



Prayer for the Persecuted Church for November 1, 2024

Prayer for the Persecuted Church: Our Best Practices

Our focus in this hour is on prayer for the global church, not ourselves or our local issues. We can talk and even pray for those other things after prayer meeting is over at 1:00 p.m.

We strive to start our prayers by 12:10.

We are blessed to have a growing number of praying people join us. Let's all offer short prayers throughout our prayer time, allowing time for everyone to pray out loud if they wish. We are blessed by prayers when we can hear them, but silent prayers from our people are as valued as spoken ones.

Thank you for praying for the persecuted church. Encourage friends to pray, too!

Pray for imprisoned or kidnapped Christians

CHRISTIANS IN PRISON: This list is only a sample: CAMBODIA: Theary Seng; CHINA: Li Jie, Hang Xiaodong, **Wang Qiang, RELEASED** Yan Hwa, Goa Zhisheng, Wang Yi; Hao Zhiwei, Zhang Shaojie, Li Juncai, Lian Xu Liang; ERITREA: Mussia Ezas, Dr. Kify Gebremeskel, Kidane Weldou, Haile Nayzgi; INDIA: Sarju Prasad, Pastor Sawan; KAZAKHSTAN: Pastor Maximov; NORTH KOREA: Zhang Wen Shi PAKISTAN: Zafar Bhatti; VIETNAM: Nguyen Nang Tinh, Nguyen Trung Ton

KIDNAPPED VICTIMS: Raymond Koh, Gilbert Biswas, Leah Sharibu, Sarah Atef, Joshua Hilmya & wife Ruth Sitepu, Hormoz Diril.

Voice of the Martyrs Global Prayer Guide: Kenya

OVERVIEW:

Kenya is predominantly Christian, but several tribal groups in the north remain largely unreached, and much of the coastal region is predominantly Muslim. Additionally, in the region known as Greater Somalia in northeastern Kenya, 90 percent of the population is ethnically Somali and fervently Muslim. In these areas, Christian missionaries from other parts of Kenya and converts from Islam are often attacked and have been killed. There are some churches in these regions, but their activities are severely limited by the local communities. The Kenyan constitution grants every citizen freedom of religion, but local governments in resistant areas are led by Muslim officials who do little to protect the rights of believers.

MAJOR RELIGION:

78 percent of Kenyans are Christians. However, parts of the country have a Muslim majority with significant Islamist activity and influence.

PERSECUTOR:

Islamic extremists are most active in the north and east, and their activities extend to Nairobi in the south. In the coastal areas, community members and local governments also persecute Christians.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN KENYA:

Christians cannot openly discuss their faith in areas with a Somali majority or areas near the northern border without risk of losing their family, livelihood and standing in their community. There is a significant threat of violence against Christian converts in Somali-majority areas. In eastern Kenya, the al-Shabab Islamic terrorist group attacks Christians, bombing churches and killing believers. In

Muslim-majority coastal and northeastern areas, Christians are persecuted by local governments and rejected by their families and communities.

ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Bibles are available, but they are hard to find in the Muslim-majority areas and in some dialects.

VOM WORK:

VOM supports the widows of Christian martyrs, pastors and evangelists working in hostile areas, and sustainability projects for believers who have been ostracized because of their faith. Our Bible distribution efforts focus on providing Bibles to children and those who speak minority dialects.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- *Pray for believers who are targeted by a terrorist group in northeastern Kenya.*
- *Pray for a Somali Christian family who returned to their community to share the gospel.*
- *Pray for front-line workers in northern Kenya who are under continual threat of attack.*
- *Pray for Pastor Galgalo, and pray that God will raise up more full-time ministry workers.*
- *Pray for Abdiwelli's widow and sons as they learn to overcome fear and forgive his killers.*

From International Christian Concern

Report Shows Christian Persecution Worsening Worldwide

10/24/2024 United Kingdom — A new report shows that Christians around the world are enduring increased levels of violence, discrimination, and other human rights abuses.

The Catholic organization Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) released “Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians Oppressed for their Faith 2022-2024” during an event at the U.K. Parliament. Most countries surveyed saw a dramatic increase in Christian persecution.

The report includes an analysis of Christian persecution in 18 countries from summer 2022 to summer 2024. Global powers such as China and India, as well as Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country, saw increases in Christian persecution and oppression. For the first time in the report’s 18-year history, Nicaragua is included for its government’s extreme oppression of Christians.

