

28. UNITED STATES – praise God that Planned Parenthood ceased operations in Louisiana at the end of Sept as lawmakers fought to curb federal funding to the abortion provider. The organization's Gulf Coast branch said it would also close 2 of its 6 Houston facilities. Pray for the end of abortion in our nation.

29. UKRAINE – pray for **Pastor Mykhailo Brytsyn** whose church, Grace Church of Evangelical Christians in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Melitopol, was stormed by Russian troops. The heavily armed men shattered the glass doors, smashing their way in. They proceeded to arrest, fingerprint, and interrogate dozens of church members. The soldiers confiscated computers, cell phones, records and other property. Later the Russians took the church building itself. Brytsyn was given an ultimatum to vacate Melitopol. He and his wife, **Svetlana**, now live in Dubno in western Ukraine. He divides his time between weekly preaching in Dubno and maintaining online contact with his Melitopol flock. He has photos of Grace Church which now hosts offices of Russia's military administration. The formerly white building has been painted blood red and the tall white cross has vanished.

30. UKRAINE – pray for Presbyterian Pastor **Vasyl Agarkov**. He and his wife, **Viktoriya**, had to flee Kharkiv when the advancing Russian army compelled them to flee. They have relocated to Lviv. Vasyl calls the war 'unprovoked' and 'satanic'. He considers Russia's persecution of Christians pure evil. He confirmed reports of Protestant pastors and other believers killed or abused for their faith. The Christians have to gather in secret. "Russia is trying to destroy churches. We are thinking about planting more churches – that's our response to this evil," Vasyl says.

Pray from Psalm 3-

Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God!
For Thou has smitten all my enemies on the cheek.
Thou hast shattered the teeth of the wicked.
Salvation belongs to the Lord.
Thy blessing be upon Thy people!

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

Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint. Preserve my life from dread of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers, from the tumult of those who do iniquity. Psalm 64:1,2

STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

November 2025

- 1. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA** – pray for **Hakuri**. Her husband was killed in a recent attack by jihadists. Militants target men in their attacks to destroy the heart of Christian families, create poverty, and break apart entire communities. Pray for healing for Hakuri's family; pray that their physical needs will be met; and pray for the safety of millions of believers like them who face violence for their faith.
- 2. INDIA** – India's Supreme Court has agreed to hear petitions challenging the constitutionality of anti-conversion laws in various states across the country. Officially called 'Freedom of Religion' laws, they are intended to stop Hindus from being converted to other religions, but extremists use them as a license to attack Christians, claiming they are forcing Hindus to convert. Pray that the Supreme Court will make the right decision so that attacks on churches and arrests of pastors will no longer be tacitly approved by the state through the misuse of these laws.
- 3. CHINA** – New regulations ban online preaching or teaching except on platforms operated by registered religious organizations that hold an Internet Religious Information Services License. It also bans religious instruction on personal social media accounts, livestreams, WeChat groups, or informal forums. Pray for wisdom and guidance for Chinese Christians as they are even further limited in how they can live out their faith.
- 4. RUSSIA** – On Sept 3, Protestant **Pastor Nikolay Romanyuk**, 63, from Moscow, was sentenced to 4 years in a labor camp for a sermon in which he said Russia's invasion of Ukraine was 'not our war'. Ask God to strengthen Pastor Nikolay and for a successful appeal to this sentence.
- 5. MALAYSIA** – continue praying for **Pastor Raymond Koh** who was abducted in Feb 2017 and has not been heard from since then. Praise God that the court case looking into his abduction has concluded with a final verdict set for Nov 5. Pray for answers for his wife, **Susanna**. She also asks for prayers for the work she is doing with refugees – that God will continue to use her to help those in need.
- 6. RUSSIA** – pray for courage and peace for **Larisa Pokhilkp** from Provideniya in Russia's Far East. She was fined 5000 Roubles in April after her evangelical church held a 'Nativity of Christ' event without government authorization.
- 7. RUSSIA cont** – pray for *Derek Prince Ministries and Western Siberian Bible College* who have been equipping churches and training church leaders in Russia for decades despite tightening restrictions.
- 8. PAKISTAN** – continue praying for imprisoned believers. Pray for **Ashfaq Masih** who has been in prison since 2017 on blasphemy charges. Pray that his appeal will be held soon.
- 9. PAKISTAN cont** – continue praying for **Shagufta Kiran**, a nurse and mother of 4 who has been in prison since 2021 and on death row now since 2024. Pray for encouragement for her and fellowship with other Christians in prison.
- 10. NORTH KOREA** – continue praying for South Korean missionary **Kim Jong Uk** who has been in a North Korean labor camp since 2013 serving a life sentence. Pray also for **Pastor Kim Kuk-gi** who is serving a life sentence in North Korea since 2015. Pray for his wife **Kim Hee Soon** as well.

