



PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



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Prayer Points August 2020 CONTRIBUTOR: Shaun McKinley

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According to recent statistics from Open Doors USA, in the last year, over 260 million Christians lived in places where they experienced high levels of persecution. More than 2,983 Christians were killed for their faith in 2019. In this same period, 9,488 churches and other Christian buildings were attacked. Sadly, 3,711 believers were also detained without trial, arrested, sentenced, or imprisoned.

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Christian persecution is on the rise globally. The same report found that one in nine Christians worldwide are now experiencing high levels of persecution, a six percent rise from the previous years record. In seven of the 10 worst countries for Christian persecution, the primary cause of persecution is Islamic oppression. Eleven countries now rate in the “extreme” level for their persecution of Christians. Six years ago, North Korea was the only one.

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1 Corinthians 12:26 reminds us that as believers, we are one body. When one member of our body suffers, we all suffer. When one rejoices, we all rejoice. As one body with the persecuted believers, we must be mindful to prayerfully support our brothers and sisters who are suffering today because of their faith.

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PRAYER DIRECTIVES:

Join with us in praying for our persecuted brothers and sisters in the following ways:

- Pray for boldness and courage (Deuteronomy 31:6).
- Pray for strength from the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:16).
- Pray that they will remember God’s love for them (Ephesians 3:17).
- Pray that they would know how to fearlessly share the Gospel (Ephesians 6:19, 20; Colossians 4:2–4).
- Pray they will see God’s grace as sufficient and His power perfected in their weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10).
- Pray that they would rejoice in sharing the sufferings of Jesus so that they will rejoice even more when Christ is revealed (Hebrews 10:34).
- Pray that they will endure (Hebrews 5:8).
- Pray that they would have hope (Ephesians 1:18).
- Pray for their protection and deliverance (Matthew 26:39; Philippians 1:19).

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ADDITIONAL PRAYER RESOURCES:

Web:

- Voice of the Martyrs - <http://www.persecution.com>
- International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church - <http://idop.org>
- Open Doors USA - <http://idop.org>

Print:

- Please Pray for Us, by Johan Companjen (Bethany House Publishers, ISBN 0764224166)
- The Persecuted Church Prayer Devotional: Interceding for the Suffering Church, by Beverly J. Pegues (InterVarsity Press, ISBN 0830857354)
- Singing Through the Night: Courageous Stories of Faith from Women in the Persecuted Church, by Anneke Companjen (Baker Publishing Group, ISBN 1441238891)

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