

DAY OF PRAYER

FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Join us in praying for our
persecuted brothers and
sisters around the world.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

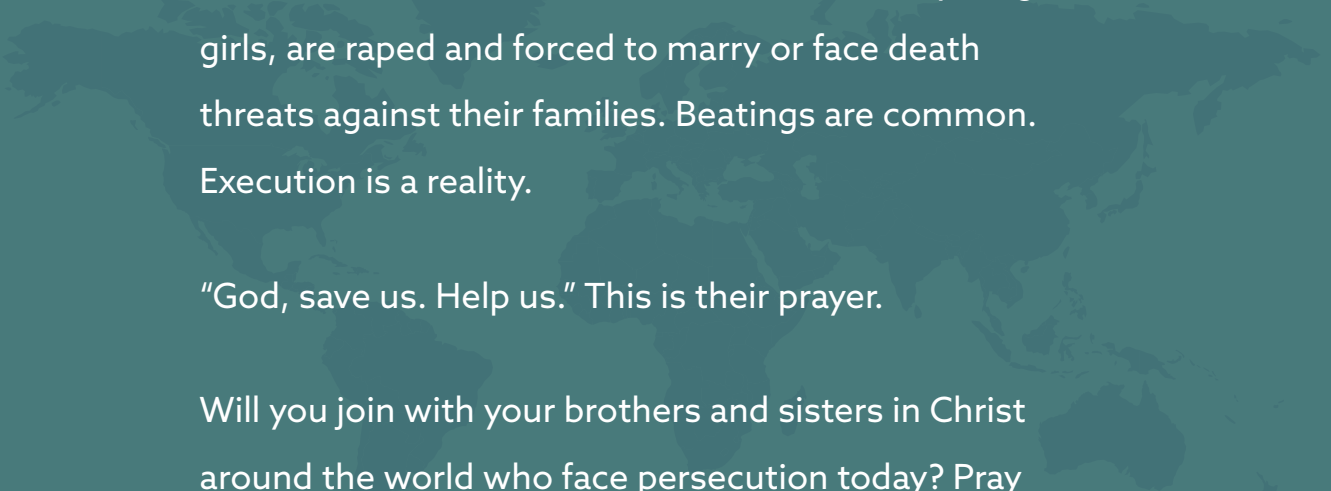
AFTAB | EUROPE

“God, save me. Help me.” This was Aftab’s constant prayer for many years as he faced one life-threatening event after another. Falsely accused of blasphemy – a crime punishable by death – Aftab had to flee his home country. He thought friends in the local government would come to his aid.

No one was willing to help a Christian.
The consequences would be too great.

Weeks turned into months and months turned into years. His journey seeking asylum and safety took him to nine countries. He endured hunger and hopelessness, near-death experiences hiding in shipping containers and clinging to a raft by his fingertips, beatings from those in refugee camps who heard him speak openly about the mistreatment of Christians in his home country.





Aftab's is just one story. He shared others from his home country, where Christians are a minority and a constant target of persecution. He doesn't just recount news events. He knows people who have had their homes burned. Women, sometimes young girls, are raped and forced to marry or face death threats against their families. Beatings are common. Execution is a reality.

"God, save us. Help us." This is their prayer.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who face persecution today? Pray that they will be fervent in their faith and that the gospel will continue to spread in their countries. Ask God, the Deliverer, to protect those facing danger. Pray for families, like Aftab's, to be reunited.

"GOD, SAVE US. HELP US."




WE PRAY



THAT GOD WILL EMPOWER THE PERSECUTED church to pray, *"not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."*

Romans 5:3-5

A close-up photograph of two hands, one at the top right and one at the bottom center, with palms facing up. The hands are positioned over a world map that is slightly out of focus in the background. The map shows continents in green and oceans in light blue. A wooden stick or pointer is visible in the upper left corner. The hands appear to be of a darker skin tone. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular box in the center of the image.

**WE PRAY THAT GOD WOULD EQUIP CHURCH
LEADERS** as they boldly and courageously proclaim the
gospel in the face of opposition.



“I want to encourage. I am an example. I lost everything. I want to encourage believers. Don't be hopeless, because every time, Jesus gives us strength when He is on the cross. He gives us strength to be sacrifice.” Aftab, a persecuted Christian from South Asia, encourages others facing persecution.

