



# Prayer for the Persecuted Church for November 22, 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: Lian Xue Liang, Lian Chang Nian, Fu Juan, Li Jie, Hang Xiaodong, **RELEASED: Wang Qiang**, Yan Hwa, Goa Zhisheng, Wang Yi; Hao Zhiwei, Zhang Shaojie, Li Juncai; ERITREA: Mussia Ezas, Dr. Kifly 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: KYRGYZSTAN

#### CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN KYRGYZSTAN

##### OVERVIEW:

Kyrgyzstan is a remote mountainous nation with a nomadic tribal culture. It is also one of the poorest former Soviet states in Central Asia. A significant portion of the population has left to work elsewhere, and life in Kyrgyzstan is hard. After decades of Communist rule, most Kyrgyz have returned to their nation's pre-Communist Islamic cultural identity.

##### MAJOR RELIGION:

93 percent of Kyrgyz are Sunni Muslims. 4 percent are Christians.

##### PERSECUTOR:

Christians are persecuted mostly by family members and their communities, including Muslim religious leaders.

#### WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN KYRGYZSTAN:

Some churches worship openly, even in small towns, but being a Christian is difficult because of the Islamic culture. Christian converts are commonly beaten, and the small Christian minority is generally oppressed by society. For example, buses will not stop for those known as Christians in small communities, and believers have difficulty getting jobs and even purchasing goods. In some communities, Muslim leaders have denied the burial of deceased Christians.

##### ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Bibles are more accessible in Kyrgyzstan than in other Central Asian nations. They can be purchased at registered churches in larger cities, but they are expensive. Give Bibles

##### VOM WORK:

VOM provides medical care to Christians injured in attacks and helps believers become self-supporting.

- *Pray that Christian families in the north will become missionaries in the south.*
- *Pray for President Sadyr Japarov and the government.*
- *Pray for revival in the country.*
- *Pray that churches will minister to migrant workers who have returned after losing jobs elsewhere.*
- *Pray for believers' integrity amid widespread corruption.*

*From International Christian Concern*

## **4 Dead After Attack on Christian Farming Community**

11/15/2024 Nigeria — As Kushuwai started harvesting rice with his family on Nov. 8 in Gidan Waya, Jama'a County, he suddenly found himself in the middle of a nightmare. Muslim extremists, believed to be Fulani militants, attacked his farming community, killing four Christians and critically wounding several others. The attack is the latest to hit Southern Kaduna, where farmers are increasingly vulnerable to violence.

- *How to Pray: Pray for comfort for those who lost loved ones.*
- *Pray for better safeguards for this vulnerable community. Pray for Fulani militants across Nigeria to come to know Christ.*

## **Muslim Man Rapes Young Christian Girl at School**

11/15/2024 Pakistan — Earlier this month, a 6-year-old girl was raped by a Muslim security guard at her school in Lahore, Pakistan. The girl is from Faisla town B Block and attends a local private school, according to an ICC staffer. Her family and members of the local Christian community said the staff member, named Husnain,

sexually assaulted her because of her family's Christian faith.

- *How to Pray: Pray for healing for this young girl.*
- *Pray for her to find comfort in Jesus in the depths of her trauma.*
- *Pray for her attacker to be held accountable, but also come to know God.*

## **Nicaraguan Regime Exiles Catholic Bishop**

11/14/2024 Nicaragua — Bishop Carlos Herrera was deported from Nicaragua to Guatemala on Wednesday, according to the media and ICC sources close to the Catholic church in Nicaragua. The move is a continued escalation of the government's longstanding campaign of persecution against the church in Nicaragua and comes as the latest act in a years-long string of persecution.

- *How to Pray: Pray for protection for Christian leaders in Nicaragua.*
- *Pray for revival among leaders in the Nicaraguan regime.*
- *Pray for the church to grow throughout the region.*

## **RedWednesday Event to Commemorate Persecuted Christians**

11/14/2024 Global — Christian charity organization Aid to the Church in Need has organized an event on Nov. 20 to raise awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians worldwide. It will include 300 events across hundreds of cities and more than 20 countries. Churches and religious sites will light up in red as a show of solidarity with those enduring persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

- *How to Pray: Pray for this event to*

*help raise awareness.*

- *Pray for greater concern for the persecuted among Western believers. Pray for solidarity among the global church this holiday season.*

## From Mission Eurasia's Prayer Initiative

With the approach of the Christmas season, our national leaders throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia are diligently preparing to distribute Gift of Hope gift boxes. Many children throughout Eurasia suffer from poverty and face the hopelessness of a future without Christ. But our colleagues are working to change this!

