

| Easter

Thursday 1 April – Maundy Thursday

As the church worldwide prepares to celebrate Easter, pray for believers who cannot meet in person, either due to Covid restrictions or because it is dangerous or illegal to worship together in public. Pray for creative ways to connect with one another safely, and pray that they will know the peace and presence of the risen Christ.

Friday 2 April – Good Friday

“When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). As we take time today to worship our crucified Saviour, pray that His name will be lifted high around the world and that many will be drawn to His saving love.

Saturday 3 April

Pray for safety for Christians taking part in Easter celebrations this weekend. Remember also those bereaved or injured in the Easter bomb attacks in Sri Lanka in 2019 and in Pakistan in 2016. Pray for God’s continued comfort and healing.

Sunday 4 April – Easter Day

“Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” (Romans 8:34) Join with our persecuted family in giving thanks that neither trouble, hardship,

persecution, famine, danger or sword can separate us from the love of Christ.

| Persecuted Women

Monday 5 April

The vision of Open Doors’ *See. Change.* campaign is that every woman persecuted for her faith and gender is seen, valued and empowered to reach her God-given potential. Pray for Open Doors partners across the world working to restore hope and dignity to our sisters through relief aid, trauma care, livelihood skills and biblical training.

Tuesday 6 April – Bangladesh

Pray for women attending women’s discipleship classes, supported by Open Doors. Many people have come to the Lord and been baptised through these classes. Pray that the students will be able to apply what they learn in their churches and communities.

Wednesday 7 April – Maldives

The Maldives government has reiterated its commitment to empowering girls and women and combatting gender-based violence. The Child and Family Protection Service has also stated it is endeavouring to inspire higher self-esteem and value in girls, develop every woman as a capable individual, and increase women’s inclusion in senior posts. Praise God for this huge step forward in women’s rights and pray for those

implementing these initiatives to bring about real change.

Thursday 8 April - Ethiopia

Give thanks that widow and mother of four Manayesh, whose neighbours vandalised her house and took her oxen when she accepted Jesus, has been able to start a small but successful sheep farm with a loan from Open Doors partners. “Because of the support, I have been changed and have found value,” she says. Pray with her that her community will accept her. “With God, they can change,” she says.

Friday 9 April – Tanzania

Aisha* (18) secretly converted to Christianity after graduating from high school. She was selected to attend a college, but when her family learnt of her conversion, they rejected her and stopped paying her college fees. Pray for the Lord’s encouragement, and His provision so she can continue her studies.

Saturday 10 April – Libya

Emna* is being threatened by her husband because of her faith in Jesus. Pray for protection over her life, and pray that her husband will become curious about what she has found in this ‘Jesus’, so that he may find new life too.

Sunday 11 April - Iraq

Violence against women has increased during lockdown. Pray for Iraqi human rights and women’s activists who have launched a social media and activism campaign to stop the violations against women. Pray that this will successfully

raise awareness and lead to the adoption of laws that protect women’s rights.

| Ramadan

Monday 12 April

For many Muslims, Ramadan is a time of heightened spiritual awareness. As many spend more time in prayer and meditation, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to them that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

Tuesday 13 April

Pray for wisdom and boldness for Christians in Muslim-majority areas looking for ways to share the love of Christ with their Muslim neighbours during Ramadan. Pray that many Muslims will begin their journey towards Jesus as a result of their witness.

Wednesday 14 April

Ramadan is a lonely time for many believers from Muslim backgrounds (BMBs), especially those who must keep their faith secret. Many feel intimidated because they are not fasting. Pray that isolated believers will know the Lord’s comfort and be strengthened in their faith.

Thursday 15 April

“There are strong spiritual forces that fight against BMBs to make them suffer and bring them back to Islam,” says an Open Doors expert. Pray for spiritual protection for BMBs so they will not be tempted to deny their faith in Jesus.