- *How to Pray: Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in these countries and many others where it is becoming increasingly dangerous to follow Jesus. P*
- *ray for their protection, health, relationships, and livelihoods as they face discrimination, violence, and even death. Pray that they continue to grow in their faith and be a light in their communities, showing others, including their persecutors, the way to Christ.*

All In: How One Pastor Risks Everything to Share Christ with Fulani Muslims

10/23/2024 Nigeria — A week ago, Pastor Eli Abdullahi Tinau attended a memorial service honoring 29 Christians who were killed by Islamic Fulani extremists in 2015.

The victims, who had sought refuge in a classroom at LGEA Primary School in Nkiendoro, Miango district of Bassa County, were brutally murdered after militants bypassed the military’s protection. Two survivors were critically injured, and one later died from gunshot

wounds.

Pastor Tinau, 35, has come close, many times, to being a victim of Fulani extremist attacks himself. It's simply part of his work as a missionary from Katsina state. Tinau, who also pastors the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) in Nkiendoro, which is about 60 miles from Jos, doesn't let the threat of violence or even death deter him from sharing the gospel with the Fulani. So far, Tinau has led two Fulani to Christ.

- *How to Pray: Pray for Pastor Tinau's continued protection as he faithfully witnesses to Fulani Muslims in Nigeria.*
- *Pray that even the more extremist Fulani Muslims will hear the gospel, repent, and put their trust in Jesus.*
- *Pray that those Pastor Tinau has led to Christ will grow in their faith and lead other Fulani to Jesus.*

A Journey of Resilience

10/23/2024 Kenya — In the quiet village of Salama in Lamu county, Kenya, an act of terror in 2023 altered the trajectory of Josphat Mwendwa's life.

During the attack on his village, which occurred one evening in 2023, Islamic extremists severely injured Mwendwa's father and destroyed or stole his family's possessions. The family fled and relocated to a new village. The trauma they had endured left them emotionally and financially devastated.

"I remember that day like it was yesterday," Mwendwa said of the attack. "It felt like everything we had worked for was shattered instantly. My father was the family breadwinner, and our world crumbled because he is now jobless."

As his family struggled financially, Mwendwa's dream of pursuing higher education seemed impossible. However, hope came in the form of assistance from International Christian Concern (ICC).

- *How to Pray: Pray for Mwendwa as he*

continues his education and pursues the dreams that God has given him.

- *Pray that he and his family can grow in their faith and provide for themselves as they faithfully follow Christ.*
- *Pray that their example of faithfulness inspires other Christians to grow deeper in their faith and moves Muslims to want to learn more about Jesus.*

Christian Convert Assaulted by Relatives in Somalia

10/25/2024 Somalia — As Mohammad Abdul led a Christian worship gathering on the evening of Oct. 5 in his home in Somalia's Lower Juba Region, four Muslim relatives waited outside for the event to end.

As the worship ended, his relatives confronted Abdul, asking him why he was worshipping God differently.

"My prayer is a secret between me and my Lord Isa [Jesus]," Abdul told his relatives. "Why should I pray in public? That's just a way to please men. In my time of worship, I should please only God, who is in the heavenly places. Isa, who saved me, knows my heart, and I am happy in my heart, so leave me alone."

His relatives then assaulted Abdul, hitting him with a blunt object and slapping him in the face.

- *How to Pray: Pray for Abdul as he heals from the attack.*
- *Pray that he continues to grow in his faith and can share the love and good news of Jesus with his family, especially those who attacked him.*
- *Pray that Abdul can forgive his relatives and that they are inspired by his love for them to begin their own relationship with Christ.*

From Mission Eurasia's Prayer Initiative

Hundreds of Christian volunteers, who are working diligently to bring the gospel and the life-saving assistance to the front line in Ukraine, will be gathering together at an upcoming forum in Chernivtsi.

Please pray for the travel arrangements for guests and speakers. Also, please pray that this forum would be a great blessing to those who continually serve amid the cruel reality of war in Ukraine.

While our national leaders in Moldova are preparing to hold an international conference, they are bracing for potential instability as a result of the country's upcoming elections and referendum.

Moldova will vote on joining the European Union the same day as they elect their president. Please pray that the Lord would bring stability during this time so that the church would be able to spread the gospel without fear of legal repercussions.

