



Prayer for the Persecuted Church for November 7, 2025

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! NOTE: Prisoner prayer list moved to the last page.

from Voice of the Martyrs

Global Prayer Guide

Bhutan

Overview:

Until the 1980s, Bhutan was isolated from the rest of the world by its Himalayan geography, poor infrastructure and poor international relations. In 2008, the country adopted a multiparty constitutional democracy and implemented a new constitution that affords a greater level of religious freedom. Most Christians in Bhutan are of Nepali heritage, and believers are focused on reaching the ethnic Bhutanese with the message of Christ.

Major Religion:

88 percent of the Bhutanese people are Buddhists. Approximately 1 percent are Christians.

Persecutor:

Christians are restricted by federal laws and persecuted by local authorities.

What It Means To Follow Christ In Bhutan

The king identifies himself as the defender of the Buddhist faith, and the government works covertly to discourage the spread of Christianity, enacting an anti-conversion law punishable by imprisonment. Christians are viewed as followers of a foreign, Western religion. There is no opportunity for the legal registration of churches in Bhutan. Christians often lose their jobs and are unable to find

work because of their faith. They can lose their citizenship and privileges for being a Christian, so many must worship in secret.

Access To Bibles:

Though small numbers of Bibles are allowed into the nation legally, the government continues to restrict widespread distribution. Most Bibles must be smuggled into the country from neighboring nations.

VOM Work:

VOM provides Bibles and discipleship resources. We are also supporting the training and discipleship of future local church leaders.

Prayer Requests:

- *Pray that God's Word will reach Christians and seekers like Pema and her family despite government restrictions.*
- *Pray for Christians like Karna, Deki and Ratno, who have lost jobs and citizenship because of their faith.*
- *Bhutanese Christians often must meet secretly. Pray that their secret meetings fuel a bold witness for Christ.*
- *Using Isaiah 54:17 as a guide, pray that government efforts to stop the spread of Christianity will fail.*
- *Pray for effective discipleship efforts to prepare new leaders for local churches.*

From Mission Eurasia's Prayer Initiative

Over the past two months, the energy infrastructure in Ukraine has been under intense attack. There is already serious damage in the frontline regions, and tens of thousands of homes in various towns and villages have lost power. Many people are once again preparing generators and other survival equipment to survive another cold winter. Please pray for those who are facing extreme hardship this winter without heat and electricity.

Praise God for the new believers who were baptized at the Warsaw Bible Church in Poland on Sunday, November 2. Ukrainian refugees and others continue to discover Jesus through the New Life Center, a partner ministry of Mission Eurasia, and we continue to see fruit as people come to church, grow in their faith, trust Him, and are baptized.

Please pray for the Pit-Stop youth conference that will take place in Belarus on November 7-9 for around 70 teens, ages 13-16. This event will be led by our SWW students. Please pray for wisdom for our team as they share the gospel with the teens who will attend this event.

Praise God for the new SWW season in the Central Asian country of Tajikistan that has started very well. Currently, there are three groups of students who are being trained. Please pray for the involvement of young teachers and ministry leaders who can help train, equip, and disciple these young leaders.

Open Doors Canada Prayer Calendar

Friday 7 | Afghanistan

Samira*, an Afghan Christian woman, shares: "Even if we can't go to church, we pray in our hearts and rooms." She asks: "Pray that we feel the Holy Spirit in our loneliness."

Saturday 8 | Malaysia

Praise God that He is changing lives and eternities in remote areas of Malaysia as Open Doors partners bring audio Bibles to illiterate people in their language. Pray for the local partners as they walk with these new believers,

discipling them to grow in their understanding of God's Word and faith.

Sunday 9 | Pakistan

Praise God that after 23 years on death row, 72-year-old Anwar Kenneth was acquitted of blasphemy. Pray that he and his legal team will be protected from any retaliation by extremists. Pray that the case will be a watershed moment and landmark decision, leading to more acquittals and a stop to the blasphemy law being misused and abused.

Monday 10 | Nicaragua

A few years ago, Manuela* and Alaia's* family fled Nicaragua due to religious persecution. Their father, a pastor, was imprisoned. Ask God to strengthen them as they continue to adjust to a life far from everything they know. Pray that Manuela and Alaia's faith remains unshaken, and they rise to become leaders in the next generation.

