

Prayer for the Persecuted Church December 1, 2017

From International Christian Concern (ICC)

<http://info.persecution.org/newsbites-december-1>

Three Christian Siblings Attacked in Their Home for Their Faith

11/29/17 Kenya (Morning Star News)

A Christian woman's three children were assaulted just outside of Nairobi, Kenya, by extremist Muslims. The gang forced their way into the house by smashing a window when one of the brothers would not open the door. The three young adults were beaten severely and were eventually rescued by neighbors. Their mother, an immigrant from Somalia, was away for a funeral and not at home when the attack happened. Two are still seriously injured and in pain.

Pray for the full physical and emotional healing of the three children who were attacked.

Pray that their mother would have the strength to help her children through this time.

Pray for the community to continue taking steps to protect each other against such violence.

British Missionary Killed by Kidnappers, Died for Singing Hymn

11/29/17 Nigeria (WWM)

On October 13, 2017, Ian Squire, along with three other aid workers in Nigeria, were kidnapped by members of the gang Egbesu. Three of those who were abducted were later released and told how Squire died on that first day in captivity. Squire's three other companions had asked him to sing a hymn, and he chose "Amazing Grace." When the song ended, and Squire was standing while the others were sitting, suddenly a salvo of bullets hit Squire and he died immediately.

Pray for those who knew and loved Squire as they mourn his loss.

Pray for Squire's charity work to be carried on even in his death.

Pray for the others who were in captivity to be able to heal from their trauma.

Reprieve Granted to Indonesians Fighting Deportation

11/27/17 USA (Middletown Press)

Roughly 50 Christian Indonesians in fear of returning home due to persecution "won another reprieve Monday when a judge ruled that a federal court has the authority to take up their case." The government had been arguing that this case should not be in the federal court and that it was the immigration officials who should be allowed to send the Indonesians back home. The lawyer working on behalf of these Indonesians was pleased by the judge's decision, calling it "enormously significant."

Pray that the judicial system would respond appropriately to those who have come to the US for protection.

Pray for those around the world who are fleeing their homes due to persecution.

Pray for those entering new countries as it is difficult to set up a new life in a new place.

Pastor Murdered in His Home in Lagos by Cultist Group

11/27/17 Nigeria (Vanguard)

Victor Kanayo, a pastor in Lagos State, Nigeria, was murdered in his own home on November 26. It is believed that the cult Badoo Group is responsible for the killing, although it is unclear who the exact perpetrators of the crime are. Several have already been arrested for questioning in connection with this horrific murder. "Eyewitnesses said his killers tattooed a human skull on his left arm after killing him and disappeared from the area without a trace."

Pray for this pastor's friends, family, and parish as they mourn this incredible loss.

Pray that the murderers are found and the violence of this group wanes.

Pray that those in authority would be committed to bringing justice.

Despite Threats, Christian Population Rising in Sudan

11/27/17 Sudan (The Economist)

When Sudan split in 2011, the South took with it the majority of Christians, with the North bringing on more persecution. As churches are being demolished for bulldozing, the government insists that this is due to the buildings being "unlicensed." Since announcing that they would no longer be giving permission for new churches, it is causing concern that greater persecution will be taking place. However, despite increased threats, the Christian population in Sudan continues to grow.

Pray for Christians in Sudan who have less freedom to practice their faith.

Pray for the country as persecution continues to take its toll on the country and its people.

Pray for Christians' faith to remain intact and strong.

Christians in Pakistan Seek Greater Influence in Society

11/27/17 Pakistan (WWM)

The results of Pakistan's first census in almost two decades have left out information on religious minorities. Threats of continuous protests have been made until this information is released. Initially, Pakistan was founded "as a homeland for Muslims...who were back then a minority and were socially and economically behind the Hindu majority." Islam is now the state's religion and has some of the strictest blasphemy laws of any country in the world.

Pray for Christians and all religious minorities in the country, as they face harsh religious laws.

Pray that these religious minorities would be treated with equality.

Pray for Christians' faith to remain strong in a nation that is not friendly toward their beliefs.

From the Voice of the Martyrs website:

<http://www.icommittoprayer.com>

Pray for Htin and His Wife, Kicked Out of Their Village

Nov. 30, 2017 | Myanmar

After placing their faith in Christ in December 2016, "Htin" and his wife became the only Christians in their village. When family and friends learned of their conversion to Christianity, they told Htin that he and his wife were no longer welcome. Villagers then took all of the family's possessions and threatened to kill them if they returned. An evangelist in another village took them in and helped them get additional help from their Christian family. VOM and others provided Htin with equipment to help him restart his painting business. "If I had known the believers around the world were standing with me, I would never have been discouraged," Htin said.

Pray for Imam Fedu, a New Christian Convert

Nov. 30, 2017 | Bangladesh

Imam Fedu, a Muslim scholar and teacher in Bangladesh, recently placed his faith in Christ after receiving a Christian tract and hearing the gospel from a Christian worker. "Jesus is the Savior," Fedu said. He immediately resigned from his Muslim work and made plans to be baptized. "In Scripture, Nicodemus was a big Jewish scholar, but he didn't know how to be born again," the Christian worker said. "It is the same with my friend. When I came back home, Fedu called and [said] he had already led another imam to Christ, and that he gave him a New Testament." Fedu hopes the other imams who served with him at the mosque will all come to know the truth of Jesus. Pray that Fedu will grow in faith and that God will use him to reach other imams, who will then share the gospel with many Muslims. Pray also for the bold Christian worker who is sharing the gospel with Muslim scholars.

Pray for Hoon, Learning About Jesus in China

Nov. 30, 2017 | Korea, North

"Hoon," a North Korean working in China, has been learning about Jesus from a Chinese missionary for several months, but they may no longer be able to meet. Missionary "Lee" gave Hoon an MP3 player to help him study Scripture, and Lee could tell that Hoon was open to the gospel. Recently, however, China has tightened its control over those working with North Koreans, and one of Lee's friends who is a pastor was recently interrogated by Chinese police. In addition, China has considered canceling North Korean work visas because of the country's ongoing nuclear testing. Many North Koreans in China are uncertain whether they will be allowed to stay in the country. Pray that Lee and Hoon will be able to continue meeting and that God will prepare Hoon's heart to receive Him through the hearing of His Word.

From Open Doors Prayer Calendars:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/take-action/pray/monthly-prayer-calendar/>

December 1 | VENEZUELA

Ask God to bring critical encouragement to pastors and ministry leaders in Venezuela during this tumultuous time in their country.

December 2 | TAJIKISTAN

Pastor Bahrom* was convicted and given a three-year prison term on false accusations of extremism. Ask God to give him hope and resilience in the face of this injustice.

December 3 | PHILIPPINES

Pray for the leaders of the Christian group that distributed Bibles in the Maranao language. They stepped out boldly in faith and were met with harsh backlash for their actions.

December 4 | MYANMAR

Pray for Pastor Aung* whose daughter was taken from him and forced to marry a Muslim man. He is also experiencing threatening calls regarding his youngest daughter.

December 5 | TURKMENISTAN

Ask God to protect and encourage pastors and ministry leaders—and to give them courage to boldly share His Word. Refugees

December 6 | VENEZUELA

Pray for Venezuelans, that their hearts remain pure and reliant on Christ during this difficult time for their country and government.

December 7 | PHILIPPINES

Pray for believers—who were displaced from Marawi by Islamic extremists—to find support, aid and refuge.