



Prayer for the Persecuted Church for July 17, 2026

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! See our prisoner prayer list at the end of the prayer sheets.

from Voice of the Martyrs

Global Prayer Guide

Maldives

Overview:

The Maldives is one of the most restricted nations in the world, with fewer than 30 known indigenous believers. Any Maldivian who follows Christ faces imprisonment or expulsion from the country. The Maldivian government seeks to eliminate or greatly minimize outside influences that could affect its citizens' cultural identity, which includes complete commitment to Islam.

Major Religion:

Even though many Maldivians have little knowledge of Islam, all Maldivians are officially required to be Sunni Muslims, and the government enforces this rule without exception.

Persecutor:

The government is the main persecutor, and Maldivian society is aligned with the country's commitment to ensuring that every Maldivian remains a Muslim. In addition to government persecution, seekers and converts receive tremendous pressure from their families and communities.

What It Means To Follow Christ In The Maldives

The country's oppressive anti-Christian government and culture make it one of the

world's most challenging regions for Christian work. Seekers and new converts experience extreme social pressure. Small, close-knit island communities enable the government to maintain tight control over the population. Christian converts have been imprisoned in attempts to pressure them to renounce Christ and return to Islam, and they are usually forced to leave their homes and perhaps even the country.

Access To Bibles

It is illegal to import Bibles, but some Maldivians access Scripture through the internet. Translation of the Bible into Dhivehi, the main language of the Maldives, is ongoing, but the work has been difficult and slow because of the small number of Christian converts who are able and willing to help with translation.

VOM Work

VOM supports creative, covert methods to share the gospel inside the Maldives.

Prayer Requests:

- *Pray for the few known indigenous believers, who face imprisonment or expulsion if identified as a Christian.*
- *Pray that the Muslim government will be unable to stop the spread of the gospel.*
- *Pray that Christian converts who are imprisoned for their faith will remain strong in Christ.*

- *Pray that the Bible will be fully translated into Dhivehi, the main language of the Maldives.*
- *Pray that the gospel will advance across the Maldives through creative methods.*

Open Doors Prayer Calendar

Algeria

July 17

Pray with a church recently raided during a worship service. Authorities forced church leaders to cease all weekly worship gatherings. Pray for these traumatized believers.

July 18

Pray that the Algerian government would enact a law that upholds religious freedom, allowing non-Muslim Algerians to practice their faith without fear.

July 19

Pray for protection, courage and resilience for Algeria's Christian communities. Pray they would learn to divide into small fellowship groups and gather in homes.

July 20

Pray with us today for Emir*, a frightened underground house church leader in Central Asia. He and his family converted from Islam, started a church and now they're receiving threats.

July 21

Emir's neighbors have created an online message group focused on expelling Christians from their village. Pray that people would realize the injustice of their ways and disband the group.

July 22

The situation is so serious that Emir went to the local police to ask them to defend his family. Pray for protection over Emir's life, family and home.

July 23

Pray for reconciliation and that Emir could continue to lead his ministry. Ask God to give

him both boldness and discernment for sharing the gospel he loves

Prayer Requests from Mission Eurasia

From July 20-26, the local church in Temirtau, Kazakhstan and our School Without Walls (SWW) students will hold a summer camp for more than 40 teenagers, many of whom will hear about Christ for the first time. Please pray that God will work mightily through this camp and that these teenagers will find new life in Christ.

Two months ago, we asked you to pray for Yevgenia, Pastor Alexei's wife from New Hope Church in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. This month, Yevgenia underwent a difficult surgery to remove a small tumor. God mercifully helped her through the surgery without serious complications and without incisions on her face, even though the tumor was located there. The doctors were even surprised by the positive outcome, and we thank God for His answer to our prayers.

A church building project in Ulaangom, Mongolia is now underway. Please pray that God would provide everything needed so that the building can be completed soon and used for ministry in this predominantly Buddhist nation.

Please pray for children's camps taking place in the Central Asian Muslim nation of Kyrgyzstan. Please pray that the Lord would open the hearts of the children who attend to receive His love, and help each one feel needed and valued. Pray that the camp program would be interesting and engaging, while also helping the children come to know God better and understand how deeply He loves each of them. Finally, please pray for God's guidance for the whole ministry team and His blessing over each day of camp.

