

**23.CHINA** – continue praying for the city of **Changchun**. “We often face pressure because students are questioned or investigated by authorities,” says one pastor. “When this happens, it raises questions about whether our gatherings are safe. This in turn creates tension within our team about how to approach campus ministry. Some coworkers prioritize safety; others prioritize fruit and the effectiveness of the work. So we need a lot of wisdom and unity in making decisions.” Pray for wisdom that they will know how to respond when people are investigated by the authorities.

**24. BURKINA FASO** – Attacks against Christians in Burkina Faso have increased dramatically in recent years. As many as 10,000 Christians have fled their homes as a result of violence and threats throughout the country, and more than 200 churches have closed in northern and eastern part of the country.

**25. COLUMBIA** – pray for **Luis** and his wife, **Sofia**. Luis is a missionary and pastor who ministers to villagers deep in the Colombian jungle. Their home and all of their possessions were destroyed by Marxist guerrillas who oppose the spread of the gospel. After that attack they found a new ministry base and developed a circuit of more than 50 villages where they share the gospel and establish churches. Luis and his family live in constant vigilance. One tactic of the guerrilla groups like FARC and ELN is to forcibly recruit young people, especially from Christian families, with the intent of terrifying the Christians into compliance with their demands. Luis and Sofia request prayer for God’s provision, for ‘opportunities to go to places where the gospel is needed’, and for wisdom about the steps necessary to continue their work.

**26. ETHIOPIA** – pray for sisters **Genet and Jalene** who grew up in a Muslim family and became Christians through Miriam, a Christian they met in their boarding house. They had to flee their village after their parents discovered they had become Christians and were planning to marry them to older Muslim men. They fled to Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, and now run a hair salon with the help of the global body of Christ. “We are very grateful for God’s provision and protection,” Jalene said. The sisters request prayers for their family members’ salvation and that God will use their hair salon for more than just creating external beauty.

**27. SAUDI ARABIA** – pray that God will provide more Christian workers to reach Saudis with the gospel.

**28. NIGER** – praise God that some evangelists continue to minister in remote areas, helping lead entire villages to Christ.

**29.SOMALIA** – pray for **19 widows** who survived an attack by the Islamist group al-Shabab.

**30. RWANDA** – pray that the government officials who monitor churches and ministries will hear the gospel and come to faith in Christ.

**31. TANZANIA** – pray for the protection and peace of Christians living on the island of Pamba, where believers are frequently attacked.

Yes I am coming quickly.  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

#### 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

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever. Revelations 11:15

## STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

January 2026

**1.CHINA**-Pray for imprisoned believers and their families. Some pastors, like **Wang Yi** from Early Rain or **Ezra Jin** from Zion, remain incarcerated. Others face detainment for up to fifteen days, with the threat of charges being brought against them. Pray for grace and strength in the midst of any length of imprisonment, for these leaders and their families. Pray for churches affected by these arrests. Pray for wisdom for current leaders as they shepherd congregations through uncertainty. Pray for God's presence to be with them, and for faithfulness to Christ.

Pray that even those persecuting the church would come to know Christ. Pray for police and government officials to repent, and that they would be inspired by the lives of the very Christians they are persecuting.

Pray for the gospel to go forward, even in the midst of persecution. Pray that new churches would be planted and that existing churches would experience gospel renewal. Praise God that he is still working, even in hard circumstances.

**2.NIGERIA(MNN)** — The search continues for more than 260 remaining boys, girls and staff kidnapped from a school in northwest Nigeria on Friday. Greg Kelley with Unknown Nations says they're hearing Fulani bandits are behind the kidnapping. And they're not after ransom but forced conversions to Islam and marriages. The gospel is the only answer for Nigeria's spiritual battle. Pray for the grieving families. Pray also that Christians in the south will rise to spread the gospel in the north.

#### Call to action

- Pray for God's mercy and comfort for these families as they wait and hope against hope.
- Pray for faithful endurance and miraculous deliverance of the boys, girls, and adult staff of the school.
- Ask God to stir up a greater passion for the Great Commission among believers in southern Nigeria, that they may find their place in gospel ministry to the north.

**3. NIGERIA** – The rising attacks in Nigeria led President Tinubu to declare a nationwide security emergency. Todd Nettleton of The Voice of Martyrs USA says the kidnappings surge across northern and central Nigeria. And in the past two weeks, a few hundred people were abducted. As a result, the government plans to recruit and train twenty thousand more police. As for the ministry, they are supporting local churches to withstand in their trials. Join them in prayer! Learn more at [missionnews.org](https://missionnews.org).

#### Call to action

- Please pray for endurance and protection for Nigerian believers living under persistent threat.
- Intercede also for families whose relatives remain in captivity.
- Pray for wisdom and effectiveness for Nigerian authorities responding to the crisis.

**4. SUDAN** -- Rapid Support Forces killed over 100 people at a kindergarten in Sudan last month. Drone attacks targeted first responders as they tried to move victims to a nearby hospital. Two years of civil war have left 80 percent of Sudan's health facilities useless. Sudanese church planters recently partnered with doctors and nurses from South Sudan to hold medical clinics in displacement camps. Believers shared the Gospel at every clinic. Pray for church planters as they follow up with people who responded.

Call to action

- Pray for church-planting teams as they follow up in each of the camps.
- Ask the Lord to strengthen believers and medical teams. They'll receive a third round of donated medicine in the coming days.
- Praise God that even though the funds provided did not cover air-freighting the medications to the ministry locations, the Lord provided an additional partner just in time!
- Praise the Lord for the collaboration of multiple ministries in this medical outreach. This is a Kingdom collaboration effort.