- *Please pray for our teams and volunteers who pack and distribute thousands of gift boxes with toys, candy, and children's Bibles.*
- *Pray for the children and their families who will receive these boxes. May the Lord bless many families in Eurasia this Christmas season.*

One of our colleagues in Kazakhstan is facing legal action for having a Christian ministry operating from his apartment. His family is still in court proceedings and may potentially be forced from their apartment.

- *Please pray for this family to be protected from unjust authorities, and that the Lord would provide abundantly for all their needs.*
- *Pray for the authorities in Kazakhstan to come to know the Lord.*

In Kyrgyzstan, our national leaders who organized children's summer Bible camps have the opportunity to work further with the families who were reached with the gospel during the warm summer months.

- *Please pray for the gospel to take root in the hearts of these Kyrgyz people,*

*and that the Lord would bring many families to know Him.*

- *Pray that the church in Kyrgyzstan would grow mightily and reach the unreached people of their nation with the gospel.*

Nearly a million Ukrainian refugees are currently living in Poland. Many families were torn apart as women and children fled Ukraine, while men were sent to fight. Our national leaders in Poland have been working tirelessly among these refugees since the beginning of the war over two years ago. Please pray that the Lord would encourage our colleagues as they continue in these efforts.

Pray that the Lord would use this time of confusion to bring His gospel to the Ukrainian people, and that many of them would come to know Jesus.

## Open Doors Prayer Calendar

### CENTRAL ASIA

#### November 15

Pray for Ginura\*. She was recently baptized during a secret house church meeting. Pray she can regularly attend a church. November 16 Ginura's family doesn't know about her faith and would not be pleased that she has left Islam. Pray for her protection.

#### November 17

Church leaders in Central Asia are asking us to pray for all believers as raids on churches increase. "Pray that our faith becomes stronger so that we serve with our heads held high."

#### November 18

Thank God that a court case against a believer, Sergei Orlov, was dismissed in Kazakhstan because there was no evidence of illegal missionary activities against him.

## November 19

Pray against proposed legislation in Uzbekistan that would punish parents who allow their children to receive “illegal” religious education before age 18.

## INDONESIA

### November 20

Today marks the three-year anniversary of the attack on Indonesia’s Lewuno village in which four people were killed and the local church was burned down. Pray with them as they grieve this day.

### November 21

Thanks to Open Doors supporters, a new church building has recently opened and has become a beacon of hope for the village. Praise God for how He remembers His people.

## Barnabas Aid Prayer Journal

### FRIDAY 22

Poverty, political instability and the fear of persecution are among the reasons why Christians continue to leave their ancestral homelands in Iraq. Before the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, there were around 1.5 million Christians in Iraq. An increase in sectarian tensions meant that only 700,000 were left by the time Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) seized a third of the country – Christians were among those subjected to violence and displaced from their homes. In recent years it has been estimated that only 150,000-250,000 Christians are left, and this number continues to fall.

- *Lift up in prayer our brothers and sisters who have suffered so much.*

### SATURDAY 23

Please pray for a Christian congregation in Beni Suef, Upper Egypt, after their church building was destroyed in a massive fire. The cause of the fire remains unknown. The five-floor building contained offices and a library, as well as housing three schools. A church leader said it was “divine providence” that none of the children who were in the building

at the time were hurt, but ten adults were hospitalized as a result of the blaze.

- *Pray that the injured will make a full recovery, that frightened children will be comforted, and for God’s providence following the loss of so many important facilities.*

### SUNDAY 24

- *Lord Jesus, with thankful, joyful hearts we celebrate Your kingship and acknowledge You as King of our lives. We praise You that Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and that the glory of Your majesty endures. Help us, Lord, to submit our lives to You and allow Your righteousness to fill us as we grow in obedience and understanding. Please encourage our brothers and sisters who live in lands where they are persecuted for bowing to Your divine authority. Give them grace to follow You whatever the temptations to yield to mortal rulers when they oppose Your kingship, for we ask in Your glorious Name, King Jesus. (Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 11:15)*

### MONDAY 25

“Only God knows how we are going to survive until the next harvest next year,” said Georgina, a farmer in the Mudzi district of Christian-majority Zimbabwe. “I did not harvest anything after all my effort and using all our savings to buy seeds.” Zimbabwe is one of several southern African countries suffering a worsening hunger crisis caused by drought. People there report having no food to give their children. Ask the Lord to bring an end to this crisis.