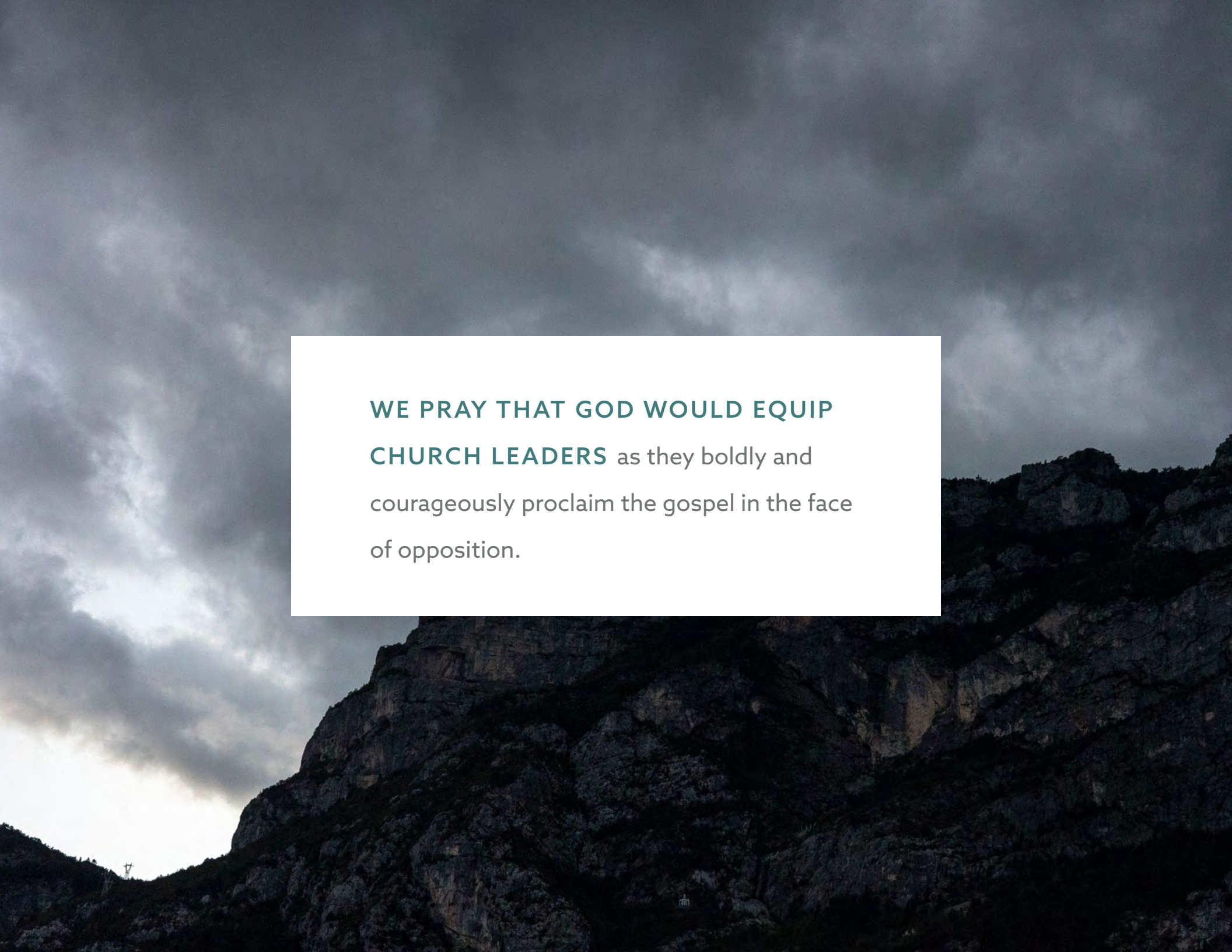
Will you pray for them today?

WE PRAY

**THAT OUR DEAR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS,** will be *“steadfast
and immovable, always excelling in the
Lord’s work, because you know that
your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

1 Corinthians 15:58





**WE PRAY THAT GOD WOULD EQUIP
CHURCH LEADERS** as they boldly and
courageously proclaim the gospel in the face
of opposition.

“She was a nurse, a professional. But a Muslim doctor had his eye on her. He “misbehaved” with her many times, she recounts. He wanted to force her to convert to Islam and marry him. She would not. The charge against her was swift – blasphemy, punishable by death. Friends warned her she had to flee. She remains separated from her daughter. **Will you pray for her and others facing persecution for their faith today?**”






WE PRAY



FOR FAMILIES OF IMPRISONED PASTORS

who fight to trust Jesus as their
Provider while living daily life,
taking care of children, and
supporting their families.



WE PRAY THAT GOD WOULD COMFORT
the children of families who are separated because
of persecution.