**5. CHINA** -- pray for several believers from a house church in northern China who were put in jail for 2 weeks. The persecution allowed them to rejoice together, share the gospel with the police and cellmates, and gave them a bigger heart for their city and province. Pray that 'the Word of God will run swiftly and be glorified' through their faithful ministry.

**6. INDIA** -- pray for **Pastor Kishan Mahali** who came to Christ from Hinduism. He works in the unreached villages of Birpara near the Bhutan border. He has started a church and hopes to start a Bible school. He asks for prayer for another pastor to partner with him and for a large hall for prayer meetings. He also asks that he and his church will be bold in faith and not have any financial lack to do the will of God.  
-Daisy Project India

**7. NIGERIA** -- On Nov 21, over 300 children aged between 4 and 17, and 12 staff members were abducted from **St Mary's Catholic Nursery, Primary, and Secondary School** in Papiri in Niger State in Nigeria's north central region. Two days after kidnapping, 50 pupils had escaped and been reunited with their parents. Pray for the safe return of all schoolchildren and staff who remain in captivity. Pray for all those working to secure the release of the schoolchildren.

**8. CHINA** -- At the end of November, 18 pastors and church staff who had been detained in coordinated raids on the **Zion Church** network in October were formally arrested. The charge against them of 'illegally using information networks' means that they could face up to 3 years in prison. Pray for hope and strength for the Zion church leaders in prison, especially **Pastor Ezra Mingri**. Pray for comfort and peace for their families especially those with young children who have been traumatized.

**9. IRAN** -- continue praying for **Aida Najafloo** who has experienced further health complications after suffering a spinal fracture from falling from her bunk bed in Evin Prison. She spent 6 days in the hospital because of infection but has been returned to prison. Pray for a full recovery for her and that she will be released on medical grounds.

**10. CHINA** -- Authorities in China's Henan Province recently promised a cash reward to citizens who report 'illegal religious activities.' This specifically targets underground churches. Pray for believers to remain faithful under pressure. Pray for wisdom for house church leaders.

**11. IRAN** -- Afghan converts and refugees **Teymur Hosseini, Zahra Gholami and Hossein Mohammadi** began serving two-year prison sentences in Ghezel Hesar Prison in Karaj on Nov 16. They were charged with 'membership of a group with the aim of disrupting national security.' Pray that they will be treated well by prison guards and find fellowship with other prisoners.

**12. INDIA** -- Police in Rajasthan State in northwest India have registered a case against 2 pastors accused of carrying out religious conversions through 'allurement.' Pray for **Pastor Arun John and Pastor Chandy Varghese**, that they will be cleared of these charges.

**13. NEPAL** -- praise God that **Pastor Keshav** who was found guilty of proselytizing in Nov 2021 and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment is free and continues to be active in Christian ministry. Pray for protection for Pastor Keshav, his wife, **Junu**, and their 2 young sons as they continue to spread the gospel in Nepal.

**14. SRI LANKA** -- Because of Cyclone Ditwah, 366 people lost their lives in floodwaters and landslides, and more than 350 remain missing. **Pastor Adrian** serves as A3's director of Sri Lanka and he says believers are working to provide immediate needs like food, water, clothing and shelter. They are also getting ready to lead prayer gatherings across the nation. Pray that many discover the hope of Christ.

**15. CHINA** -- *China Partnership* asks for prayers for the city of **Changchun**. One pastor says, "Some brothers and sisters are genuinely afraid that attending a house church could also cost them their 'systems jobs' -- positions in government agencies, public schools, or hospitals." Pray for believers in these jobs to not be afraid and for the Lord to be with them and protect them.

**16. PHILIPPIANS** -- pray for **Dayang**, 15, whose classmates call her a traitor and throw stones at her. "They say I shouldn't be a Christian. Because of my tribe, they say I should be a Muslim."

**17. NIGERIA** -- praise God that on Dec 7, 100 of the schoolchildren abducted from St Mary's Catholic School in Niger State last month were released into the custody of Nigerian government forces. They were reunited with their parents on Dec 9. Some 153 children and 12 staff members remain in captivity. Pray for their safe release.

**18. IRAN** -- pray for 5 Christian converts who have received long harsh prison sentences totalling over 50 years for 'establishing a home church, holding prayer meetings, conducting baptisms, taking communion, and celebrating Christmas.' Pray for **Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh, Pastor Joseph Shahbazian, his wife, Lida Alexan, Aida Najafloo, and Mahfouz**. Pray that all 5 Christians would be successful in appealing these harsh sentences. Pray for hope, health and strength for them as well.

**19. INDIA** -- praise God that **Sheela Devi** from Uttar Pradesh state was released on bail in October after 86 days in jail on false accusations of 'fraudulent conversion.' While in prison, Sheela faced ill-treatment and discrimination by the prison guards, but she also saw 'the light of the Lord' shining on her and felt strengthened in body and faith. Since her release, Sheela has been undergoing treatment for cancer. Pray that the treatment will be successful.

**20. SUDAN** -- continue praying for Sudan during the civil war. Thousands of families are struggling to survive with limited access to aid groups. Pray for **church planters** who live among the displaced and offer the hope of Christ through trauma counseling. Ask the Lord to guide and protect 2 church planting teams in Kordofan, in the expected path of the fighters.

**21. AFGHANISTAN** -- pray for 3 Afghan families in Nairobi, Kenya who are being discipled. They are part of the Afghan diaspora fleeing Afghanistan. Greg Kelley with *Unknown Nations* says the gospel is crossing borders into Pakistan and Iran as well because of the Afghan diaspora. Pray for more gospel workers in these areas.

**22. UZBEKISTAN** -- In Feb 2025, the president of Uzbekistan signed a new law forbidding anyone, including parents, from teaching children about religion without official authorization. Violating the law could lead to fines equivalent to more than a month's wages and up to 15 days in jail.