

IDOP 2024 PRAYER GUIDE

Allow Iranian believers who have suffered for their faith in Christ to guide you in prayer.

MAGDA



PERSECUTION IN FAMILY LIFE

“I was in front of two judges. They said, ‘We will give you one chance... If you say to us you are not a Christian, we will give you back your daughter...’ I felt I was dying.”

MAGDA'S STORY

As a young mother, Magda was forced to make an unthinkable choice. Magda's husband divorced her and claimed custody of their young daughter: he viewed Magda as unclean for being a Christian and he believed the courts would agree. Magda fought hard to regain custody and then, in the highest family court, two judges made her an offer: recant your faith in Christ to get your daughter back. When she bravely refused to deny her faith, Magda had no idea it would be more than 20 years before she and her precious daughter would be reunited.

VERSES FOR MEDITATION

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze... Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.

Isaiah 43:1a-2 & 5 (ESV)

MAGDA'S POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray that any Christian in Iran who has been separated from their child or other loved one - either by unjust laws, imprisonment or exile for their faith - would know that God is with them: the waters will not sweep over them nor the fire consume them.
- Pray that God would heal and redeem those wounded and scarred by life-shaping injustices. Pray they would come to see their wounds as beautiful because their sacrifice brings them to a closer resemblance of our scar-marked Savior.
- Pray that Christians in Iran would be granted greater freedom in family life: that they would not be discriminated against in custody cases, and that they would be free to raise their children to know Christ.



Scan this QR code to hear Magda's astonishing story on the *Jesus Speaks Farsi* podcast.

Don't miss a special update with Magda about her recent reconnection with her daughter! Scan the second QR code to hear a bonus episode with Magda on *Jesus Speaks Farsi*.





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EDUCATIONAL PERSECUTION

ROOZBEH



"In the second year of my Bachelor of Arts in Music my faith in Jesus was discovered. Despite completing my studies, the university refused to issue my certificate."

ROOZBEH'S STORY

Roozbeh became a Christian not long before commencing a music degree in Iran's capital, Tehran. In his second year of studies, the university faculty discovered Roozbeh's faith and suspended him for a semester. Though he was later allowed to continue, he was forbidden from talking about Jesus on campus. At the end of his studies, Roozbeh was told his degree certificate was being withheld. Despite being a top student, Roozbeh has never received proof of his studies. Today, Roozbeh is a much-loved worship leader in the Iranian church. He is one of many Iranian believers who have faced challenges in their education because of their decision to follow Christ.

VERSE FOR MEDITATION

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13 (ESV)

ROOZBEH'S POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray that Christian students will have wisdom as they live for Christ at school or on campus – that they will be able to be a light to their peers and teachers without being denied access to their education.
- Pray that God would strengthen and encourage the hearts of those who have experienced injustice through the education system because of their faith in Christ.
- Pray for those who will not be able to pursue careers that they had aspired to, or for those facing financial pressure because of stunted education. Pray that they will receive favor as they enter the job market, and that the Lord would open their hearts to new passions as they look for work.

Scan the QR code to hear Roozbeh tell the story of how he became a follower of Christ on the *Jesus Speaks Farsi* podcast.



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SAEED & SETAREH



ISOLATION

“We were Christians for about five years before we met other believers. Isolation is hard. We began to really grow in faith only when we found fellowship.”

For security reasons, pseudonyms have been used.

SAEED AND SETAREH’S STORY

Saeed and Setareh came to Christ in Iran about eight years ago through Christian TV. For five years they were isolated, fed solely by TV and online resources. The hostility of the regime meant finding fellowship was not easy. Then they got connected with another Christian. They were discipled through the *Safar* discipleship journey, and started meeting with other believers. It proved transformative. Within three years, Saeed and Setareh had become passionate evangelists, planting multiple house churches with dozens of members. While Saeed and Setareh now enjoy rich fellowship with others, the isolation they previously endured is sadly still faced by many Christians across Iran today.

VERSE FOR MEDITATION

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10: 24-25 (ESV)

SAEED AND SETAREH’S POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray that God would encourage isolated believers, and that they would be built up through Christian TV ministry, online resources, and digital connections with others.
- Pray that doors would open for isolated Christians to safely meet other believers, so that they can grow into the calling God has for them.
- Pray that Elam’s *Weekly Fellowship* resource would increasingly be used to help small gatherings of family or friends who have turned to Christ to meet for worship, teaching, and fellowship, even if they cannot find a local house church to join.

Scan the QR code to read the next part of Saeed and Setareh’s story in the latest edition of the *Iran and Beyond* magazine.



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FINANCIAL PERSECUTION

REZA



“They seized my money and property in Iran because of my ministry. But what the Lord has given me is worth infinitely more than houses or assets.”

REZA'S STORY

Reza comes from a Muslim background and became a Christian in 1968. He built an agricultural business inside Iran which became very successful. He later relocated to the UK with his family. Together, with his friend, Sam Yeghnazar, Reza founded a Bible school for Persian speakers to strengthen Iran's church in the wake of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution - this Bible school later became Elam Ministries. As a direct result of Reza's ministry to serve and strengthen Iran's church, an Iranian Revolutionary court order confiscated all of his assets and properties of considerable value. Reza is one of many Iranian believers who have suffered financially because of their Christian faith.

VERSE FOR MEDITATION

The rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
Psalm 19:9b-10 (ESV)

REZA'S POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray that Iranian Christians will be protected in the realm of work - that they would be able to glorify God with their gifts and live with integrity for Christ without fearing for their livelihoods.
- Pray for those who have lost jobs, opportunities for promotion, business licences, pensions, or other assets because of their faith. Pray they would know the love and provision of God more deeply than ever.
- Pray that there would be a decrease in the financial persecution of Iran's Christian community, so they can increasingly be generous to those around them as a witness to the goodness of God.

Scan the QR code to subscribe to monthly emails with fresh prayer needs and encouraging updates from the Iranian church.

