeting with other believers for fellowship.

Monday 21st | MOROCCO Will have parliamentary elections on 25th November. Pray that this will bring a positive change for the country and the church. Pray that the authorities will give more religious freedom and that the Moroccan church will be legalised.

Tuesday 22nd | SYRIA Please pray for the Christian leadership in Syria who are under lots of pressure amidst the present turmoil. Pray for stability and safety for the Christian minority in Syria. Pray for peace in the country and for families and young people to be eager to learn from the Bible.

Wednesday 23rd | SYRIA Pray for a transition in Syria where God will be in charge and where various communities and minorities will be able to live together in peace. Pray that relationships will be restored and true reconciliation will take place among the people where hatred is present.

Thursday 24th | ISRAEL AND PALESTINIAN AREAS

Praise God for the different training programs that took place in October this year. Pray that the participants will not only grow in knowledge but also in wisdom on how to deal with young people from both sides of the land. Pray that the traumatised people find comfort



Praise God for the reconciliation training programs taking place in Israel.

and relief in God and will apply to their lives what they learned during training.

Friday 25th | ISRAEL AND PALESTINIAN AREAS

The secret believers in Gaza and on the West Bank are in great turmoil. Pray that they will persevere in their faith, that they will experience the presence of the Lord and that they will find opportunities to have fellowship with other believers.

Saturday 26th | LEBANON Pray that the church in Lebanon will be rejuvenated. Some of the main church leaders are in their eighties, and young people are waiting for spiritual leadership from somebody who can relate to them. Pray that current leaders will make room for the new generation and that there will be a smooth transition in leadership.

Sunday 27th | LEBANON Thank the Lord for the freedom given to the church in Lebanon. It is possible to share the Word of God with others, and many people from neighbouring countries can be given Christian literature and are being reached with the Gospel. Pray that Christians in Lebanon will use their freedom to spread the Kingdom of God.

Monday 28th | MAURITANIA The pressure on the few Christians in Mauritania is growing. A recent attack on Christians has proved that an assembly of the Mauritanian Imams becomes very angry when it comes to, what they call, the Christianisation of Mauritania. Pray for a good witness of believers to the Muslim population.

Tuesday 29th | TAJIKISTAN Please pray for believers who face opposition, humiliation and threats from their families and neighbours because they no longer follow the traditions and the way of Islam. They face pressure to deny Christ every day. Ask that God will give them strength to stand firm in their decision to follow Jesus.

Wednesday 30th | TAJIKISTAN

Several Christian families are very poor. They don't have enough food and other resources for living. Pray for them and for the local churches to have opportunities and resources to assist them.

December

Thursday 1st | CENTRAL ASIA Please continue to pray for distribution of the Scriptures and Christian materials in Central Asia. One lady asked for a Bible in her own language and when she received it, she sent this happy note: "I just received my Bible, I am really happy! May the Lord Jesus Christ's blessings be with you. Thank you Lord for these beautiful people of yours. I have never felt this much joy..." Praise God for scenarios like this.

Friday 2nd | CENTRAL ASIA Lamzira*** works at a police department. The secret police are following her everywhere, and she can only meet with other believers at



Thank God for the safe summer camps that took place in Central Asia.

night. Police visited her home and questioned her son and mother, and her mother told them everything in exchange for alcohol. At work, she faces pressure and they have threatened to set her on fire. As Lamzira's situation gets increasingly difficult, pray for her safety.

Saturday 3rd | CENTRAL ASIA Thank God for safe summer camps in the region. A thank you note

goes out to you all: "We want to say thank you very much for being faithful prayer warriors. We felt it and we saw how God worked there; we saw His protection, we saw covered eyes, we saw His provision and we saw His love to us."

Sunday 4th | AFGHANISTAN There has been an ongoing drought in northern, northeastern and western Afghanistan. It is causing food anxieties in these regions, in addition to the 7 million people country-wide who are already facing food shortages. Pray for the drought to pass, for food supplies to increase and for the Lord's provision for these people.

Monday 5th | AFGHANISTAN Pray that the variety of ways used to reach out with the Gospel to Afghan people would bear much fruit. Christian radio, TV programs and internet sites see a continuous flow of positive feedback...

(continued over)

For Letter Writing information please see the Frontline Faith.