



THE SUFFERING CHURCH

24-7 PRAYER FOR REVIVAL
13 - 19 November 2023

Dying Daily
The Suffering Church

One in every seven Christians (360 million) worldwide is exposed to severe levels of persecution and discrimination because of their faith and at least **5,898** were killed in 2022 for following Christ. [Worldwide](#), 13 Christians are killed every day because of their faith.

Consider this verse as you pray this week for our brothers and sisters who daily suffer persecution because of their devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." (Romans 8:35-36).

God has constantly reminded the Church through the New Testament to pray without ceasing. Commit this week to reading and praying the Bible daily. Let us pray for the Suffering Church to trust God and forgive her enemies. Pray for the Suffering Church to be patient and continue to profess her faith with zeal, gratitude and with perseverance. *Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.* (Revelation 3:11).

An initiative of Jericho Walls International Prayer Network and Open Doors



Scripture reading: *Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:59 – 60).*

SPIRIT-FILLED MINISTERS

Martyr for Christ: Stephen

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen to be responsible for the distribution of food to widows in the early church after a dispute arose and the apostles recognised they needed help. He was also *full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people (Acts 6:8)*. Opposition arose against Stephen, labelling him a blasphemer and having him arrested (Acts 6:11-14).

Pray for **Spirit-filled ministers** to serve with continued wisdom, grace and power despite their challenging situations. Like Stephen, pray for ministers to show **God's love and His forgiveness** to their oppressors even to the point of physical death. In the last year **5,621** Christians were killed for faith-related reasons.

Persecuted country: Congo

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. " (Matthew 5:10-12).

The eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a dangerous place for Christians. The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) often kidnaps women, rapes them and also forces them to marry their soldiers. Women who have converted to Christianity may forcibly be married to a Muslim, impregnated or divorced. Cry out to the Lord for stability and justice to return to eastern DRC. Ask the Lord for church leaders to have wisdom and strength as they care for their flock providing trauma counselling and emergency aid.



Scripture reading: *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* (Matthew 5:11-12).

GOD'S INTERVENTION

Martyr for Christ: Fady

On Monday, 15 May 2023, Fady went to work as usual at a construction company where he had been working for six years. He was respectful, positive and had a good attitude. Mohammed also came to work on that Monday. He was from a nomadic group and had only worked at the company for ten days as the driver of a bulldozer. Fady was on the worksite when Mohammed suddenly turned his bulldozer directly at him and eventually killed him. When asked by the police why he killed Fady, Mohammed said: "I killed him because he is a Christian. I hate Christians." (Source: [Open Doors](#)).

Lift in prayer the Christian community of North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa where believers are targeted by **acts of violence and hatred**. Ask God to intervene, to change hearts and to bind up the wounds of hurting families who endure trauma. Currently, **1 in 5** Christians are persecuted in Africa.

Persecuted country: Lebanon

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Matthew 5:44).

The Christian community in Lebanon is shrinking due to deprivation, discrimination and persecution. Christians face ongoing harassment from the Muslim majority, such as denial of land acquisition and increased tax rates. More severe persecution occurs when believers share their faith or when Muslims come to Christ. Pray for pastors whose congregants have lost their jobs due to political and economic instability – for continued spiritual support. Pray for Christians who are persecuted by those to whom they preach, for perseverance in their bold witness for Christ.



Scripture reading: *"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy. 'But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..." (Matthew 5:43-44).*

SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Martyr for Christ: Reverend Mukhtar Masih

Reverend Mukhtar Masih, 50, was shot near a railway station, close to his home. He had a great love for Muslims and was a compelling witness. Many Muslims came to Christ because of his outreach. His deep love for Muslims and his success in winning Muslims to Christ deeply bothered his Muslim neighbours, earning him many enemies. Despite many threats, Pastor Mukhtar could not stop sharing the Gospel. His deep love for the Father and the people around him forced him to keep going no matter the cost. (Source: [Believers Portal](#)).

Pray for **spiritual leaders** in South Asia to cry out as it is written in Acts 4:28-29, *"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."*

Persecuted country: Nigeria

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Violence remains the most dangerous and prevalent threat to Christians in Nigeria. They continue to be brutally attacked in northern Nigeria, and the violence has now spread to southern Nigeria. Christians are often dispossessed of their land and means of livelihood. Many live as internally displaced people or refugees. Thank God for the courageous faith of believers in Nigeria, who refuse to deny Christ despite the dangers they face. Pray for an end to the violence inflicted by militant groups across Nigeria.



Scripture reading: *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (Psalm 19:7-9).*

ACCESS TO GOD'S WORD

Martyr for Christ: William Tyndale

William Tyndale was the first person to translate the Bible into English. Tyndale objected to the Catholic Church's control of Scripture in Latin as well as the prohibition against an English translation. He was convicted of heresy. William Tyndale's final words before the chain around his neck strangled him to death before being burnt on the stakes were, "Lord, open the king of England's eyes." That dying prayer was answered two years after Tyndale's death when King Henry VIII ordered that the Bible of Miles Coverdale was to be used in every parish in the land.