*Name changed for security reasons



Old traditions, new opportunities

HOW NAIDA FROM CENTRAL ASIA IS REACHING HER MUSLIM FRIENDS AND FAMILY THROUGH RAMADAN

For many Christians from Muslim backgrounds, choosing to follow Jesus means leaving behind the practices of Islam – often at the risk of exclusion and discrimination from relatives and friends. But Naida*, a believer from Central Asia, knew that Muslim festivals like Ramadan were her only chance to share Jesus with her family and friends. The question was, how?

Naida, now in her 70s, first heard about Jesus through her children. She was angry and upset, thinking that they had fallen in with a sect. But she also feared for her children's safety – she knew they could be beaten or even killed by their Muslim relatives.

"Because of my fear, I became the main source of

persecution for my children," she says. "I tried to stop them visiting church and forced them to stay at home. I threw away their Christian books and Bibles, talked to them with a lot with threats and even beatings... I didn't know that God protected them; now I feel so sorry about that. I can see that Jesus came to save our family through my children and I am so grateful."

"I can see that Jesus came to save our family through my children and I am so grateful"

Eventually, Naida came to know the Lord herself when He healed her after a period of ill-health. Her children prayed with her, and that's when she chose to invite Jesus into her life. "Since

then, my life has completely changed," she says.

For several years after becoming a Christian, Naida didn't celebrate Ramadan – a festival which used to mean so much to her. This made her relatives angry, and Naida became concerned. While she felt that Christians couldn't follow Muslim traditions, it was important for her to reach her Muslim sisters and brothers, cousins and other relatives with God's love.

After a lot of prayer, study and advice from her pastor, Naida decided to celebrate Ramadan again, but this time in a completely new way. Now, during the festival, Naida cooks different traditional dishes and invites her Muslim sisters, brothers, cousins and neighbours. In this way, she shows them her respect for their religious traditions and values, and at the same time she is able to share the gospel.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Naida couldn't celebrate Ramadan in the same way in 2020, but she prepared the table

anyway and invited her Muslim neighbour Galia*. They celebrated Ramadan and spoke about Jesus together. Praise God for Naida's courage!

PRAY

- That God would keep using Naida to courageously share the gospel with her friends and relatives
- That God would encourage and protect secret believers during the month of Ramadan
- For Open Doors partners in Central Asia as they strengthen more believers like Naida.

*Names changed for security reasons.



Please pray for believers to be bold like Naida this Ramadan (IMAGES ARE ILLUSTRATIVE)

| Ramadan

Friday 16 April – Africa

“We see increased fear among Christians during Ramadan,” says a church leader in Kenya. “People have started staying home, no longer moving around as freely as before. This is also affecting church attendance as many stay away for fear of attacks.” Pray for physical protection for Christians and churches during Ramadan.

Saturday 17 April – Africa

Ask the Holy Spirit to be at work among Islamic extremist groups like Boko Haram in Nigeria, al-Shabaab in Somalia and ex-Seleka in Central African Republic. Pray that Jesus will be revealed to them in dreams and visions during Ramadan, and that their hearts will be changed by His love.

Sunday 18 April – Africa

There is an urgent need for Christians who can stand by believers from Muslim backgrounds (BMBs), to disciple them and model the Christian life to them. Pray that churches will be places where BMBs are warmly welcomed and receive the love and care they need – especially during Ramadan.

Monday 19 April – Africa

Open Doors provides training for church leaders in caring for BMBs. Pray that these courses will bear fruit and that new believers will be given the practical care and discipleship support they need to grow in their faith.

Tuesday 20 April – Indonesia

Slamet was rejected by his family when he became a believer, but he still plans to visit them this Ramadan because he wants them to know about Jesus. Pray for courage and protection as he shares the good news and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of his children and relatives to receive the seed of the gospel.

Wednesday 21 April – Bangladesh

Many BMBs still live among their Muslim relatives. Pray for the children of believers who may feel envious seeing their Muslim family members and friends breaking their fast together with joy. Pray for wisdom for parents to be able to explain the reason why they no longer take part in the fast and go to the mosque together.

