

26. INDIA – Uttarakhand state in northern India has passed an amendment to its anti-conversion laws that makes them among the harshest in any state in India. Also **Rajasthan** state in northwest India has passed new anti-conversion laws that also provide for very long prison sentences and fines. Pray for wisdom and guidance for Christians, especially leaders, in both of these states as they operate in a changing and more hostile context.

27. INDONESIA – pray for **Muhammed Kace**, another Christian charged under the country's blasphemy laws. He was sentenced to 8 years and remains in prison. In a video call with front-line workers, Kace shared about his ministry to the prison guards and others he has encountered. Pray for his wife **Watma** and that he will be released soon.

28. BENIN – pray for **Pastor Victor Adamou**. He was arrested in 2024 and held for 3 days after having been pastoring the same church for 30 years without any trouble from authorities. He believes that he and other pastors have been targeted because a new church began worshipping next to a voodoo leader's home. A short time later, the voodooist lost his ability to tell fortunes using witchcraft, so in his anger he began throwing rocks at the church during services. The pastors believe that he and other voodooists with homes near churches didn't like having Christians as neighbors and complained to city officials, prompting the crack down on pastors and churches.

29. BENIN cont – Ethnic religions like voodoo are practiced by about 40% of the 14 million people in Benin. The country's current president, Patrice Talon, is a voodooist and promotes the religion. By late Feb 2024, four other pastors had been arrested and forced to pay fines up to a quarter of their annual salaries. Pray for **Pastor Jules Sanni**, president of a church association in Savalou that represents over 100 local churches. Pray for **Pastor Joseph Idrisson**, who says they have forgiven their persecutors and pray they will come to know the Lord. Pray for Assistant Pastor **Marc Djosso** who was also imprisoned along with his wife, **Thalia**. These faithful followers of Christ say they are determined to continue sharing the gospel no matter the cost.

30. Benin cont – pray for **Amadine** who became a believer and was kicked out of her home with her children by her husband who was a leader among voodooists in their community. Her husband eventually became a Christian and was then poisoned by other voodooists just 2 months later. Amadine requests prayer for her children as they continue school and for herself as she tries to establish a business to help support her family.

31. Pray for Christians in Benin-

Dear heavenly Father, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Benin as they stand in faith against the devil's schemes. Equip them with Your full armor as they struggle against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this world and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms that manifest themselves in voodooism. We praise you that Amadine, Pastor Victor and church leaders have remained faithful to You amid overwhelming pressure and suffering. Thank you for their example of courage and perseverance. We pray that these Christians will continue to stand firm in Your truth, with the righteousness of Christ to guard their hearts and with a readiness to make Your gospel known. May their testimonies inspire us to be alert and prayerful, so that we are ready to make known the mystery of the gospel at any cost.

- VOM Magazine

SOURCES:

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Arise O God, judge the earth! For it is Thou who dost possess all the nations.
Psalm 82:8

STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

October 2025

1. RUSSIA - A Baptist congregation in Kurganinsk in Russia's southwest Krasnodar region has been worshipping outside its building since government officials sealed the building in May. **Pastor Aleksandr Chmykh** has been warned that he will be prosecuted. Pray for hope, peace and strength for this church and pastor.

2. NIGERIA -Christian farming communities in the Mushere District of Bokkos Local Government Area in Plateau State have been under attack since late May by militant Muslim Fulani herdsmen. Thirty-five people have been killed so far and 13,000 others, predominantly women and children, internally displaced. Church in Chains partner organisation *Stefanos Foundation* recently visited several communities in Mushere district as well as an IDP camp in Bokkos town to carry out a fact-finding report. Pray for provision and protection for this ministry as it continues to support all the displaced Christians in the area. Pray for an end to the violence in the Middle Belt region.

3. ETHIOPIA – pray for **Jemal** and his family. Extremist mobs destroyed 215 homes of Christians in 2023. Jemal's home and successful metalworking business were destroyed. The family was forced to flee. *Open Doors'* partners have helped Jemal and his family start over and rebuild his business. Jemal says that persecution continues to grow where he lives. "The abuse and injustice being done to us is getting worse," he says. "We endure many hardships to remain in our town. So we ask all Christians in the world to speak up for us."