Tuesday 11 | Iraq

Today is election day in Iraq. The political and security situation becomes unstable before and after the elections. Pray that the security situation stabilizes and no conflicts rise among the political parties. Pray for the Iraqi people who have the right to vote to have wisdom, and that the hearts of the elected leaders are for helping and serving the country and its people.

Wednesday 12 | North Korea

Despite government claims, millions of North Koreans are going hungry. In remote provinces, families survive on one meal a day or less. The regime uses food as a tool of control, favouring loyal citizens while pushing others to the edge of starvation. Secret Christians, already isolated, often lack access to any official support. Pray for those who are hungry today. Ask God to provide food in miraculous ways. Pray for strength, dignity, and hope as they endure this daily struggle.

Thursday 13 | Philippines

Pray with 11-year-old Inaya* from the southern Philippines. She's from a Muslim family and must practice her faith in secret. Pray with Inaya for boldness as she grows in her faith despite the surrounding dangers.

Barnabas Aid UK Prayer Diary

FRIDAY 7

Praise the Lord that Alphonsus Afina, a church minister in Nigeria's north-eastern Borno State, has been released after being held for two months by Boko Haram. Alphonsus was rescued by security forces two months after he was kidnapped on his way to a humanitarian and peacebuilding conference in Maiduguri in April. The militants who carried out the ambush fired shots and threw a grenade at the vehicles, killing one passenger and abducting the others.

- *Give thanks for the rescue of Alphonsus and ten women who were also held. Pray that other kidnapped Nigerian Christians still in captivity will be released, and until they are, that the Lord will provide them with courage and comfort.*

SATURDAY 8

Pray for a Christian community in Plateau State in Nigeria's Middle Belt after 12 residents were killed in an attack by suspected Fulani Islamists in mid-August. A four-month-old girl was among the victims as houses were set ablaze and livestock stolen in the assault. Pray that the regular appeals for greater security and protection for these vulnerable Christian communities will not go unheeded.

- *Pray that the Lord will comfort those bereaved and show them that He has not abandoned them even as they grieve. Pray that the perpetrators of these horrendous attacks will be identified and brought to justice.*

SUNDAY 9

- *Lord God, thank You that there is a day of judgement for Your enemies and the persecutors of Your people. Thank You that one day justice will be done, and the blood of the martyrs avenged. Yet we also praise You that there is grace abounding for sinners of all kinds, even the persecutors of the Church – that the*

judgement for sin has fallen upon the Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of all who put their faith in Him. Thank You for the knowledge that those who attack and kill our brothers and sisters will one day be brought to judgement or repentance, to the glory of the Judge of all the world, who always does that which is right, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Psalm 83:9-16; Revelation 6:9-10; Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 18:25)

MONDAY 10

As Iraq prepares for parliamentary elections tomorrow (November 11), the country faces political instability, corruption, economic hardship and continuing security threats. Many citizens, especially young people and marginalized communities, feel disillusioned by unemployment, poor services, and mistrust of government, yet they long for leaders of integrity who will promote justice and peace across ethnic and religious divides.

- *Please pray for wisdom and courage for voters, honesty and compassion among candidates, and transparency in the electoral process. Pray too for protection of all citizens, particularly Christians and other vulnerable communities, from violence and intimidation, for reconciliation between divided communities, and for a future marked by stability and hope.*

TUESDAY 11

Syria continues to bear the scars of prolonged conflict, with cities in ruins and communities deeply fractured. In September, Christians from six churches in Sweida, southern Syria, were forced to flee as violence and shortages grip the region. Minister Tony Boutros reported that his congregation is sheltering nearly 170 displaced people amid destroyed churches, power cuts, and daily struggle.

- *Ask God to protect His scattered Church in Syria, providing for their daily needs. Pray for local Christians seeking to bring*

*relief and hope at great personal cost,
that they may be strengthened in faith.
May God's presence bring peace, healing
and courage, renewing hope for a future
free from fear.*

WEDNESDAY 12

Thank the Lord that a planned attack on a church in Tartus, western Syria, was foiled by a counter-terrorism operation. It remains unclear who was behind the plot in early August. The situation demonstrates again the difficult circumstances facing our brothers and sisters in Syria, who have suffered violence at the hands of Islamist terrorist groups, other extremists, and forces aligned with the government.

