

Prayer for the Persecuted Church January 19, 2018

From International Christian Concern (ICC)

<http://info.persecution.org/newsbites-january-19>

Christian Killed and Robbed Outside Home in Egypt

1/17/18 Egypt (Coptic Solidarity)

Coptic Christian Adly Younan Riad was killed earlier this month in Beni Sweif by three masked men who waited for him outside of his home. He was killed, then robbed of his gold jewelry, causing concern that the circumstances of this crime mirrors tactics used in the 1980s/90s by terrorists who targeted wealthy Copts to fund their operations. The persecution of Christians greatly increased in the previous year, leaving many fearful of how terrorists will continue to take advantage of their vulnerability in Egyptian society.

Pray for the family of this Christian as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

Pray for violence against Coptic Christians in Egypt to decrease despite rising concerns.

Pray for Christians to serve as a light in their communities as they share the love of Christ.

New Penal Code in Bolivia Could Restrict Religious Freedom

1/17/18 Bolivia (Christian Post)

Church leaders in Bolivia are again concerned with the new impositions from the government since a set of new measures will likely intervene with their freedom of religion. The new penal code could potentially ban evangelism. Unfortunately, it is not the first time that the Bolivian government, under Evo Morales, has introduced new changes that affect Christians. However, this new law brings a new turn for Christians since they will not only be monitored, but could end up in jail for up to 12 years.

Pray for the government of Bolivia to respect its citizens' right to religious freedom.

Pray for evangelism to remain legal, and even increase, in Bolivia.

Pray for Christians to remain safe as they speak out against the new penal code.

100 Al-Shabaab Terrorists Enter Town on Sunday, Villagers Flee

1/17/18 Kenya (All Africa)

Nearly 100 al-Shabaab terrorists entered a village in Lamu on Sunday. According to locals, who have now fled the area, the terrorists gathered all of the villagers and lectured them for over an hour. After this, the terrorists left. The villagers are now living in Kiunga town, but fear that their possessions and homes in Ishakani village will be stolen or destroyed while they are away. However, they promise that they will not return to their homes unless the government establishes local police and places a KDF military base nearby.

Pray for protection for this Christian community from al-Shabaab militants.

Pray for the Kenyan government to offer greater protection to Christians in this village.

Pray for these Christians to hold fast to their faith despite the difficult circumstances.

Religious Intolerance Forcing Minorities to Flee Pakistan

1/16/18 Pakistan (Asia Times)

Christians in Pakistan are continuing to flee the country due to rising intolerance. Harsh blasphemy laws, terrorist attacks and forced conversions mark only a few of the issues facing religious minorities in Pakistan. For many Christians fleeing Pakistan, there are few countries they can afford to flee to. Many go to Thailand where local police do not see them as refugees, but as illegal immigrants. This results in many Pakistani Christians being rounded up in detention centers in Thailand before being sent to Pakistan.

Pray for the government of Pakistan to show greater respect for religious minorities.

Pray for Thailand to be more welcoming to Christian refugees from Pakistan.

Pray for Christians who remain in Pakistan to effectively support one another.

Christians in Lebanon Unite to Help Syrian Refugees

1/16/18 Lebanon (MNN)

Lebanon stands unique in the Middle East because it is the only country in the region to have a Christian president. Though a small nation, it has a large Christian population with more than a hundred evangelical churches. Some of these Christians have joined together to help the Syrian refugees who have been flooding into Lebanon since the start of the civil war in 2011. Through their work, many Muslims have come to know the Gospel and are able to receive assistance as they await news of their future.

Pray for many Syrian refugees to come to Christ through the outreach of Lebanese Christians.

Pray for these new Christians to be able to connect with fellow believers.

Pray for Syrian refugees to see God's provision through these Lebanese believers.