There are many opportunities for development in youth ministry across the Central Asian country of Tajikistan.

Here our national leaders are advancing their gospel outreach to young people through sports, business, media ministry, social networks, and more. Please pray that these avenues will prove fruitful for the gospel and that many Tajik young people would come to know Jesus.

Our national School Without Walls leaders throughout Eurasia are dedicated to training Christian young people to reach their families and friends for the Lord. In Azerbaijan, there are now many students who are highly motivated for evangelism. Please pray that these young people would have the faith and wisdom to reach out with the gospel, and that their efforts would be blessed by the Holy Spirit.

Open Doors Prayer Calendar

Persecuted children

Friday 1 November

In many countries, Christian children face bullying and isolation because of their faith. These children are often hidden and excluded,

making them harder to reach.

- *Pray for Open Doors partners providing these children with practical and spiritual care.*

Saturday 2 November- Bangladesh

Pray for the children of Christian converts. "When the community cuts off the converts and isolates them, that brings huge emotional damage to their children," says a local partner.

- *Pray that children will have access to Sunday schools where they can be encouraged.*

Sunday 3 November- Bangladesh

"My teachers scold children if they sit with me, saying, 'Don't mingle with the Christian,'" says Rumana (9).

- *Ask God to soften the hearts of her teachers towards her, and pray that other children will be drawn to her kindness.*

Monday 4 November- Bangladesh

Rumana asks us to pray that she can be more courageous to speak about Jesus to others, and that they will receive salvation.

- *Give thanks for her bold faith!*

Tuesday 5 November- Philippines

This month, 450 persecuted children from Muslim backgrounds will come together for Bible teaching and friendship building activities.

- *Pray for protection and that they will connect more deeply to God through His Word.*

Wednesday 6 November - Egypt

- *Give thanks that Julie*, who was bullied at school, is overcoming her anxiety after receiving trauma care through Open Doors partners. "I started to feel inner power to face hard situations,"*

she says. "I learned to speak up and not be afraid because 'If God is for us, who can be against us?'" (Romans 8:31).

Thursday 7 November

Open Doors is committed to strengthening the next generation to stand firm in their faith.

- *Pray for our partners supporting children with trauma care, relief aid, Christian education and Sunday school programmes.*

Barnabas Aid Prayer Journal

FRIDAY 1

Give thanks that Almighty God has knit together believers from every part of the world in communion and fellowship with one another and with Him, through Jesus Christ the Lord. Pray that Christians who suffer persecution, poverty and hunger will be an example to those believers who live in safer parts of the world, as well as being a powerful witness to all those around them. Ask that they will be further filled with the Holy Spirit, and that He will sustain them in their Christian faith, until we all meet as one great multitude that no man can number, "from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9).

SATURDAY 2

The Lord Jesus Christ taught that the world will hate His people because it first hated Him (John 15:18-19). This hatred is the source of all anti-Christian persecution, which will continue until His return. Our Lord also taught that those who endure until the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13). Pray for our brothers and sisters, wherever they are, who bear the brunt of the world's hatred. Pray that their faith will be preserved, and that each one will endure to the end.

SUNDAY 3

Lord Jesus, we lift before You those who have been bereaved through their loved ones' martyrdom. We thank You that You

are the resurrection and the life and for Your assurance that whoever lives and believes in You will never die. Please grant that those who mourn will be comforted by the certain knowledge that their loved ones have been faithful and that the death of Your saints is precious in Your sight. Please inspire and encourage those who remain behind to stay faithful to their calling and to draw strength from the One who comforts those who mourn. (John 11:25)

MONDAY 4

Bishop Nason Baluku, a senior church leader in western Uganda, says that Barnabas Aid's Opportunity Africa initiative is bringing "long-term food security" to hungry Christians. Barnabas has funded the planting of 900 acres of faster growing, disease-resilient cassava - a staple crop in the region. Nearly 14,000 households were supplied with cassava stem

cuttings. "This project will transform people's lives," added Bishop Nason. Cassava growing is just one of our Opportunity Africa projects. Give thanks for this long-term provision of food, and pray for the project's continued success.

TUESDAY 5

In another Opportunity Africa project, 800 households in Uganda have been supplied with female goats. The goats reproduce quickly, and the young can be sold to give an income. The goat's milk can also be used or sold. Each animal's manure can be used as crop fertilizers, and the goats can also provide meat and skins. "God is a loving and faithful Father who remembers and cares for His people," said Eryeza, a 62-year-old church leader who gives thanks that his new goat will provide an income for him and his family when he retires. Join our brother in praising God for His love and care.

