

continued

### May 20

Pray for hope and strength for the many families caring for family members severely injured in the blasts.

### May 21

Pray that the church in Sri Lanka would grow and be strengthened.



## God is working when we don't see it

As people of faith, we continue to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters even when we don't see answers. But sometimes we receive answers when we're not expecting them—such as Tajikistan Pastor Bahrom Kholmatov's unexpected early release from prison.

After his release, Pastor Bahrom said: "I would like to express my huge gratitude to all the people who supported and prayed for me, my family and my church. All these three years, I felt your prayers; they helped me to stand, they helped my precious wife and children ... Your prayers helped us to stand strong, through all these difficulties to grow spiritually and to transform into the nature of our Heavenly Lord!"

### May 22

Praise God that He is at work even when we can't see it!

### May 23

Thank God that He works for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

### May 24

Ask the Lord to help us "live by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7).

### May 25

Thank God that, like our persecuted family, we are more than conquerors through Him (Romans 8:37).

### May 26

Pray our persecuted family will experience unexpected rays of hope from God to keep their faith strong.

*\*Representative name or photo used to protect identity.*

### May 27

Thank God for Pastor Bahrom's early release and pray that he and his family would continue to experience the joy of being reunited.



## Hope for the Middle East

Open Doors has a seven-year plan to pray for the church in the Middle East as Christians heal and rebuild in the years after being decimated by war and ISIS. Join our multi-year Hope for the Middle East Prayer Campaign as we lift up requests from believers in Iraq and Syria. You can also visit [ODUSA.org/Pray4ME](http://ODUSA.org/Pray4ME) to learn more.

### May 28

Thank God for the 20 students who graduated from the Institute of Bible Studies in Iraq. Pray they will continue to mature in the faith.

### May 29

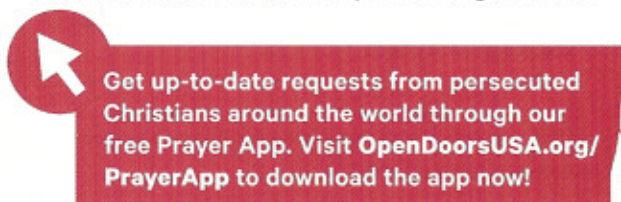
Pray for strength for the team of our local partner in Syria that works with us to serve persecuted believers.

### May 30

Pray for the advocacy training project our ministry partner runs. They train by hosting seminars detailing the rights of Iraqi Christians.

### May 31

Pray for Christians in northern Iraq facing uncertainty due to the tensions between the American, Iraqi and Iranian governments.



Get up-to-date requests from persecuted Christians around the world through our free Prayer App. Visit [OpenDoorsUSA.org/PrayerApp](http://OpenDoorsUSA.org/PrayerApp) to download the app now!



Open Doors®

Open Doors USA  
P.O. Box 27001  
Santa Ana, CA 92799 USA  
[OpenDoorsUSA.org](http://OpenDoorsUSA.org)



# Prayer Force Alert

Prayer request bulletin for  
persecuted believers worldwide

May 2020

# May



## Converts from Islam

Converting from Islam to follow Jesus in parts of the Muslim world is a costly choice. These converts face isolation and shame from their community, friends and even family. Converts can be beaten, harassed, jailed, killed and raped. When officials or secret police discover places of gathering and worship, they often destroy them.

### May 1

Bagit\*, the only Christian in his village in Central Asia, suffered a devastating loss when his only cow vanished. Pray for provision.

### May 2

Pray that Christian converts in countries such as Yemen find each other for fellowship and encouragement.

### May 3

Madina's\* relatives have purposefully shaken her financial security because she chose Jesus. Pray for protection and provision for her and her children.

### May 4

Pray for Hadija\* who hosts a secret house church and was recently interrogated by police in Central Asia.

### May 5

Choosing Jesus when your spouse does not is very dangerous. Pray for the salvation of whole families.

### May 6

Pray for more discipleship and training opportunities for believers to help them deepen their knowledge and understanding of Scripture.

### May 7

Pray that Murina\*, a young woman in Kyrgyzstan, has the courage to risk the wrath of her Muslim relatives and choose Jesus.



## House churches in Iran

Iran is said to be one of the fastest-growing communities of Christian converts from Islam in the world. The strict Islamic government is trying to root them out, but it's having little success. Instead, the Kingdom of God is expanding explosively: Many people from this part of the world are coming to Christ and finding their way to a house church.

House church leader Darya\* explains: "The hearts here are so ready that when we evangelize, many people give their life to Christ. For example, when believers in a taxi, a bus or other public place talk about Jesus Christ, many people beg with tears to hear more. Unfortunately, there's much to harvest, but the workers are few."

### May 8

Pray for house church leaders such as Darya\* who lead boldly despite the risks.

### May 9

Pray for more workers to help gather the harvest.

### May 10

Pray that young leaders would receive the training and discipleship they need to help lead the church in the future.

### May 11

Pray for imprisoned house church leaders—that they are able to share the gospel even in chains.

### May 12

Pray nothing can stop the spread of the gospel and that networks of house churches would have unity.

### May 13

Pray for the success of post-prison trauma care conferences outside Iran that Open Doors' ministry partners host for believers and their families, after these believers are forced to flee their homes.

### May 14

Pray for comfort and provision for the children and other family members who are left behind when believers are imprisoned for their involvement in house churches.



## One year later: Sri Lanka

Sunil is an Open Doors partner in Sri Lanka. When three churches and three hotels were bombed on Easter Sunday 2019, Sunil risked his life by going to Batticaloa, where Zion Church was attacked. Ever since that day, he has stood by Sri Lankan Christians on your behalf.

"From previous crises, we know that victims get all the attention and support they need in the first days and weeks, but after a month, the visits grow less and less, until they are left by themselves," Sunil shares. "But our message is: We are here and we are here to stay ... On behalf of Open Doors and its supporters, I've visited Batticaloa several times to stand with our Christian brothers and sisters who were struck by this tragedy."

### May 15

Pray for continued comfort for the families and friends of more than 250 people who lost their lives in the attacks.

### May 16

Pray for wisdom and energy for Sunil and other Open Doors partners as they continue to stand by victims of the bombings.

### May 17

Debbie is a 6-year-old girl who lost her sight and her parents in the bombings. Pray she continues to experience the deep love of God in a special way.

### May 18

Praise God that your support enabled Open Doors' local partners to help Vijitha, a young mother, by replacing the motorbike she lost in the bombing. Pray that God will continue to provide.

### May 19

Pray for healing as Open Doors supports believers with trauma care and counseling through local partners.