Thank you so much for your prayers for the legalization process of Yurii, pastor of the church in Katowice, Poland, and his family. Recently, Yurii's wife, Anyuta, received a positive decision. They, however, received a denial of government assistance for their children. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as this process continues.

Barnabas Aid Prayer Diary

Friday July 17, 2026

Barnabas Aid contacts in a Christian-majority region of Myanmar reported in late April that Tatmadaw soldiers had taken control of a village, rounding up any villagers who had not been able to escape and forcing them to stay in a church building. Women were being forced to cook for the soldiers. Please pray for the safety of our brothers and sisters for however long this occupation continues. Ask that their faithfulness at a time of severe trial will be a witness of Christ and His Gospel that will stay with the soldiers long after they have moved on.

Saturday July 18, 2026

Barnabas Aid is supporting a Christian ministry in Thailand that serves refugees. Among these are 80 Christian children from north-eastern Myanmar who have fled conflict and persecution and are now separated from their families. Our partners are providing basic accommodation, food and education, thanks to the gifts of Barnabas Aid supporters. Praise God for His people in Thailand who have such a heart to serve their young brothers and sisters from Myanmar. Pray that the children will be helped, comforted and blessed in their time of immense need. Ask too that they will grow in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as they see His compassion exemplified in the help they receive.

Sunday July 19, 2026

Lord God, we pray for the success of Christian schools throughout the world, and especially in lands of great suffering and anti-Christian persecution. We ask You to fill those entrusted with leadership with Divine wisdom in governance and management so that values that reflect the Gospel are maintained. Please raise up and bless the work of godly teachers to train up children in the way they should go, to produce lasting fruit all their lives. Protect and renew students' minds and hearts to receive all the benefits of a Christian education through instruction, practical experience and healthy social interaction and grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. (Proverbs 22:6)

Monday July 20, 2026

At least 41 Christians were killed by Islamic

State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in two targeted attacks carried out in Adamawa State, north-eastern Nigeria, in late April. North-eastern Nigeria is the epicenter of ISWAP and Boko Haram activity. Kubako lies just across the state boundary from Borno State, where ISWAP has slaughtered hundreds of Christian and Muslim civilians as well as Nigerian soldiers. Ask the Lord to bring an end to this campaign of violence, for the sake of all people in north-eastern Nigeria and especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray that He will comfort the bereaved and make His people in Adamawa State a witness of His glory and grace.

Tuesday July 21, 2026

In mid-April, ISWAP boasted of burning down a church building and killing ten Christians in Borno State, north-east Nigeria. Borno State has been the scene of increased activity by ISWAP and Boko Haram in the first half of 2026. All people in the state have been affected, including Muslims, though the Islamists make a particular point of targeting members of the state's minority Christian community. Cry out to the Lord on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for an end to the violence and unrest, for the sake of all those who want to live in peace.

Wednesday July 22, 2026

Praise the Lord that nearly 6,000 believers in Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria have been reached with food funded by Barnabas Aid's supporters. The recipients are those affected by Islamist terrorism in north-eastern Nigeria. Many are farmers who have been unable to work because of violence and instability. "People have seen God at work because they never expected to get this help," said a Barnabas project partner. "God has provided."

Thursday July 23, 2026

At least 53 Christians were killed by terrorists in Middle Belt Nigeria in several attacks during the Easter period. The worst loss of life came on Palm Sunday, when 29 members of a Christian community in Plateau State were slaughtered by Fulani extremists armed with guns and swords. Another 24 were killed in separate attacks in Benue and Kaduna on Easter Sunday. "We owe the dead justice. We owe the living protection," said Daniel Okoh, President of the Christian Association of

Nigeria. Ask the Lord to provide the justice and protection that our brother has called for.

From International Christian Concern

Fulani Extremists Kill 25 Christians After Nigerian Army Ignores Early Warnings

July 15, 2026 | Africa

At least 25 Christians, including a 2-month-old, were killed in separate attacks during the weekend in Nigeria's Middle Belt region.