WEDNESDAY 6

Dozens of Christians have been slaughtered by Islamists in recent months in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In North Kivu, the worst-affected area, at least 84 were killed by fighters from Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) in July and August. At least five more were killed in the

neighboring province of Ituri. Lift up in prayer the bereaved and traumatized, and ask that the Lord's promises will be their comfort even amidst such terrible suffering (Psalm 119:50).

THURSDAY 7

ISCAP fighters have waged violence in the DRC provinces of North Kivu and Ituri for several years. In August, however, two Christians were killed in an ISCAP attack on a village in the province of Tshopo. The terrorists also killed three soldiers and burned down more than 50 houses. The incident raises concerns that Islamist violence is spreading to new areas of the country. Pray that the Lord will restrain this evil.

From Help the Persecuted Weekly prayer requests

TESTIMONIES

ABBAS'S WIFE OPENS HER HEART TO CHRIST

When Abbas, who lives in Iraq, learned about Jesus and gave his life to Him, he longed for his wife to join him in his faith. However, she rejected his newfound belief and began to monitor him. She secretly checked his phone, instigated conflicts, and forbade him from speaking to their daughters about faith or wearing the hijab.

Every time they argued, Abbas would leave the house, retreat to a quiet place, and cry out to the Lord. He shared his struggles with our Field Minister, Elias, who joined him in prayer.

And the Lord has begun to answer those prayers! Abbas and his daughters started watching worship songs on TV at home, and he slowly began to tell them about Jesus. His wife's attitude began to soften, and one day she asked him, "What has happened to you? You're much kinder than you used to be."

Abbas is continuing to share the gospel with his wife and daughters—and we believe that the Lord is working through him to draw his whole family to Himself!

- *Please pray for Abbas and his family. May his wife and daughters come to know Christ deeply and intimately, and may Abbas remain courageous and bold in his witness to the transformative power of God's love!*

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM OUR FIELD MINISTERS

Rami, Egypt

Our Field Minister, Rami, has asked for prayers for his mother-in-law, who is battling cancer. She has completed her radiation sessions and is in need of prayers for courage and a speedy recovery.

Amin, Lebanon

Amin has requested prayers for courage and wisdom amidst the ongoing conflict in Lebanon. He is ministering to many displaced people who are fleeing persecution.

Wessam, Algeria

Wessam is in the process of adopting a child and is waiting for the final legal papers to be approved. Please pray for a smooth process to welcome the child into their family officially.

Bassam, Morocco

Bassam asked for prayers for his parents. He says, "Despite having heard about faith and Jesus Christ, they have not yet understood the message of salvation. Pray for a touch of the Spirit of the Lord in their lives."

- *Dear Lord, we lift up Rami's mother-in-law, asking for healing, strength, and a swift recovery from her cancer treatments. Grant her courage in this difficult time. Please give Amin wisdom and courage as he ministers to those displaced by conflict. Guide and protect him in his work. For Wessam in Algeria, we ask that the adoption process goes smoothly and that he and his family can soon welcome their child with joy. Please be with Bassam's parents in Morocco. May Your Spirit touch*

their hearts and lead them to a deeper understanding of Your salvation.

BELIEVERS FACING PERSECUTION FROM THEIR OWN FAMILIES

Saeed, Algeria

Saeed was attacked by his younger brother, who struck him on the head with an axe because of his faith in Christ. We thank the Lord that he survived. Our Field Minister Wessam visited him in the hospital, where Saeed shared that he is facing ongoing death threats if he does not abandon his faith and leave his home.

Juliana, Egypt

Juliana, a teenager, recently shared her faith with her family. In response, they are trying to force her into marriage to pressure her into renouncing her faith in Christ.

Shilan, Syria

Shilan fled to Egypt after declaring her faith in Christ. In her escape, she had to leave her young son behind in Syria due to fears for her safety. She is heartbroken and prays for a reunion with her son.

Zeinab, Egypt

Zeinab longs to be with her family, especially because she is expecting a child, but they have rejected her because of her faith. Our Field Ministers have come alongside her, providing Zeinab with living expenses and medical care as she begins to rebuild her life and prepares to welcome her child into the world.