- *Pray that He will once again provide the earth with rain (Psalm 147:8). Zimbabweans are concerned about feeding their children following poor harvests.*



## **TUESDAY 26**

Voters will go to the polls tomorrow in Christian-majority Namibia, another southern African nation afflicted with hunger and poverty. International experts have said that nearly half of the country's population is experiencing high levels of food insecurity, and that more than 80% of the country's food reserves have been used up owing to the worsening drought.

- *Pray that the Lord will give guidance to whoever is elected to the Presidency and the National Assembly.*

## **WEDNESDAY 27**

More than 5,000 churches have been closed down in Rwanda for failing to comply with government-mandated health and safety regulations. The closures follow a series of inspections that took place in July. Legislation passed in 2018 requires that churches have suitable fire-fighting equipment, adequate parking and appropriate hygiene facilities, among other requirements. Church buildings are also required to be soundproofed. Church leaders have acknowledged the need for some of these requirements but have criticized the speed of the closures and asked for more time to comply.

- *Ask the Lord to grant wisdom to Rwandan church leaders in navigating this difficult situation.*

## **THURSDAY 28**

The ongoing civil war in Sudan is "a story of pain, suffering and innocent blood shed every day," says a senior church leader in the north of the country. "Everyone suffers and wants an end to the war, but we do not have the tools to achieve it." Estimates vary, but it is certain that thousands of civilians have been killed. As of July, 7.7 million people had been internally displaced and more than two million had fled the country. The following month the World Food Program declared a famine at a camp in North Darfur where thousands of displaced people are sheltering

- only the third time in 20 years that a fully fledged famine has been declared anywhere in the world.

- *Pray for a swift end to this humanitarian disaster.*

## **Requests From Help the Persecuted**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

#### **CHRISTIANS IN IRAN**

Please continue to lift up our all brothers and sisters who live in Iran. As Christmas approaches, the Iranian government is increasing pressure on Christians. Pray specifically for their health, safety, and protection.

- *Dear Lord, we ask that You protect these faithful believers who continue having great faith amid life-threatening persecution. Even though they cannot decorate for Christmas, may their very countenances testify to the light, joy, and hope they have found in You this season.*

#### **OMAR, A NEW BELIEVER**

##### **Omar, Lebanon**

Omar declared his faith in Christ after an outreach event last week in Lebanon. He comes from a Muslim background and knows that persecution may come. Our Field Ministers are staying in touch with him and ministering to him in these early days of faith!

- *Dear Lord, thank You for using this outreach event to draw Omar to Yourself!*
- *Please help him feel Your nearness and love for him. Please shield him from any persecution, and if persecution does come, we ask that he would cling to You in the midst of it.*

## **THOSE FACING IMPRISONMENT**

### **Parsa, Iran**

Parsa was arrested and imprisoned in Iran for his faith in Jesus. He escaped and fled to Turkey, but the Turkish government arrested him. He is now in grave danger of being deported back to Iran, where he will be imprisoned for at least four more years.

### **Majeed, Algeria**

Last week, Majeed was arrested by the police after neighbors reported his evangelistic activities. Our Field Minister Wessam is following up with him.

Dear Lord, we pray for Parsa and Majeed. Please give both of them peace that surpasses all understanding as they face imprisonment and other types of persecution. Please protect them from harm and divinely deliver them from their captors!

## **THOSE FACING PERSECUTION FROM THEIR FAMILIES**

### **Rosa, Algeria**

Rosa was forced out of her home by her father-in-law because of her Christian faith. Her husband stayed with his family, and Rosa was pressured into divorcing him. She is devastated, especially as she was trying to share the Word of God with them.

- *Please pray for protection, peace, and reconciliation in her family.*

### **Ashan, Algeria**

Ashan's family beat him to the point of death after they discovered his faith. He is suffering from critical head injuries and is currently receiving treatment in the hospital.

### **Aqeel, Iraq**

Aqeel has been disowned by his family because of his faith in Jesus. He now lives with a friend but feels isolated and deeply saddened by how the situation has unfolded.

### **Taleb, Iraq**

After Taleb's faith became known, he was expelled, physically assaulted, and declared

an apostate by his family's tribe and the state. Warrants have been issued against him, and his life is in grave danger. There has been no communication with him, and his whereabouts are unknown. He is missing, and our Field Ministers are searching for him.

### **Abdullah, Morocco**

Abdullah is afraid to share his faith with his wife or family, fearing persecution or even death threats. He longs to give them the hope of the gospel and asks for prayers for wisdom on how to share and for perseverance if persecution results.