- *Ask the Lord to protect His people throughout Syria at a time when they face many dangers and threats. Pray that there will be peace in this troubled land.*

THURSDAY 13

Lebanon continues to endure deep economic hardship, political instability and the lasting impact of recent crises, leaving many Christian families struggling to meet their daily needs. Churches work tirelessly to care for the vulnerable, yet poverty and uncertainty weigh heavily on believers.

- *Please pray for strength, provision and hope for Lebanon's Christians, that their faith will not falter. Ask God to give wisdom and integrity to leaders, and that His peace will overcome unrest. May Christ's presence bring comfort, courage and restoration, sustaining His people in these difficult times.*

From ICC

Jihadists Abduct US Missionary in Niger

October 29, 2025 | Africa

Three armed men abducted American missionary pilot Kevin Rideout from his home in the middle of the night last week in Niamey, Niger.

The suspected Islamic jihadists kidnapped 48-year-old Rideout, a pilot for Serving in Mission (SIM), less than 100 yards from the presidential palace in Niger's capital. Rideout's cell phone location last placed him in an area considered to be a haven for extremist groups tied to the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara around Oct. 21.

Rideout also serves with Concilium, which provides security resources to missionaries and persecuted Christians.

The U.S. Department of State issued a statement, saying it is aware of Rideout's abduction.

"Since we were alerted to the situation, our Embassy officials have been working with local authorities," the statement said.

Rideout and his brother, Ian, have worked as SIM pilots for years, flying mission personnel and equipment across West Africa to help multiple missions and humanitarian organizations.

Jihadists in Niger have kidnapped U.S. missionaries before. Jeff Woodke was freed from captivity in 2023 after spending several years in an al-Qaida-affiliated group's camp.

Since Gen. Abdourahamane Tiani, leader of the presidential guard unit, led a military coup in 2023, Christian persecution has worsened. Ulf Laessing, who leads The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Sahel program, said Islamic extremists are kidnapping tourists and aid workers more than ever.

Trump Announces CPC Designation for Nigeria

October 31, 2025 | Africa

On Friday, President Donald Trump did something Christians around the world have been urging him to do since he took office.

In a message on social media, Trump acknowledged the atrocities that Christians in Nigeria face daily, saying that “Radical Islamists are responsible for this mass slaughter. I am hereby making Nigeria a “COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.”

A Country of Particular Concern (CPC) designation could significantly improve the lives of many Christians in Nigeria by raising awareness of the ongoing persecution and exerting pressure on the Nigerian government to take action. President Joe Biden lifted Nigeria’s CPC designation in 2021 for unknown reasons.

International Christian Concern President Shawn Wright welcomed the news of the CPC designation for Nigeria.

“We are deeply grateful for this important recognition,” Wright said. “It represents a significant step toward mobilizing the global community to confront the atrocities that have devastated so many families and communities in Nigeria. Our prayer is that this designation will encourage other world leaders to follow suit and that it will lead to tangible actions that bring relief and lasting change for those suffering at the hands of violent extremists.”

The decision marks a significant policy signal, renewing international attention on the worsening human rights and religious freedom crisis in Nigeria — where extremist groups such as Boko Haram, ISWAP, and Fulani militants have continued to carry out devastating attacks on Christian communities, often with impunity.

Trump shared the staggering figures of reported massacres, noting that more than 3,100 Nigerian Christians have been killed in comparison to 4,476 Christians killed worldwide, underscoring Nigeria as the global epicenter of faith-based violence.

The president added that he’s asking Rep. Riley Moore (R-WV) and Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, to “immediately look into” the ongoing slaughter of Christians in Nigeria.

“The United States cannot stand by while such atrocities are happening in Nigeria, and numerous other Countries,” Trump wrote.

Christians in Nigeria have faced ongoing attacks with minimal support from the international community, prompting members of the U.S.