Christian Megachurch Demolished in China

1/15/18 China (Financial Review)

Christians in China experience heavy persecution from the Chinese government, which sees them as a threat to their society. Recently, authorities demolished one of the country's largest evangelical churches, which was home to more than 50,000 Christians. In the last few years, several Christian churches have been demolished by the government with the excuse of expired permits, illegal paperwork, and other unjustified reasons. The government tries to control Christians in China to prevent them from growing.

Pray for members of this church to continue worshipping Christ despite the demolition of their building.

Pray for the Chinese government to allow for greater religious freedom.

Pray for non-believers to come to Christ after seeing the church's response to this obstacle.

From the Voice of the Martyrs website:

<http://www.icommittoprayer.com>

Pray for Aliza, Injured in a Deadly Church Bombing

Jan. 11, 2018 | Pakistan

Aliza, a 1-year-old girl, lost her foot as a result of an injury suffered in the Dec. 17 Quetta church bombing that killed 11 people and seriously injured 50 others. Four suicide bombers approached the Bethel Memorial Methodist Church during a children's Christmas celebration, but only one bomber managed to set off his explosives at the church entrance. The vigilance of church security personnel prevented the bombers from entering the sanctuary and causing more casualties among the 400 believers inside. Pray for the complete healing of Aliza's wounds and for her emotional well-being, and pray for her parents as they care for her and nurture her faith. Also pray for those who lost loved ones and for the others injured in the blast.

Pray for Missionary L, Releasing Gospel Balloons

Jan. 11, 2018 | Korea, North

"Missionary L" is using a simple, time-tested method of sending the gospel into North Korea, but it's not without risk. The missionary releases orange plastic gospel balloons printed with the first chapter of Genesis into the river, where the current carries them to North Korea. While launching the balloons, he often comes dangerously close to North Korean border guards. Pray for Missionary L as he continues to share God's Word in this way. Pray for his safety and pray that God will prepare the hearts of all those who receive the gospel balloons.

Pray for Five Christians Arrested at a Christmas Celebration

Jan. 11, 2018 | Laos

Four Hmong Christians and one Khmu Christian have been in prison since Dec. 30, when they were arrested for hosting a Christmas celebration without the permission of village authorities. One of the men had also showed the JESUS film on a projector to the whole village and started to evangelize in public. He even invited people to accept Christ publicly, which is also prohibited. Police fined each man 2,500,000 kip (about \$300) for bringing four trucks into the village without permission, and no one has been allowed to visit them. Pray that these five believers will remain strong in their faith and will be a light for Christ while in prison. Pray also for their wives, who must care for their families alone and are responsible for bringing food to their husbands in prison.

From Open Doors Prayer Calendars:

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

January 19 | INDIA

Pray for churches in northeast India. Many have yet to understand the impending and arising political situation that will eventually affect the Church at large.

January 20 | SRI LANKA

Villagers recently destroyed a church and warned them to discontinue all worship services. The government officials also sided with the attackers and discouraged the believers from worshipping.

January 21 | EAST AFRICA

Pray for Ibsa (54), a local church leader, ministers to persecuted Christians in East Africa. He attended an Open Doors trauma counseling training and has since helped many dealing with pain and depression. Pray that his ministry continues effectively.

January 22 | KENYA

Please pray for Caroline, widow of one of the four men brutally killed by al-Shabaab militants in the town of Kasala Kairu. She witnessed the attack and is severely traumatized.

January 23 | KYRGYZSTAN

Sister Hamida* has been a believer for 15 years, but her Muslim husband came home one day very angry and beat her and wanted her to refuse her faith. Pray for this sister as she has escaped her husband but struggles with fear and sorrow, and is also forbidden from seeing her children.

January 24 | ERITREA

Christians are mourning the death of Fekadu Debessai Negassi, an Eritrean Christian mother of four, in Metkel-Abet prison. Conditions in this prison are notoriously harsh and inhumane.

January 25 | YEMEN

A Yemeni brother, Jaden*, has requested we join him in prayer for those facing persecution in his nation during war. Pray for bombing victims to forgive persecutors, and for hope and peace to in ltrate.