4. AFGHANISTAN – August 30 marked 4 years since Afghanistan shifted to Taliban control following the chaotic withdrawal of US troops. **Nehemiah** with FMI* says life under Taliban rule has fallen apart. Gospel workers confirmed that women face severe pressure. Pray that Taliban fighters will encounter Jesus. Pray that FMI's team leaders will have wisdom and clarity in guiding and encouraging their Christian brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.

*FMI began in 1986 with a mission of **Facilitation, Mobilizing, and Inspiring** indigenous church leaders around the world to share the gospel in their often unreached homelands.

5. GAZA – Israel has launched its ground incursion into Gaza City, calling up 60,000 reservists to join the fight against Hamas. Palestinians anticipate a new civil administration, and some Gazans are leading a grassroots resistance to Hamas' influence. **Pastor Israel Pochtar** with Beit Hallel Congregation says that the conflict is pushing people in Israel and Gaza to search for hope beyond politics. Pray for the Gospel to bring true peace. Pray for protection and strength for Israeli soldiers and their families. Pray for open gospel doors in Gaza and that the Lord will bring lasting peace to Gaza.

6. GAZA cont – pray for the hundreds of **Palestinian Christians** still sheltering in churches where they fled at the start of the war; it is difficult and dangerous to leave. Advocates will soon speak on their behalf at an Illinois event organized by Bethlehem Bible College. Pray for lasting peace and justice in the Holy Land. Pray for the continued presence of Christians in Gaza.

7. NORTH KOREA – Decisions by the US and South Korean governments have silenced 80% of foreign radio broadcasts reaching into North Korea. **Eric Foley** of *VOM/Korea* says they are adding a 5th daily broadcast of Scripture and sermons. Pray for the gospel to reach North Koreans. *VOM/Korea* programs continue to be heavily targeted by the North Korean government. Pray that these broadcasts can be clearly received by North Koreans inside the country.