The first attack occurred on Saturday night, July 11, in the Kum and Wereng-Comp communities of Ryom County in Plateau state. Residents told International Christian Concern (ICC) that the Fulani entered the community around 11:30 p.m.

"We got a security alert on social media that Fulani are attacking us on Sunday," said a local, who wished to remain anonymous. "We're on alert but not prepared since we don't have guns. The man said nine people were killed and buried on Sunday in a mass grave.

The nine people killed belonged to the same Christian family, he added.

"Why would the terrorist kill an infant?" the man asked. "This was to wipe out all the Christians."

Among those killed was the village's leader. The local said the Fulani planned to kill their leader, occupy the land for grazing, and establish an Islamic caliphate in the region.

"Our village head is critically injured; the Fulani want to kill him just because he is saying the truth during meetings. He emphasized that he doesn't want Fulani grazing and destroying our crops on the farm."

The National Publicity Secretary of the Berom Youth Molders Association confirmed the attack in a press release. He said the attack occurred near a Nigerian army checkpoint and that the army failed to respond, despite the arrival of the Fulani in large numbers.

Another Attack in Benue

Hours later, armed assailants attacked the Nobi community in Otukpo Local Government Area in Benue state. Residents said the raid began between 3:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. on Sunday,

July 12, when gunmen opened fire and set some property ablaze.

Comfort Inalegwu, a resident who joined demonstrations after the attack, said at least 16 people were killed. She said her sister and two of her sister's children were shot inside their home and later taken to the General Hospital mortuary in Otukpo. Several people were injured, while families continued searching for residents whose whereabouts were unknown.

Casualty figures from Nobi differed. Benue police reported eight deaths and five injuries, while Amnesty International Nigeria said at least 10 people had been killed. Local witnesses continued to place the toll at 16. Police said additional officers were deployed and that an investigation had begun.

Women and youth blocked sections of the Makurdi-Otukpo and Enugu-Otukpo highways, as well as roads near the palace of the Och'Idoma. Demonstrators demanded improved protection, arrests, and prosecution of those responsible. Some women said they would continue protesting and could boycott election activities if attacks persisted.

Benue Governor Hyacinth Alia condemned the killings in a statement issued through his chief press secretary, Tersoo Kula. He directed security agencies to increase surveillance in vulnerable communities, coordinate with neighboring states, and pursue those responsible for the attack.

No group had publicly claimed responsibility for either attack at the time of reporting. Residents and community representatives attributed the assaults to suspected armed Fulani militants, but authorities had not publicly established the identity, motive, or organizational affiliation of the attackers.

Benue and Plateau lie within Nigeria's Middle Belt, where predominantly Christian farming communities have experienced repeated raids, displacement, destruction of homes, and loss of farmland. Violence in the region has been linked to several overlapping factors, including land disputes, criminal activity, ethnic tensions, religious hostility, and the movement of armed groups.

In June 2025, about 150 people were killed in an attack on the Yelwata community in Benue.

Nigerian prosecutors later filed terrorism-related charges against nine men accused of planning and supporting that assault.

Families affected by the latest attacks are seeking security, medical assistance for survivors, help locating missing relatives, and support for displaced residents. Community leaders are also asking federal and state authorities to publish the findings of investigations, maintain a sustained security presence in exposed villages, and ensure that suspects are brought before a court.

Prayer Requests from Help the Persecuted

Believers Being Persecuted by their Families

Akram, Algeria

After being accused by his brothers of gathering Christians in his home and unlawfully seizing family land, Akram now faces a legal case filed against him by their attorney. He needs protection, wisdom, and justice.

Mamdouh, Algeria

Because Mamdouh and his wife have not abandoned their faith in Christ, his family has thrown them out of their home and refused to give them a small plot of land where they could build a home of their own.

Adeeb, Egypt

After years of Islamic study led Adeeb to question the Quran, the Lord used a dream, an encounter on a train, and another Christian to lead him to faith and baptism. His wife later came to faith as well. When his mother found a Bible and Adeeb confirmed his faith, he was disinherited, summoned by national security, and interrogated. He may now be transferred to an isolated work department miles away from church and fellowship.