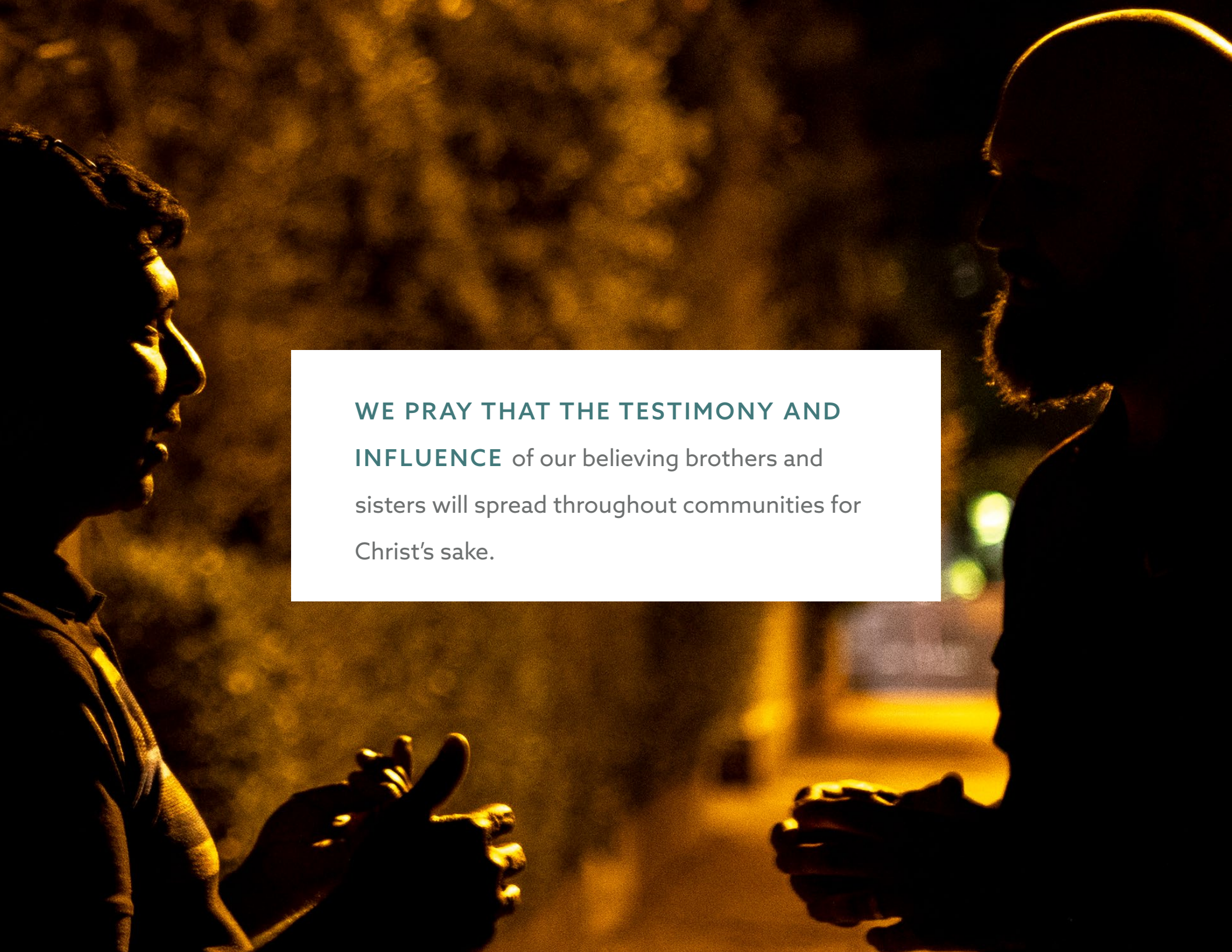
“Muslim coworkers tried to convince him that he could have multiple wives if he converted to Islam. He had no intention to convert, even after beatings. Finally, his oppressors had enough and charged him with blasphemy. To stay alive, he had to leave. He yearns for his wife and children back home. “I don’t need money. I don’t need food. I just need my family,” he says with sadness in his eyes. Will you pray that he can be reunited with his family? **Will you pray for Christians who continue to endure daily persecution?**

WE PRAY

THAT THOSE WHO ARE PHYSICALLY

beaten will know the loving power of God and respond to their persecutors with confidence, strength, and humility.



A photograph of two men in silhouette, facing each other with their hands clasped in prayer. The background is a warm, golden-brown bokeh of light, suggesting an outdoor setting at night or dusk. The men's profiles are visible, and their hands are raised towards their chests. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing text.

**WE PRAY THAT THE TESTIMONY AND
INFLUENCE** of our believing brothers and
sisters will spread throughout communities for
Christ's sake.



“Pray especially for the girls,” she asks. “Girls especially are not safe. Many try to force them to marry and become Muslim. It is very dangerous. Many are so young. Lord, save them. Make the laws for their safety.” **Will you pray with this pastor’s wife for the safety of the women in persecuted countries?**



WE PRAY

PRAY WITH PERSECUTED BELIEVERS as they
ask God to use their suffering to further His Kingdom.





INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

THANK YOU

FOR JOINING US IN PRAYER FOR THE
PERSECUTED CHURCH.

FOLLOW US FOR MORE STORIES
AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