Yasser, Egypt

Yasser is facing persecution from his family because of his decision to follow Christ. He has asked for prayers for God's grace and protection, as his family is planning to use legal means to imprison him in an effort to force him to return to Islam.

- *Dear Lord, we lift up our persecuted brothers and sisters to You. Thank You for protecting Saeed, and we ask for continued safety as he faces death threats. Strengthen Juliana as she*

resists pressure to renounce her faith and comfort Shilan in her separation from her son, bringing them together again. Please be with Zeinab, giving her great peace as she prepares to welcome her child into the world. Protect Yasser from persecution and give him the courage to stand firm in his faith.

BASHIR'S FAMILY, IRAQ

In early September, we shared about the disappearance of Bashir. It is now believed that he was likely murdered by his Islamic tribe because of his faith in Christ. Though his wife and daughters are devastated, they are pressing forward, working at his restaurant to support themselves. Please pray for them as they face the difficult weeks and months ahead.

- *Father in Heaven, we lift up Bashir's family to You in this time of grief and uncertainty. Please comfort his wife and daughters as they mourn, and give them strength as they continue to support themselves. Surround them with Your peace and protection, and remind them of Your unfailing love as they navigate the difficult days ahead.*

ANSWERED PRAYERS

JASSER, EGYPT

Born into a strict Muslim family, Jasser was committed to Islamic obligations until a friendship with a young Christian man named Amer began to change his perspective. Initially hoping to convert Amer to Islam, Jasser instead found himself intrigued by Amer's kindness and the teachings he shared. After watching videos of Christian teaching, he began searching for the truth and eventually surrendered his life to Christ and was baptized.

But persecution came quickly.

His family rejected him, forbidding him from eating with them or even washing his clothes

in the same space. His brother reported him to the National Security, and Jasser was interrogated about his conversion. His family later expelled him from their home, and around that time, he married Rabah. When she discovered his faith, she gave him an ultimatum—revert to Islam or face divorce. Jasser stood firm in his faith, and the court granted the divorce.

Jasser now earns only a small amount at his job. His financial situation is dire, and we came alongside him—thanks to the support of our generous partners—to help him with living expenses. We plan to help him start his own business soon, as he has lots of experience in retail and lives in an area that needs a school supplies store.

He is deeply grateful for the support and prayers, saying, “From the bottom of my heart, I am grateful to the Lord for the support you sent. Because of it, I am now free from my wife’s attempt to force me to return to Islam and give up everything. I can hardly believe it—I am truly free from all the constraints that were imposed on me, thanks to your presence in my life.”

- *Dear Lord, we lift up Jasser to You, thanking You for sustaining him through the trials he has faced for his faith in Christ. We praise You for his perseverance in the face of so much opposition, even from his own family. Please continue to strengthen, protect, and guide him as he seeks to build a new life. May Your grace and peace surround him, and may he feel Your presence every step of the way.*

Pope sets up commission to honour modern-day Christian martyrs

Reuters

Pope Francis leads the Angelus prayer at the Vatican

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - The Vatican will

study the modern-day killing of Christians and try to list “all those who have shed their blood” in the name of Christ since the turn of the century, Pope Francis said on Wednesday.

In a letter released by the Vatican, Francis said he had given the task to the “Commission for New Martyrs - Witnesses of the Faith”, a new working group within the Vatican’s saint-making department.

The move, linked to the upcoming 2025 Jubilee year, follows on from a similar initiative taken by the late Pope John Paul II for the 2000 Jubilee, and comes on the back of renewed concerns about the persecution of Christians around the world.

“Martyrs are more numerous in our time than in the first centuries: they are bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, lay people and families, who in the different countries of the world, with the gift of their lives, have offered the supreme proof of charity,” Francis said.

In a gesture of outreach towards other Christian churches, the pope said the new committee would seek to document killings involving “all Christian confessions”, rather than just Catholics.

Francis renewed his assertion that an “ecumenism of blood” was uniting persecuted Christians of all denominations, and said they would be commemorated with an ecumenical service during the 2025 Jubilee - as had been done in 2000.

In May, the pope said 21 Coptic Orthodox Christians beheaded by Islamic State in Libya in 2015 had been recognised as Catholic martyrs, and called for freedom of worship in China, where religious minorities, including Catholics, have long faced harassment.

(Reporting by Alvise Armellini, editing by Alexandra Hudson)