Lujain, Syria

After Lujain and her husband came to faith and began attending an evangelical church, both families cut all ties with them. Her father disinherited her and declared her dead to the family. Their suffering deepened when a car bomb exploded near their home, forcing them

to flee and causing their son to lose his hearing for a time. His treatment has exhausted their financial resources.

Lord, protect Akram as he faces false accusations and a legal case from his brothers. Provide a home and breakthrough for Mamdouh and his wife. Strengthen Adeeb, his wife, and their children, and preserve his position and connection to fellowship. Provide healing, encouragement, and financial provision for Lujain and her family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Believers Facing Threats

Safwan, Iraq

During Muharram, a season of mourning slain Islamic leaders, Safwan is under intense family pressure to participate in mourning rituals, including self-flagellation, weeping, cooking, and remaining in ceremonial tents. He feels deep anxiety and conflict as he tries to remain faithful to Christ.

Jawad, Iraq

During this same season of Islamic mourning, a relative and neighbor forced his way into Jawad's home, demanding to know why the family had not displayed religious flags, banners, and symbols. Jawad is fearful but unwilling to display them or have his wife and children dress in mourning clothes.

Hanifa, Ilham, Basma, and Latifa, Jordan

After a sheikh visited Hanifa's home and discussed faith with her, he threatened all four women. He warned them that if they continued to associate with members of our team, he would report them to their tribe.

Iffat, Syria

Since coming to faith, Iffat's situation has become increasingly dangerous. Her conservative father has begun to suspect that she has left Islam, especially because she no longer wears the hijab outside her home neighborhood. She is also preparing to marry a young man who believes in Christ.

Lord, give Safwan peace and courage as he faces pressure to take part in rituals that violate his faith. Protect Jawad and his family as they refuse public displays tied to religious mourning. Guard Hanifa, Ilham, Basma, and Latifa from tribal threats and strengthen

their faith. Protect Iffat, give her wisdom, and surround her with peace during this vulnerable season. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Believers Needing Protection

Falak, Lebanon

After fleeing to Lebanon because of persecution for her faith, Falak and her daughters are now in a safe house. Pray that their hearts and minds would engage with God's Word even more, and that they would commit to a church and grow in Scripture.

Abid, Pakistan

After Abid and his family chose to follow Jesus, they faced severe opposition from relatives and community members. During the persecution, Abid's leg was broken. He and his family continue to face threats, pressure, rejection, fear, and isolation.

Lord, comfort Falak and her daughters' hearts with Your Word, connect them to a church, and help them grow in faith. Protect Abid and his family, heal his injuries completely, and give them strength and courage to remain steadfast in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Field Minister Prayer Requests

Farid, Syria

"Pray for the pastoral care team as they visit and follow up with believers, including their ministry to the elderly and those with special needs."

Laila, Lebanon

"Pray that all who heard about Christ in a recent outreach, young and old, would be moved to seek and find the truth. Most of those we encountered were strongly committed to Islam and to a particular political party."

Sally, Jordan

"Pray for our outreach ministry, especially as the women have begun studying the Bible and learning how to grow in Christ. Pray that the Lord would establish His Word in their hearts and grant favor in the eyes of the surrounding extremist Muslim community."

Qasem, Iran

"Pray for the house church meetings, that

God would protect believers who gather, grant them wisdom and discernment, and allow these meetings to continue safely and fruitfully. Pray also for the Christians, including several people who have previously received support, that God would watch over them, strengthen their faith, and protect them from harm."

Lord, guide our Field Ministers as they visit, teach, disciple, encourage, and care for believers in difficult places. Establish Your Word in new hearts, protect house churches and refugee cases, and give wisdom, favor, and lasting fruit through every ministry effort. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ANSWERED PRAYER

A Safe Home for Khairi

Praise God for Khairi in Türkiye. He had been living in a structurally unsafe home at risk of collapse in an earthquake. Though he also had to leave his job when his employer would not allow a part-time schedule for church service, God provided a way through every obstacle, and Khairi has relocated to a safe and suitable home.

Healing for Rabab's Son

Praise God for the healing of Rabab's son. After he suffered from a high fever, Rabab prayed before sleeping and dreamed that the Lord Jesus placed His hand on him. When she woke the next morning, her son was healed.