- *Dear Lord, we lift up Rosa, Ahsan, Aqeel, Taleb, and Abdullah to You. Please strengthen and comfort them as they face persecution for their faith from their own families. Heal Ahsan's injuries, protect Taleb, and bring peace and reconciliation to Rosa's family. Please give Abdullah courage and wisdom as he prepares to share his faith with his family. Surround them with Your love, provide for their needs, and let their testimony bring glory to Your name!*

## **ANSWERED PRAYERS**

### **BADER, ALGERIA**

We thank the Lord for Bader and his wife in Algeria. Recently, Bader declared his faith in Christ to his wife. Initially, she refused to accept it and even demanded a divorce. Despite this, Bader continued sharing the Bible with her and introduced worship into their home. Just last week, his wife shared with him that she is now open to hearing more about Christ, having seen the changes in Bader's life!

- *Dear Lord, thank You for softening the heart of Bader's wife! Thank You for Bader's faithfulness and endurance as he continues to share the gospel and worship in their home. Please bring*

*Bader's wife to saving faith in You,  
continuing the good work that has  
begun!*

*From International Christian Concern*

## **Sowing Seeds of Hope: Empowering Widows and Persecuted Farmers**

11/21/2024 Nigeria (International Christian Concern) – Fulani militants crept into the Nigerian village in the late hours of the night. When they finished their attack, there were hundreds dead and many mortally wounded.

Naomi was one of those gravely injured. Her village was attacked in June 2023, and she endured gunshots, cuts from machetes, and tragically had been set ablaze in her hut. She suffered burns over most of her body. We met her last September and provided her medical care. Her story deeply touched our hearts. However, we learned of her tragic passing just before Christmas — she succumbed to the wounds she endured from the attack.

We are inspired and motivated to empower the surviving widows, who shared stories like Naomi's, filled with unspeakable horror and unwavering strength and grace.

## **Indonesia Arrests 181 Terrorists in Last Year**

11/21/2024 Indonesia (International Christian Concern) — In the past year, Indonesian authorities have arrested 181 suspected terrorists, National Police Chief General Listyo Sigit Prabowo said during the 79th Anniversary of the Brimob Corps' Thanksgiving event on Nov. 14 at Mako Brimob Kelapa Dua, Depok.

The arrests, he said, were successful thanks to a collaboration between the Brimob Corps and the National Police's Counterterrorism Special Detachment 88 (Densus 88). Prabowo added that the role of the Brimob Corps is essential.

"Of course, the role of Brimob is always to be present to maintain public order and security," he said.

Prabowo reminded everyone that President Prabowo Subianto had ordered the National Police to conduct early detection activities related to terror threats in Indonesia. Prabowo encouraged further preventative activities but said that action must still be taken with sufficient evidence.

"The President ordered that there should be no explosions, no matter how small, or what we usually call zero crime," Prabowo said. "So, we have no choice but to carry out activities called preventive strikes, securing events with sufficient evidence first."

## **#RedWednesday Event to Commemorate Persecuted Christians Worldwide**

**11/14/2024 Global (International Christian Concern)**

Christian charity organization Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has organized an event on Nov. 20 to raise awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians worldwide.

The commemoration will include 300 events across hundreds of cities and more than 20 countries around the globe. Churches and religious sites will light up in red as a show of solidarity with those who have undergone or are currently enduring persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

The United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, the United States, Canada, Australia, and others are slated to participate.

In France, the event will include testimonies from those who have endured persecution. Ireland plans to light 26 of its cathedrals in red.

ACN Germany plans to host a concert that will be live-streamed while other nations will hold mass. Mexico and Chile also plan to participate, and from Colombia, Sister Gloria Narvaez will share her harrowing story of survival after being kidnapped by terrorists in Mali.

ACN also plans to release its report, "Persecuted and Forgotten?" in conjunction with the event. The report details the maltreatment of Christ followers in 18

countries. According to the report, “Christian persecution has significantly worsened in most countries surveyed” between 2022 and 2024. Topics include the displacement of Christians, forced marriage of women and girls, and anti-conversion laws. Additionally, Nicaragua is included in the report for the first time due to the nation’s increased targeting of clergy for expulsion.

ACN National Director for the United Kingdom, Dr. Caroline Hull, stated that religious liberty is an essential human right.

“#RedWednesday is the day when we shine a light on the reality of anti-Christian persecution around the globe, emphasizing the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right,” Hull said.

All are welcome to light up their churches or public buildings in red to help raise awareness of persecuted Christians