

# PRAYER FOCUS

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## AFGHANISTAN

### ANCHORED IN CHRIST

Amir (not his real name) is a 27-year-old Christian from eastern Afghanistan, who had a divine encounter with Christ six years ago. He was frustrated in life, due to his failure to get a university admission. He contemplated committing suicide, but God intervened through a dream. Amir saw a man with a radiant face, wearing a white robe and his feet not touching the ground. The man said, "Do not be afraid. Follow me."

That divine encounter led him to Christ, whom he gladly acknowledged as his Lord and Savior. He has followed Him ever since. When his family found out about his conversion, they put pressure on him to revert to Islam, but he refused. At the same time, his 14-year-old sister also accepted Christ.

When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August 2021, Amir knew it was no longer safe to stay in the country. He took his sister in hopes of going to Pakistan. Unfortunately, he could not bring his sister with him due to safety reasons along the way. He decided to leave her to a trustworthy family so he could return for her later. However, his family found the girl and gave her to the Taliban in marriage.

Amir made it safely to Pakistan. Still angry, his family sent him a message saying that they would come after him and kill him. He said he was not afraid.



*Secret meetings continue among Afghan believers.*

He had openly professed his faith since he received Christ, which is why he does not have many friends.

Let us pray for Amir's safety as he waits to be relocated to a third country. Pray for his sister to miraculously get out of captivity from the Taliban.

Amir is one of many Afghan Christians, who frantically ran to Pakistan and neighboring countries for safety when the Taliban took over. Many left behind have gone 'underground' to avoid being captured by the Taliban, who have offered financial compensation to

anyone who turns in any Christians. They are working to eradicate Christianity. Christians are not safe in Afghanistan, but praise God for those who are deeply rooted in the Word. They do not give up their faith despite the terror they are facing. They know where to put their anchor. The light of Jesus shines forth in darkness. Secret prayer meetings continue. As the nation plunges into deeper uncertainties, some Muslim Afghans have grown weary, and their hearts have become open to the Gospel. Although risky, believers reach out to them, especially those in rural and mountainous areas.

Continue to remember our Afghan brethren. Pray that they will remain strong as they fix their eyes on Jesus; God's peace, protection, and supernatural provision be upon them, and God will use them to harvest countless lost souls to God's Kingdom.

Pray also for our country team to make the right connections to send help to our Christian brethren inside Afghanistan.



**"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."**

**Matthew 10:32-33 (NIV)**

# Prayer Calendar August 2023

**1 (TUE) AFGHANISTAN** Pray for the safety of Afghan Christians in hiding as the Taliban target them.

**2 (WED) AFGHANISTAN** Pray as Ethnos Asia make ways to provide Bibles for Afghan Christians.

**3 (THU) PAKISTAN** Pray that trainers will be raised among the seventy trainees, who graduated from the Basic SowH course last month.

**4 (FRI) PAKISTAN** Pray that doors will be opened for more SowH training in Pakistan.

**5/6 (SAT/SUN) CAMBODIA** Pray for comfort upon the family of Evelyn, our FEC principal, whose father passed away last month.

**7 (MON) CAMBODIA** Pray for pastors and leaders to be equipped, built up and encouraged as we relaunch the Church Empowerment Program in Cambodia.

**8 (TUE) CAMBODIA** Pray for our FEC staff as they continue to serve and, by faith, believe that God will keep FEC in place as part of the EAM vision for Cambodia.

**9 (WED) BANGLADESH** Pray for the safety of our four Rohingya brothers secretly discipling Rohingya converts inside the refugee camp.

**10 (THU) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES** Pray for the KT4C leaders as they face the challenges of sharing the Gospel among young people who are mostly Buddhists and Animists.

**11 (FRI) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES** Pray for Sunday School children to be drawn to attend Sunday classes regularly.

**12/13 (SAT/SUN) NE INDIA** Pray for successful implementation of the Church Empowerment Programs in the northeast region these coming months.

**14 (MON) NE INDIA** Pray for believers in Chhattisgarh State, where Hindu extremists persecute Christians severely.

**15 (TUE) SRI LANKA** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a nearly USD 3 billion bailout facility for Sri Lanka to help stabilize its economy. Pray that the government can restructure its debt in time for the September deadline set by IMF for funds to be released.

**16 (WED) SRI LANKA** The number of dengue-related deaths has increased to thirty-three. 52,021 dengue cases were reported by the National Dengue Control Unit this year. Pray for God's protection of the affected communities.

**17 (THU) BHUTAN** Pray for the Doya Community in southwest Bhutan who requested more leadership training after experiencing church growth within two months after their training.

**18 (FRI) BHUTAN** Pray against hindrances in conducting discipleship training in eastern Bhutan.

**19/20 (SAT/SUN) LAOS** Pray for strength, comfort and protection upon believers in Salavan province, in southern Laos, who have experienced heavy persecution recently.

**21 (MON) LAOS** Pray for our Lao-Chinese brethren reaching out to tribal people in remote places.

**22 (TUE) LAOS** Pray for one of our Bru Core Team, who has been in police custody since June, to be released from prison. Pray against any false accusation.

**23 (WED) CHINA** Pray for Christians to be protected as the government continues to implement laws restricting citizens.

**24 (THU) VIETNAM** Pray for church members working in the industrial areas. Many have lost their jobs because their companies have closed.

**25 (FRI) NEPAL** Nepal is said to be the most religious Hindu country in the world. Pray for the people to be free from this evil bondage and see the light of Christ.

**26/27 (SAT/SUN) NORTH KOREA** Pray for the safety of secret believers who bravely work with foreign organizations, giving pertinent information about situations inside the country.

**28 (MON) NORTH KOREA** Pray for strength upon Christians who experience double hardship due to food crises and are being hunted for following Christ.

**29 (TUE) MYANMAR** Pray for wisdom and safety upon our country working team who continue to conduct discipleship training despite the country's situation.

**30 (WED) MYANMAR** Pray for the safe distribution of 20,000 copies of the Myanmar-English New Testament, which have been printed and arrived safely in our warehouse.

**31 (THU) MYANMAR** The annual opium survey conducted by the UN, showed that production in Myanmar has risen. Farmers from remote areas have been involved in crop substitution projects over the past decade. But this has changed because of the war. Pray that these farmers will see the evil effects of drugs and not participate in their production.