Gospel Outreach to Sudanese Families

Praise God for a remarkable outreach event last Friday. About 800 people from a Muslim background attended, and the Gospel was shared with all of them. God opened many hearts to engage with His Word. Pray for the leaders and ministers who will follow up with attendees through home visits.

Four New Believers in Pakistan

Praise God for a breakthrough in Pakistan. Through the faithful evangelistic work of our Field Ministers, four men who had been hearing the gospel and studying God's Word chose to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! They are now part of a house church fellowship, where they are receiving discipleship and growing in faith.

Strength for Lama

Praise God for Lama from Syria. After losing her husband in a suicide bombing attack at their church, she was in a very difficult state. Today, the Lord has strengthened her through faith and prayer. She is holding fast to the hope of the resurrection and is now a witness to the work of God's Spirit in and through her.

A New Beginning for Ghusoun

Praise God for Ghusoun from Syria. Months ago, prayer was requested for her as she suffered under her husband's cruelty. The divorce papers have now been finalized, and Ghusoun is set to marry a believing young man who loves her and accepts her daughter. Through a safe house, Laila and her team helped protect Ghusoun and change the course of her life.

Lord, we praise You for providing a safe home for Khairi, healing Rabab's son, opening hearts through Gospel outreach, bringing four men in Pakistan to faith, strengthening Lama, and giving Ghusoun a new beginning. Continue to complete the work You have begun in each life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

From Christianity Today

Iran and the US Agree on Little, Except to Not Talk About Religious Freedom

Harvest Prude | July 9, 2026

This week, as Iranians thronged for the delayed funeral of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and their government resumed trading airstrikes with the United States, a fragile cease-fire between the two countries crumbled—the latest turn in a conflict entering its fifth month with no clear end in sight.

Whatever happens next will be another test for the 14-point framework negotiated only weeks ago, underpinning talks between the two countries to end the war. When asked Wednesday about the state of the truce between the two countries, President Donald Trump said, “I think it’s over.”

Still, the president left the door open for negotiations. But whether or not the United

States and Iran can come to terms, some critics say the framework fails to address the sources of conflict that led to the war in the first place, and in particular it ignores one of the biggest concerns of Christians around the world: religious freedom in Iran.

“This agreement throws the Iranian people under the bus,” said Jonathan Schanzer, executive director at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Billboards showing Iran's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei (L) and his late father Ali Khamenei (R) along the highway leading to Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut on June 22, 2026.

Schanzer, like other foreign policy experts, is eager to see an end to hostilities. But he's concerned that any truce would come at a cost to human rights.

The interim deal, for instance, includes a provision that both powers will “refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs.” That's a dramatic shift from the lead-up to the war, when in January Trump publicly encouraged Iranians to rise up against the country's regime. US negotiators now seem willing to overlook the regime's continued abuses of its own people.

Religious freedom advocates called that particular provision catastrophic for religious minorities and opponents of the regime who had hoped the conflict would usher in political change for their countries.

“It's been devastating,” said Charmaine Hedding, president of the nonprofit aid group Shai Fund. “What happens to religious minorities? Well, [the regime] understood that there's very little care about that, and it's given them license to understand that they can get away with it.”

Because of how negotiations have been handled, she added, “there's been a fresh wave by the regime, a sort of a sense that they've gotten away with everything. And they certainly have.”

The Iranian government has continued persecuting churches. Last month, it demolished an evangelical church in Mashhad. Authorities are also intent on seizing a historic

Presbyterian church in Tehran, St. Peter Evangelical Church, which is the place of both residence and worship for a group of Armenian and Assyrian Christians.

“It’s emboldened them to crack down on the churches, and they’re going for the evangelical churches first because they see those as mostly associated with the West and started by American missionaries,” Hedding said.

Shai Fund helps persecuted minorities who have fled Iran to nearby countries. Its projects include creating safe houses for vulnerable refugees, as well as providing SIM cards, food, and clothing. The organization also connects recent arrivals with the larger Iranian diaspora. For Christian refugees, that includes connections to local congregations with Iranian believers.

Hedding said she’s heard some refugees express hopes or concrete plans to return.

