

# SEPTEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

*\*Name changed for security reasons*



*Jemal\*, an Ethiopian believer*

### **MEN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

**1**

Pray with Jemal\*, an Ethiopian believer whose successful woodworking and steel businesses were destroyed in Islamic extremist mob attacks. “Pray for [Christians to regain] influence in our community,” he says.

**2**

Where Jemal lives, Muslims have isolated the Christians. It’s difficult, even dangerous, for children to go to school by themselves. He asks us to pray: “In every place I go, pray for God to give me boldness.”

**3**

Pray that God will strengthen Pastor Zumai\* in Nigeria. He is walking daily with his wife through the trauma she suffered in militant captivity.

**4**

Pray for men throughout sub-Saharan Africa whose families are displaced from their homes due to violence. Extremists know that men struggle with feeling inferior and weak when their families must depend on others to survive.

**5**

Praise God for His provision. Pastor Barnabas in Nigeria shared a thank you message. While his family still lives in an IDP camp, his children are now back in school “because of the support I received from the ministry,” he says.

**6**

Pray for God’s strength for Christian men in Cameroon’s Far North, a region terrorized by Boko Haram. Men carry the weight of providing for and protecting their family from attack and kidnapping.

**7**

Adam and his family of six are also displaced from their home in Far North Cameroon. He has been kidnapped twice. Pray with him that the nightmares will stop.

**8**

Praise God with us for Adam’s escape from captivity. He escaped when the men guarding him fell into a deep sleep—the night before he was to be executed.

**9**

Adam leads his local Christian community. Pray for protection. “We keep fleeing because there is no peace,” he says. “Pray with us that God will make a way.”

**10**

Pray with pastors throughout sub-Saharan Africa who are often targets of persecution. Thank God for pastors who take this risk to lead and disciple the church.

**11**

Pastor Sore shared an update: His Muslim father has come to live with him on the land Soré’s family settled on after his family was displaced. “Pray for the conversion of my father and his family,” Soré asks.

**12**

Speak Bishop Wilfred Anagbe’s name today. And pray for his village in Nigeria’s Benue State. His testimony before the US Congress drew threats by both Islamic extremist groups and the Nigerian government.

**13**

Pray that God would use Bishop Wilfred’s testimony to wake up world leaders to the violence against God’s people in Nigeria and throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Pray for conviction and urgent action.

**14**

Pray for Father Solomon Atongo in Benue State who was shot in the leg returning from a memorial service. His two companions were abducted. Pray for his comfort and perseverance.

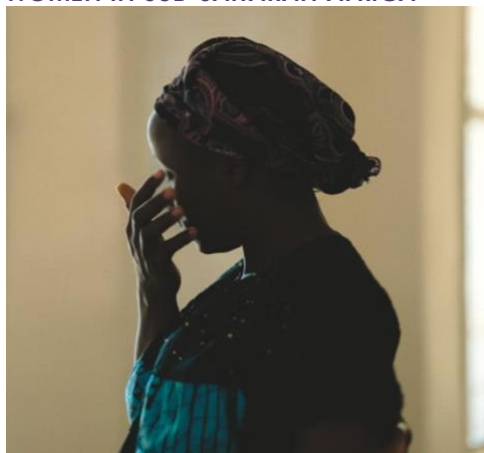
**15**

Pray for fathers in Gwer West in Benue State, where a string of armed attacks left more than 40 people dead. *God, we pray right now for the fathers who are hurting and feel emasculated. Please bolster them with Your strength and peace that surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:7).*

**16**

Kidnapped women who escape captivity often come home with children born in captivity. Some return pregnant. Pray for the men who are struggling to accept these children or pregnancies. Extremists use rape as a weapon against both women and men.

#### **WOMEN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**



*Rifkatu\* shares her story*

**17**

Rifkatu\* was kidnapped four weeks after her wedding. She endured unimaginable violence at the hands of her captors. Praise God for her release and pray for continuous healing.

**18**

Terrible nightmares of Fulani militants chasing her continue to plague Rifkatu. Pray that the Prince of Peace will take away these nightmares and give her much-needed rest.

**19**

Rifkatu desperately wants to relocate for her family's safety. "Pray that God will change the area where I live," she asks. "I have a strong desire for God to change it."

**20**

Today, pray with Hakuri\*, a widow in Niger. "Pray for peace in our region; pray against insecurity," she asks. "We are afraid of what is happening. Every day we hear guns shoot."

**21**

Pray with widows who often ask for faithful resilience. Hakuri says: "I beg Christians around the world to pray for us—we need peace; pray so that God will make our faith to be strong in Christ to endure persecution."

**22**

Pray that widows would be economically resilient and not susceptible to lures and schemes. Poverty can often result in desperation and surrender.

**23**

Pray with widows who are also mothers and must protect and care for their children as single parents. One widowed mother shared with us: "Every day, I pray for peace and the health of my children."

**24**

Pray for women in sub-Saharan Africa today who are waking up in tears, grieving for their husbands, children and those they have lost to Islamic extremist attacks on their villages.

**25**

Pray that God would protect women in sub-Saharan Africa who have suffered sexual violence for their faith—restoring them in every area.

**26**

Rifkatu found healing at Open Doors' trauma care center in northern Nigeria. Ask God to bless the Shalom Center and its workers abundantly.

**27**

Ask God to raise up more trauma care workers. Pray for workers' emotional and spiritual well-being as they listen to repeated accounts of sexual violence.

**28**

Pray that women who have suffered so much for their faith would be reminded in unimaginable ways that through their faith, they are daughters of God (Gal. 3:26) and co-heirs with Christ.

**29**

Pray with female captives who are physically enslaved to their captors. Pray they will remember that because of Christ's work on the cross, they are no longer spiritually enslaved.

**30**

Pray for women in sub-Saharan Africa—the torchbearers for the next generation, the hand holders, the tear catchers. Ask God to give them special blessing.

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***"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."***

*1 PETER 5:10*