Congress to appeal to the president to take action in recent weeks.

Many have characterized the violence against Christians in Nigeria as “Christian genocide,” as violent incidents have occurred within churches and Christian communities in the central and northern regions of the country.

Security conditions in Nigeria have deteriorated in recent years, particularly in the north, which is predominantly Muslim. Since Bola Tinubu took office as president in 2023, more than 10,000 people have been killed, hundreds have been abducted, and more than 3 million people have been displaced from their homes.

In the first seven months of 2025 alone, more than 7,000 Christians have been killed, an average of 35 deaths per day. The atrocities led Moore to formally request that Secretary of State Marco Rubio designate Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) on Oct. 5.

“Christians are being persecuted and killed in Nigeria for professing their faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,” Rep. Moore posted on X. “The killings must stop. That’s why I’m urging @SecRubio to designate Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern. We must use every diplomatic tool to end this horrific slaughter of our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

In a recent interview, Moore described Nigeria as the most dangerous place in the world for Christians, noting that 82% of persecuted Christians killed between October 2022 and September 2023 died in Nigeria. Many Americans and people worldwide remain unaware of the ongoing violence in the country.

“The United States cannot stand idly by while believers are slaughtered,” Moore stated. “We must acknowledge the religious nature of this scourge of anti-Christian violence from radical Islamic terrorists. It’s time for the United States to defend our brothers and sisters in Christ, and designating Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern will provide the diplomatic tools necessary to do just that. I urge Secretary Rubio to designate Nigeria as a CPC without delay.”

The recent violence also prompted Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) to introduce legislation aimed at holding Nigerian officials accountable for facilitating Islamic jihadist attacks on Christians. Public figures in the media,

including Bill Maher, have also called for greater awareness of this persecution and challenged the media to highlight the issue.

Pakistani Pastor Dies Days After Acquittal in Blasphemy Case

October 15, 2025 | Pakistan

After spending 13 years behind bars for a crime he had always denied, Pastor Zafar Bhatti finally walked free, only to die three days later. His death has cast a harsh light on Pakistan's blasphemy laws and the grim conditions of its prisons.

Bhatti, 62, the founder of Jesus World Mission Church in Rawalpindi, died of cardiac arrest on Oct. 5 at his home in Punjab province. He had been released on Oct. 2 after the Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi bench overturned his blasphemy conviction.

The pastor, who had no children, leaves behind his wife, who became bedridden during his long imprisonment.

Bhatti was arrested in July 2012 after a Muslim cleric accused him of sending text messages allegedly defaming the mother of Prophet Muhammad — charges he repeatedly denied. Reports from that time suggested he was tortured in custody to extract a confession.

In 2017, a court sentenced Bhatti to life imprisonment. His appeal was rejected in 2021, and the following year, the punishment was increased to the death penalty before his eventual acquittal earlier this month.

During his incarceration, Bhatti's health deteriorated severely. Once in good health, he later developed diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and vision problems, suffering multiple heart attacks between 2019 and 2020. His lawyer stated that inadequate medical care in prison worsened his condition, noting that specialized treatment was not available to inmates.

"Despite all his suffering, he never gave up on seeking justice," his lawyer said, describing Bhatti as a victim of systemic neglect. He added that the pastor's wrongful imprisonment has left little hope for any compensation or redress.

According to the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP), at least 17 Christians,

including six women and 23 Muslims, were accused under Pakistan's blasphemy laws in 2024, most of them in Punjab province.

Bhatti did not enter prison with diabetes, heart disease, or the wounds that later covered his body. Years of torture, neglect, and psychological trauma inside the jail led to his illnesses. Denied proper medical attention even as his health crumbled, he became another casualty of a prison system where human dignity often dies long before the inmate does.

As the Christian community mourns his loss, there remains a call to pray for those still imprisoned under similar charges, to hope for a system that values humanity, and to continue the fight for justice so that Pastor Bhatti's suffering is not in vain.

From Mission Network News

High Court rules Malaysian government responsible for Pastor Raymond Koh's kidnapping

By Lyndsey Koh

November 6, 2025

Malaysia (MNN) — The High Court of Malaysia has ruled that government agents were behind the abduction of Pastor Raymond Koh eight years ago. A judge ordered the Malaysian government to pay the equivalent of over \$8 million USD to Pastor Koh's wife, Susanna, as well as additional daily payments until her husband is found.