“A lot of them are such well-seasoned people of faith that have stood the test of time, and they could teach us so much. They said to me a lot of times, ‘Our faith is not in any man; it’s in God,’” Hedding said.

But hopes for a new Iran have seemed dimmer of late.

Knox Thames, director of the Everett Center for Global Religious Freedom at Dallas Baptist University, expressed disappointment that the Trump administration has continued a “bipartisan tradition” of setting aside humanitarian concerns in its negotiations with rogue powers like Iran.

The Obama administration’s deal with Iran, which focused on curbing the country’s nuclear ambitions, also took a hands-off approach toward Iran’s internal affairs, and Thames was not surprised to see the Trump administration follow suit.

“We’re working on the symptoms of a bigger problem that neither agreement attempts to touch, which is the regime’s commitment to repressing the beliefs of its citizens, both regarding democracy and religion, and doing whatever it takes to stay in power,” Thames said.

During the first Trump administration, officials like former vice president Mike Pence, former

secretary of state Mike Pompeo, and former religious freedom ambassador at-large Sam Brownback took steps to promote religious freedom broadly. That included elevating the issue of religious freedom by hosting an international conference in Washington.

By contrast, the second Trump administration has done relatively little. The post for ambassador of religious freedom remains vacant, a year and some change after Trump’s second swearing in. The administration has advocated for the release of individual Christians imprisoned for religious activities, something previous presidents also did.

“The United States is the indispensable nation when it comes to promoting these important values—values important to Americans, values important to Christians—like religious freedom, human dignity, human rights,” Thames added. “And so when we’re not talking about it, no one else will either.”

Mindy Belz, a journalist who has long covered persecuted Christians in the Middle East, noted that the interim deal is supposed to be a starting point rather than an endpoint, but expressed concerns that the United States appears so willing to ignore Iran’s internal affairs.

The agreement, Belz said, is “shockingly devoid of anything that comes close to a concrete effort to protect average everyday people, average everyday believers, whether they be Muslims or Christians or the Bahá’i.”

Belz recalls meeting with faith leaders and the then-ambassador for religious freedom at the State Department as the Iraq War was drawing to a close, and pastors voiced concerns about the Constitution in the process of being drafted. Iraq’s 2005 Constitution includes an article pledging religious freedom to minorities such as Christians and Yezidi.

“This administration couldn’t put together a meeting like the one I went to at the State Department, because they don’t have a US ambassador for international religious freedom right now,” she said.

Belz and other foreign-policy experts pointed to past US diplomatic efforts to guarantee human rights after a conflict, including in postwar Japan, postwar South Korea, and Eastern

Europe following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Christians weren't given special treatment, Belz noted, but "you create conditions in which they're no longer being persecuted and they're no longer having to meet in houses in order to survive."

With the fresh outbreak of hostilities, the current Iranian government is further than ever from those kinds of conditions.

"The only way in which the regime has changed is that in some ways the regime has become even more—I don't like using the term—but even more hard-line," said Joel Griffith, a senior fellow at Advancing American Freedom.

Primarily, US negotiators have focused on ending the Iran conflict and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a channel between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman through

which around 20 percent of the world's oil and natural gas travels by ship.

Mark Tooley, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, said the conflict that began with "soaring goals" has diminished to a "sputter."

Trump outlined various aims at the war's outset, from crippling Iran's nuclear ambitions to encouraging Iranians eager for regime change. But the negotiations have distilled almost entirely to economics.

Tooley advocates pragmatism, and he sees the need for compromise and accommodation. But he doesn't think the Iran war has been a success by those metrics either.

"There's very little to celebrate," he added. "The problem of Iran, which has persisted for 47 years now, is in no way diminished."

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, Zhan Ge; Lian Xue Liang, Lian Chang Nian, Fu Juan, Li Jie, Hang Xiaodong, Yan Hwa, Gao Zhisheng, Wang Yi; Hao Zhiwei, Zhang Shaojie, Li Juncai, Lian Changnian; CUBA: Marcos Antonio Perdomo Silva; ERITREA: Mussia Ezaz, Dr. Kiflu Gebremeskel, Kidane Weldou, Haile Nayzg, Fit Sum-Berhan Gebrenegus, Teklab Menghisteab; 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.