

Will you pray with me on June 22?

Tue, Jun 10, 2025



Each year, **Open Doors Canada** invites us to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are imprisoned, abducted, or held captive simply because of their faith. It's called [One With Them](#) — and as churches and believers from coast to coast gather together, it's deeply meaningful.

Over the years, through heartfelt conversations and their incredibly helpful resources, I've learned so much from the team at Open Doors. One of the most powerful shifts for me? Realizing that those we often refer to as “the persecuted church” aren't distant strangers — **they're our family**. Brothers and sisters. Parents, children, nieces, nephews. And we're called to stand with them.

This year, Open Doors is introducing something new:

The One With Them Challenge

Rooted in 1 Corinthians 12:26 — “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it” — this Challenge helps us step into prayerful solidarity in a small, personal, and practical way. Over the course of a week, you’ll receive short daily challenges by text or email — spiritual disciplines designed to help you reflect, pray, and stand with our persecuted family.

[I’m signing up. I hope you will too.](#)

Your prayers DO make a difference.

Last year, we prayed for **Mehdi Akbari**, a believer in Iran who was arrested in 2020 and sentenced to 10 years in prison for forming a house church. This year, by God’s grace, **he’s been released!** His freedom is worth celebrating — but he still carries grief over the recent loss of his teenage son and battles significant health challenges. His story reminds us why prayer matters — and why it’s needed more than ever.

Sunday: June 22, 2025

On Sunday, June 22nd, across Canada, churches will gather to lift up believers like Mehdi — men, women, and children who are courageously holding onto faith where it costs the most.

Getting involved is simple. You can register your church and download free resources right [here](#). A fantastic toolkit has been created, free of charge.

You’ll find everything you need:

- What if Your Faith Was Considered a Crime?: A compelling [video trailer](#) to share with your church
- Sermon outlines
- Prayer guides
- Graphics and videos for social media
- Resources tailored for youth and children’s ministry

Download your free church resources

Let’s join together in prayer. Let’s remind our family members facing persecution that they are not forgotten.

I'm expectant about what God will do — and I'd love for you and your church to be part of it.

With gratitude and hope,

Ellen Graf-Martin

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