11. **INDIA** – Attacks and church closures have followed the passing of harsh anti-conversion laws in Northwest India's Rajasthan state on Sept 9. Pray for wisdom for all Christian leaders in Rajasthan and pray also for complete recovery for all those injured or traumatized in recent attacks.
12. **IRAN** – Five Christian converts have been sentenced to a total of over 40 years in prison on charges related to their religious activities. Only 3 of the 5 have been named. Pray for **Morteza Faghanpoor-Saasi, Hessamuddin Junaidi, and Abolfazl Ahmadzadeh-Khjajahi**. The charges are thought to be related to participation in Christian training courses in Turkey and to attending church meetings in their homes and online.
13. **PAKISTAN** – Praise God that **Zafar Bhatti** who has been in prison for the last 13 years, has been acquitted and released from prison. His conviction was overturned Oct 2 by the Rawalpindi Bench of the Lahore High Court, and he was released from prison. Continue praying for him and his wife, **Naweh**, as they require treatment for ongoing health concerns and support for their living arrangements.
UPDATE: On Oct 6, just 2 days after his release from prison, Zafar died suddenly from a heart attack before medical help reached him. Pray for comfort for his widow and other family members whose joy has turned to sorrow.
14. **CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for prayer for the city of **Taiyuan** (tie you en). Because of increased pressure, a pastor says, "Evangelism is largely compressed into the workplace. Brothers and sisters boldly bear witness to their identity and live out the gospel there... Another setting is inviting colleagues, family and friends to Sunday worship. But if we set out to evangelize in public community spaces, we'll be stopped quickly – even security guards can detain you." Pray for churches to find creative ways to be witnesses for Christ in the midst of this environment.
15. **CHINA** cont – pray for pastors facing persecution in Taiyuan: **Brother Wu** was detained 4 times in one year. **Huang Mujiang** was in jail for 2 years. Pray also for pastors **Tan Jian, Wang Zhudong, and Bo Kang**.
16. **INDIA** – Praise God that after nearly 4 years of legal proceedings, **Pastor Nandan Singh Bisht** has been cleared of all charges of forced conversion. A court in Ramnagar Uttarakhand state delivered the landmark judgement on Sept 17 and set an important precedent in its emphasis on constitutional protection for religious practice. Pray for wisdom for Pastor Bisht and other pastors and church leaders in Uttarakhand as they seek to serve the Lord in a hostile state.
17. **IRAN** – continue praying for **Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh, Aida Najafloo, and Joseph Shahbazian** who have been in prison since their arrest in Feb 2025. They faced a second court hearing on Oct 21 on 'propaganda' and 'collusion' charges related to their religious activities. Pray for peace and hope for them as they face these court hearings. Pray for health and healing for Naser and Aida who both have serious health issues.
18. **VIETNAM** – pray for **Gia and Dai**. Their daughter **Ruth** has a neurological and physical development condition. When they were summoned to a government office to receive funds that the government offers to support children with Ruth's condition, they received the ultimatum: change Ruth's 'Christian' name and renounce their faith or forfeit the funding. They chose to reject the government's money. Despite continual pressure and harassment, they faithfully tell others about Christ, and their church continues to grow.

19. **CHINA** – pray for **Pastor Jiahao** and his wife, **Lisa**. Jiahao sees his ministry in encouraging and supporting pastors in the circumstances of a lot of monitoring of churches by the Chinese government. He does this by equipping and training leaders to build teams of well-prepared evangelists, an approach designed to multiply the gospel impact. The dangers are real and growing for dedicated Christians. Jiahao requests prayer for the spiritual unity and purity of China's Christian leaders and for wisdom as they face new challenges.
20. **ETHIOPIA** – pray for **Caala Ebo** who grew up as a communist in Ethiopia. He worked as an informant for the Communist government and was instrumental in having many Christians imprisoned. After communism collapsed, Caala became a Christian and was sent to the same prison he had sent Christians to. There was a man there who was a strong Christian and helped him grow in his faith. Caala eventually became a leader of the church that met inside the prison. Authorities failed to prove the many charges against Caala, and he was released after 3 years in prison. By then he had felt the Lord calling him to fulltime Christian ministry. Caala serves as a mentor to Ethiopian missionaries and pastors. Many of them are working to plant churches in Muslim areas where they face severe persecution for sharing the gospel. He requests prayer that more Ethiopians will come to know Christ.
21. **CUBA** – pray for **Pastor Moises de Prada**. After 12 years as an academic, he sensed the Lord leading him to become a pastor. He has started 3 churches in Cuba that are thriving despite government opposition. He is now in Havana and faces constant opposition, but he and his wife remain committed to gospel proclamation in Cuba. "It is not because we are brave," Moises said. "But it is that God gives us the courage."
22. **BURKINA FASO** – pray for **Pastor Maturin**, a church leader whose home was recently destroyed by extremists. "The Bible encourages us to pray for our enemies," he says. "Those who persecute us, if they knew the Lord, they wouldn't do this. So, I pray for them."
23. **CHINA** – In mid-October, **Zion Church**, a prominent house-church in Beijing, faced a major crackdown and many leaders were arrested. Also in Taiyaun, 11 brothers and sisters were arrested when police raided their church. They remain in detention. Pray for their release, for their safety, and that no further action be taken against them.
24. **CHINA** – On October 10, Senior Pastor and church founder **Jin Mingri** was one of many Christian leaders arrested in raids across seven cities. It is thought that the raids may be linked to recently introduced regulations that severely restrict how religious leaders use the internet. Pray for physical strength and peace of mind for him and pray for his release.
25. **MIDDLE EAST** – pray for the recent cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas. Significant questions remain for a larger, future peace agreement. In a 'coincidence' only God could have arranged, the Beirut House of Prayer planned months ago to have an international prayer assembly Oct 9-11. Ask God to open the eyes of Muslims, Jews, and Christians in the Middle East to see His glory.
26. **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)** – Last month the terrorist group Islamic State Central Africa Province claimed responsibility for the deaths of more than 130 believers. Todd Nettleton with VOM says that the intent was to spread fear. Pray for wisdom for Christians trying to do Gospel work. Pray that even jihadists will be won over by the gospel of Jesus.
27. **INDIA** – India's Rajasthan state passed its latest anti-conversion law on Sept 9. Already 9 incidents of attacks or harassment against Christians have been documented in the state. John Pudaite with *Bibles for the World* says to pray that attackers will see the light of Christ.