

CALL TO PRAYER

NOVEMBER 2020



PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Around the world, many believers are persecuted, imprisoned, and even killed for their faith. Since Jesus laid down His life, 43 million Christians have become martyrs. Right now, 200 million people, 60 percent of whom are children, face persecution for believing in Jesus, according to Christians in Crisis International Ministry, a prayer advocacy ministry for persecuted believers.

November 1 has been designated as the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Over the next few weeks, please intercede for believers throughout the world who are suffering violence, oppression, displacement, and rejection by their families because of their faith in the Lord Jesus.

HOW TO PRAY FROM THE BIBLE

Because the New Testament was written to persecuted believers, it is filled with examples of how to pray for our brothers and sisters under attack. Here are five examples from Ephesians on how to intercede for persecuted believers:

- That they will know the hope God gives (see Ephesians 1:18)
- That the Holy Spirit will strengthen them (see Ephesians 3:16)

- That those under attack will know how much God loves them (see Ephesians 3:17)
- That they will know how to share the gospel (see Ephesians 6:19)
- That they will fearlessly tell others about Jesus (see Ephesians 6:20)

HOW TO PRAY FOR PRACTICAL NEEDS

Along with those scriptural prayers, here are some practical prayer needs of persecuted Christians:

- For their safety and protection from those intent on inflicting harm
- That they will have access to a Bible
- For the courage to remain in their homeland
- That those who have been rejected by family and friends will be embraced by a new Christian “family” who love and support them emotionally, spiritually, and physically
- That God will comfort and protect women who are socially vulnerable or have lost the custody of their children because of their faith
- That God will provide employment and safe places to live

adapted from “How to Pray for the Persecuted Church” by Evangeline Vergo. Reposted with permission, Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU)

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A PARABLE INSPIRES REVELATION

“This story shows us He is the Son of God!”

Bill*, my husband, was stunned at that matter-of-fact declaration. It was uttered by several young men who follow West Africa’s majority religion, responding to a study about the Parable of the Sower (see Matthew 13). They are being challenged from God’s Word to see Jesus as the Bible declares Him to be—the Way to eternal life, the One sent from God, the Truth—not just as a prophet, which is what their religious leaders have told them.

Bill participates in this inter-faith study in which Christian men as well as men from the majority religion engage in conversations about the truths in God’s Word. There are many questions, often asked with genuine curiosity, and the seekers are gaining more understanding each week. Please pray especially for four of the men—Mr. L, Mr. T, Matt, and Omar. Pray that God will illuminate their minds to fully grasp the gospel message, reveal Himself to them, and give Bill anointed words to help them see that Jesus is the only Way.

**Names changed*

| by an Alliance international worker serving in West Africa

GOD’S GOT THIS

You could find any number of ways to launch a new outreach. Most would



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Alliance ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and CAMA.

include a clear vision, advertising to draw people in, and special activities. And we would endorse those methods. But every once in a while, God steps in with a very different plan.

When my husband, Tim, and I arrived in the community of Jiufenzi in Tainan, Taiwan, uncertain how long we would remain, we had no plan for outreach into the community and no intention of coming up with one. But, prompted by an encounter with a non-Christian neighbor, we decided to open a “Prayer Center” to let our community know there is a Christian presence here and to provide an opportunity for seekers to receive prayer.

Sharla had recently moved into the neighborhood when she saw our sign and came to learn more. She and her husband were seeking a new church home. They invited their friend Allison, who visited the center with her teenage daughter, and a small group formed. Several weeks ago Ms. Wang joined us with her daughter and two grandchildren. She is praying that her daughter and son-in-law, at whose breakfast shop we have eaten, will decide to return to their faith. And yesterday, Tim got a call from another believer who is interested in the Prayer Center.

We don’t know where all of this is going yet, but we don’t need to—because God’s got this! Pray that we will keep in step with Him.

| by Penny Iverson, an Alliance international worker in Taiwan

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