8. **UKRAINE** – On August 24, the Ukrainian nation marked 34 years of independence. **Eric Moch** of the *Slavic Gospel Association* says independence brought growth to the church once persecuted under the USSR. Pray for Christ's hope to sustain the church in this time of war. Pray that the war will end soon and that people may be free from persecution as they work to rebuild their country. Pray for the spread of the gospel in Ukraine.
9. **INDIA** – In late July, a mob of 35 Hindu extremists gathered outside a church in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh state, accusing the Christians of carrying out forced conversions while **Pastor Abhinav Baksh** led a service inside. He locked the church gate to keep his congregation safe and called a fellow pastor who requested help from local police. However, when the police arrived, they ordered the Christians to go to the police station, arrested 6 pastors (but not the Hindu aggressors) and severely beat 5 of them while in custody. Pray for the physical and emotional healing for the 5 pastors. Pray that the police brutality will be investigated and the offending officers brought to justice.
10. **CHINA** – pray for detained pastor **Zhang Sen** of Maizhong Reformed Church in Fuyang, Anhu province. Pray for his wife, **Xu Chao**, who recently released a prayer request letter saying that her husband was criminally detained on July 9 and denouncing the ongoing persecution of her family and church. Pray for Pastor Zhang to be released from detention. Pray for their son, **Chang Zimu**, 11, and daughter, **Xiao Ai**, 7, who have suffered severe psychological trauma from witnessing the persecution of their family.
11. **LEBANON** – pray for the ministry *Triumphant Mercy Lebanon* as the government of Lebanon seeks to disarm Hezbollah. Lebanon's years of struggle have left its Shia Muslim population desperate for true hope. Pray that this ministry will see much fruit in gospel ministry to them.
12. **SYRIA** – praise God that the Syrian government recently thwarted a bombing attempt on a Catholic Church in the coastal city of Tartus. This is an answer to prayer for protection of Syria's Christians who have endured multiple attacks in recent months. Pray that the international leaders will keep Syria's government accountable to uphold religious freedom.
13. **HAITI** – Pray for **Markenson Saint Fleur**, an attorney with *For Haiti with Love* ministry that continues to operate a clinic and distribute aid in the name of Jesus. Ask God to bring stability back to the nation so that people can live in safety. Pray for the new leadership in Haiti. Pray for the ministry of *For Haiti with Love* to be effective to build up the church in Haiti.
14. **INDONESIA** – Indonesia is embroiled in the nation's most violent anti-government protests in 2 decades. At least 10 people have been killed and over 1,000 injured. FMI's **Bruce Allen** says churches are setting an example of peace through prayer. The government has passed restrictions on Christian worship, but local pastors were invited to government headquarters to pray for peace. Pray for protection and courage for Christians. Pray for wisdom for church leaders.
15. **IRAN** – continue to pray for Christian convert **Mehran Shamloui**, 37, who is serving a 10-year prison sentence for house-church activities. Mehran has been in prison for 2 months, having been detained on his return to Iran on July 3 after he was deported from Turkey where he fled following his sentencing in March. Iran's Supreme Court recently rejected his application for retrial. Pray for hope and encouragement for Mehran after this disappointing outcome.
16. **CHINA** – continue praying for married couple **Yang Rongli and Wang Xiaoguang** who have faced great persecution for their leadership of Linfen Golden Lampstand Church. Earlier this year Yang was given a 15-year prison sentence while Wang was sentenced to 9 and a half years. Pray that God will give them strength and steadfast hope while in prison.
17. **CAMEROON** – pray for **Pastor Mamoud and Pastor Hamza**. They both had to flee their homes in Cameroon's Far North region for the safety of their families after repeated attacks of Boko Haram on their Christian villages. Despite their decision to flee, the pastors continue to travel back to their villages to lead church services because there are Christians there who cannot flee to another place for lack of money. Pastor Hamza says, "I go there and encourage them with the Word of God. I can't leave them."
18. **ISRAEL** – pray for peace in Jerusalem following a terrorist attack Sept 10 when a gunman opened fire at a bus stop killing 6 and injuring at least a dozen. **Pastor Israel Pochtar** with Beit Hallel Congregation says that amid the tragedy and war, Israeli Christians are offering the comfort of Jesus. In a few months, the church will open its new Evangelism and Discipleship Center in Ashdod. Pray for believers to be a light for Christ. Pray that God will use this new center to grow His kingdom.
19. **AFGHANISTAN** – Despite tightened Taliban restrictions, pastors' wives are reaching isolated Afghan women with the gospel, according to **Nehemiah** with FMI. Recently a dozen women saw the Jesus film. Pray that many more will hear about the hope of Christ. Pray for safety and wisdom for FMI partners and their wives. Ask God to open doors to reach families in Afghanistan.
20. **BANGLADESH** - pray for **Monoara** and her daughter and granddaughter whose home was attacked in August 2024. The family continues to host prayer meetings in their home as they recover from the attack.
21. **BANGLADESH** cont – pray for **Saiful** who was threatened by Muslims. His house-church meets almost every day for prayer and Bible studies, and members continue to share the love of Christ with those who persecute them.
22. **INDONESIA** – pray for **Pak Aman**, a Sundanese Christian who converted from Islam and leads a small church in his community. He was arrested under Indonesia blasphemy laws and imprisoned for 9 months. The persecution of Christians by Islamic extremists has led many Indonesian Muslims to question Islam and become more receptive to the gospel. Aman has taken advantage of this opportunity to share the gospel and lead many Muslims to faith in Christ.
23. **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.
24. **INDIA** – pray for **Ankush Baryekar**, General Secretary of the Chhattisgarh Christian Forum (CCF). He recently reported that police in Raipur, capital of Chhattisgarh state, told a meeting of nearly 100 local Pentecostal pastors that house churches were to stop functioning. Pray for wisdom and courage for all house church leaders as they work out how to operate in this changed situation.
25. **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO(DRC)** – On Sept 8 at least 100 Christians were killed by Islamic extremists who want to turn the DRC into a caliphate. 100 were also abducted. The Christians had come to pay tribute to one of their church members who had recently passed away in Ntoyo village. The militants attacked with guns but mostly machetes. They also burned 16 homes to the ground. Pray for parish priest **Abbe Paluka Nzalamingi**, **Rev Mbula Samaki** of 55e CEBCE church in Manurejipa and **Rev Alili** of the 3e CBCA church in Njiapanda who are helping their congregations deal with the aftermath. Pray for God's provision and His comfort for the displaced, and for His Spirit to give them strength to stand firm amidst these targeted attacks.