Pastor Koh was driving to a meeting in 2017 when a convoy of masked men surrounded his car. Security footage showed at least 13 men and several vehicles kidnapping him from the street. Pastor Koh hasn't been seen since.

When Susanna reported him missing, police questioned her about their ministry to Muslims instead of looking for her husband.

Todd Nettleton with The Voice of the Martyrs USA (VOM) says Pastor Koh was targeted — not just for sharing the Gospel, but for who he was reaching.

Nettleton explains, in Malaysia, "Persecution of Christians is very much dependent on your ethnicity. If you are Chinese, like Pastor Raymond Koh, then that's fine for you to be

a Christian. But if you are ethnically Malay, according to the constitution of the country, you are a Muslim.... Pastor Raymond was accused of reaching out to ethnic Malay Muslims with the Gospel.”

Susanna sued the Malaysian government and several police officers in 2020 after the nation’s Human Rights Commission found evidence of state involvement. In this week’s ruling, the judge confirmed that evidence showed police acted under government orders — not as rogue officers.

Although Nettleton says the decision may be appealed, Susanna called the verdict a step toward closure.

“That is good news for this family that has been suffering now for almost nine years, waking up every morning wondering, ‘Where is Pastor Raymond Koh? Is he alive? Is he dead? Is he sick? Is he well? Is he being mistreated?’”

Nettleton says, “Hopefully, the ruling and especially the ongoing nature of the penalty will produce some really concrete answers about what happened to him and where he is.”

Pray that the truth of Pastor Raymond Koh’s fate would come to light. And — for the mission dear to his heart — pray for all peoples in Malaysia to know Jesus Christ.

“We want to pray for [Susanna], for God’s protection over her and her family,” Nettleton says. “But I think the biggest thing today is just, thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord, for this judgment. Thank you, Lord, for steps taken towards closure for this family, towards knowing what happened; and please protect them and open the vaults of information. Allow them to know the truth.”

Pray for imprisoned or kidnapped Christians

CHRISTIANS IN PRISON: This list is only a sample: CAMBODIA: Theary Seng; CHINA: Gao Quanfu, Tang Bingyi, Wan Changchun, Li Chenhui, Ju Dianhong, Lian Xue Liang, Lian Chang Nian, Fu Juan, Li Jie, Hang Xiaodong, Yan Hwa, Gao Zhisheng, Wang Yi; Hao Zhiwei, Zhang Shaojie, Li Juncui, Lian Changnian, Jin “Ezra” Mingri; CUBA: Marcos Antonio Perdomo Silva; ERITREA: Mussia Ezaz, Dr. Kiflu Gebremeskel, Kidane Weldou, Haile Nayzg, Fit Sum-Berhan Gebrenegus, Teklab Menghisteb; INDIA: Sarju Prasad, Pastor Sawan; IRAN: See list at end of prayer sheet; KAZAKHSTAN: Pastor Maximov; MOROCCO: Jamaa Ait Bakrim; NORTH KOREA: Kim Jung-Wook; Kim Kuk-gi; Zhang Wen Shi; VIETNAM: Rah Lan Hip; Y Pum Bya; Nguyen Nang Tinh, Nguyen Trung Ton

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

Imprisoned Christians in Iran: Amirali Minaei, Nasser Navard Gol-Tapeh, Nerges Nasri, Somayeh Rajabi, Joseph Shahbazian, Ghazal Marzban, Javad Amini, Tumaj Aryankia, Mehdi (Yasser) Akbari; Jahangir Alikhani, Hamed Malamiri, Gholam Eshaghi, Mozhdeh (Mojdeh) Fallahi, Nasrollah Mousavi, Bijan Gholizadeh, Hamid Afzali, Iman Salehi, Zohrab Shahbazi, Yasin Mousavi, Esmail Narimanpour, Farrokh Kakai, Abdolrsa (Matthias) Ali-Haghejad, Mina Khajavi Ghomi, Lalh Sa’ari.