Thursday 22 April – Malaysia

Believers from Muslim backgrounds often visit their families during Ramadan, but these visits can be incredibly difficult, as not every family member supports their decision to follow Christ. Pray for wisdom for these believers and ask God to use them to open the hearts of their families to the love of Jesus.

Friday 23 April – Brunei

Ramadan is observed strictly among Muslims and non-Muslims in Brunei. Non-Muslims can only eat in secret. “We can’t eat or drink whenever we want,” shares one young Christian. “We must wait for break time or after we reach home.

Sometimes I sneak food into my schoolbag and munch on snacks when no one is watching. Pray that the Muslims in my country will be more considerate to non-Muslims on the restrictions during Ramadan. Pray that our ministers will take this matter into consideration.”

Saturday 24 April – Maldives

Ramadan is one of the most sacred times of the year here. Eating or drinking in public, even if you are a tourist, is frowned upon, and most restaurants are closed during the daytime. Marketplaces are packed as people prepare for breaking of fast meals. Pray that as families fast and have meals together, they will sincerely seek God and find Jesus.

| Colombia

Sunday 25 April

Church leaders who actively share the gospel and speak out against corruption and violence are often targeted by guerrillas and other criminal groups. Pray for protection for those facing threats of violence and for courage to continue sharing Jesus, no matter the cost.

Monday 26 April

Pastor Perea leads ten congregations along the Atrato River in Chocó, a region where many paramilitary groups are active. Ask God to protect and strengthen Perea, his family and his church community as they follow Jesus in this challenging environment.

Tuesday 27 April

Pray for plans to extend the Children’s Centre and increase its capacity to take in young people at risk from guerrilla groups and drug cartels. Ask the Lord to provide new teachers and tutors with the right skills and spiritual maturity to care for these vulnerable young people.

Wednesday 28 April

The Covid-19 pandemic is presenting new challenges to the staff and students at the Children’s Centre. Pray for wisdom in implementing measures around social distancing and self-isolation, and pray that staff will find ways to provide online learning for those unable to return to the centre after holidays.

Thursday 29 April

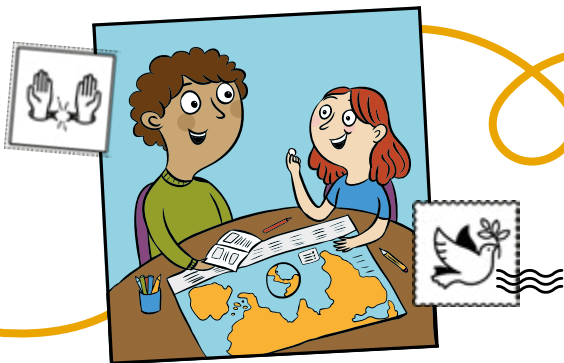
Fredy works among the Wounan indigenous people of San Juan River, Chocó, and is translating biblical resources for children into the language of the Wounan tribe. Ask the Lord to bless his work and to provide the resources needed to print and distribute the materials to the Wounan people.

Friday 30 April

The Open Doors Colombia team has recently relocated its office. Pray for the swift completion of the new office, and in particular for a good internet provider and service. Pray that these changes will not interfere with the work of serving the persecuted church.



Joy and laughter at the Children’s Centre



Pray your way around the world!

HELP CHILDREN TO PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH WITH OUR **WORLD WATCH LIST 2021 RESOURCES**

While physical travel might be on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions, children can pray their way around the top 50 countries on the World Watch List using their very own Prayer Passport and map!

The Passport contains plenty of activities, prayer points, Bible verses, stickers and flags to colour in. It also comes with a full-colour map, so that each week children can place a sticker on the country they are praying for. See how many countries you can travel to this year!

The Prayer Passport and map are free to order from our

website, where you can find lots of other all-age resources to inspire you in your faith and to help you pray for your persecuted church family.

Go to opendoorsuk.org/wwl or phone our Inspire team on 01993 460015 to order a copy.



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