Pray for the 52 countries in the world where **the Bible is illegal and/or severely persecuted**. Pray for the ministry of Bible distribution in restricted areas. Pray for the safety of the teams and volunteers, for the finances needed to ship Bibles, and for the distributors and teams on the field.

Persecuted country: Iran

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "AND DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEIR THREATS, NOR BE TROUBLED." (1 Peter 3:14).

With Iran's strict Islamic regime, house churches are seen as a Western threat to undermine Islam's authority. Believers caught in secret house churches are harassed, monitored, arrested and imprisoned, along with being subjected to physical and psychological abuse for actions labelled as "crimes against national security." Ask the Lord to strengthen, protect and encourage Christians who secretly meet and serve Him in Iran. Pray for Christians' steps to be directed to lead many more Iranians to faith in Jesus Christ and for the Church to be courageous and remain faithful to God amid severe suffering.



Scripture reading: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."* (John 12:24 - 25).

MIGHTY HARVEST

Martyr for Christ: Julio Cesar Ruibal

Julio Cesar Ruibal and his wife, Ruth, were called by God in 1978 to Columbia. Cali, Columbia, was one of the world's largest exporters of cocaine. Cartels controlled the city. Occultic practices were widespread, and on average fifteen people were murdered every day. Julio spent much of his time praying and fasting and promoting unity among church leaders in the city. However, after his martyrdom in 1995, over 2000 pastors signed a covenant of unity and the increase in prayer resulted in drug lords losing their power in the area. (Source: [The Jesus Fast](#)).

Corrupt and ineffective government has created space for criminal groups and ethnic leaders to emerge, strengthen and become drivers of persecution in certain countries in Latin America. Ask for pastors to seek the Lord in **prayer and fasting**, trusting the Lord for a **mighty harvest of souls** in Latin America.

Persecuted country: Syria

If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. (1 Peter 4:14).

Syrian believers suffer devastating losses, with traditional church leaders targeted because of their public visibility. Attackers are intimidating and scattering the Christian community. Women converts are especially vulnerable and risk suffering violence. Ask the Father to comfort and encourage the Syrian Christians who have lost everything. Pray for their safety and protection from violence by those purging them from their land. Ask for them to remain faithful to God during unstable and perilous times.



Scripture reading: *"If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods..."* (Daniel 3:17-18a).

FERVENT IN PRAYER

Martyr for Christ: Polycarp

The death of Polycarp in AD 135 was one of the earliest accounts of Christian martyrdom. He was persecuted under Marcus Aurelius and ordered by a Roman governor to turn back to the pagan gods. Here follows a portion of Polycarp's confession as he faced death: "Hear my confession: I am a Christian. You threaten me with a fire that burns for a moment and is soon extinguished, for you know nothing of the judgment to come, and the fire of eternal punishment reserved for the wicked." (Source: The Last Words of the Martyrs, Jeff King)

Today, over **360 million Christians** around the world face persecution and discrimination every day. Ask the Lord to show you which people group or nation you can 'adopt in prayer' and **fervently pray** for them. Pray for believers who are detained, imprisoned and mistreated. Remember their chains (Colossians 4:18); rejoice with those who are rejoicing and weep with those who weep (Romans 12:14-15).

Persecuted country: Turkey

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12).

Although Turkish law permits religious freedom, nationalism is intense. Christians are at high risk of persecution because of strong Islamic ties and contempt for non-Muslims. Because state identification cards require religious affiliation to be included, Christians are easily identifiable and discriminated against. Women converts are at the highest risk of persecution. Pray for Turkish Christians to have the freedom to openly share the gospel of Jesus Christ and for opportunities to minister the love of Jesus to those still affected and traumatised by the two earthquakes of 6 February 2023.



Scripture reading: *I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.* (Matthew 16:18).

CHRIST WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH

Martyr for Christ: Minsi Thado

"He was killed because of his faith, life, and ministry to the Adivasi people in the area. Ever since he was thrown out of the village by some Hindu radicals, he has led more than 20 families to Christ in the last five years." These words describe the life of a 35-year-old pastor who lived in the forest due to persecution and eventually paid with his life. (Source: [Christian News Network](#)).

Thank the Lord for **churches that are planted** through the witness of pastors who share the Gospel despite persecution. Pray for converts who lose their pastors in this manner to imitate them in their devotion to Christ (1 Corinthians 4:12-16).

In the last year, **2,110** churches and Christian buildings were attacked globally. **Extensive new Internet rules** were also implemented for churches in East Asia. The online space tightened for the Christian citizens, who are often seen as **Western allies**. Pray for the **underground churches**; for their spiritual growth, to know the will of God, and to be comforted in their distress (Colossians 1:9-12).

Persecuted country: Iraq

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. (James 1:2-3).

Iraqi Christians face severe persecution involving prejudice and harassment, many being driven out of their towns and villages by the Islamic State, receiving no governmental protection. Muslim converts to Christianity are tortured, beaten and forced to divorce. Some are arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned under blasphemy laws for sharing the Gospel. Pray for peace and stability in Iraq and for Christians to be freed from continuing conflict and civil unrest. Pray for Iraqi Christians to have perseverance and remain faithful to God.

