



NOVEMBER 2024

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Matthew 5:44

PRAYERPOINTS

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

The Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is November 3, 2024. This is an opportunity for individuals and churches to unite in prayer for believers around the world who are persecuted for their faith. This month we will focus on praying that God will use their witness to inspire gospel transformation among the lost. Will you join us?

IN WASSULU COMMUNITIES RIFE WITH PERSECUTION, JESUS IS WORTH THE COST

Over many years and miles, God has woven lives together for His glory among the Wassulu people in West Africa. Pastor Paul, of Wassulu ancestry, left Islam to follow Jesus and has shared the gospel among the Wassulu since the 1990s. His passion for evangelism is evident. The first time he visited the Wassulu region, he kissed the ground and prayed for the people. Despite facing persecution and even death threats, Paul has remained steadfast in preaching God's Word. For years, he has sacrificed time with his family and his work to share the gospel through chronological Bible storying and train others to do the same. In the village of Dalton, where Paul visited and preached, persecution had once been particularly intense. In prior years, a believer survived attempts on his life and fled due to the pressure from village elders. However, the believer's brother, Adam, and Adam's wife, Margo, later became followers of Christ. Adam became the first baptized believer in Dalton. He and Margo suffered persecution yet clung to Jesus. "I know Jesus is the truth, and I will die on this path," Adam once said.



A West African believer and subsistence farmer. IMB Photo.

Adam remained faithful to Jesus until he succumbed to health issues in April 2024. Upon his death, Dalton villagers refused to prepare Adam's body, but Christian men from nearby villages ensured a burial and Christian service that honored Adam's life. The day after Adam's funeral, older men from Dalton gathered to hear Paul answer questions about the Christian faith and the hope in which Adam had died. Margo, now a widow, remains strong in her faith despite often standing alone. Her non-believing neighbors are treating her well, an answer to prayer. The faith of Paul, Adam, and Margo shines brightly among the Wassulu, an unreached people group, demonstrating that following Jesus is worth the cost. As persecution continues, please pray that God will use their lives and testimonies to draw others to Himself.

GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Last year we prayed with Sanjay, a South Asian pastor, for new leaders in the growing church he pastors. Praise God for providing two local men for Sanjay to mentor in church leadership. We also asked God to financially sustain Sanjay's family. God is meeting those needs through a new business opportunity with local farmers. Thank you for praying. Praise God for His provision in raising leaders and supporting Sanjay's family.

1 THE PERSECUTED CHURCH. Pray for believers around the world who experience persecution and told not to follow God or share His good news. Pray for them to continue to speak His Word "with all boldness" (Acts 4:29). Ask God to use their witness to draw many to Himself.

2 WASSULU OF MALI, GUINEA, AND COTE D'IVOIRE. Mike was a college student when he joined Wassulu evangelism work. Mike has grown in faith amid persecution. Ask God to provide wisdom and reliable internet service for Mike as he translates Bible training content for Wassulu pastors and others who speak the language.

3 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. The scattered Uyghur believers across the globe experience hurdle after hurdle in their faith. From government oppression to distrust among their own people, it is challenging for Uyghurs believers to congregate to worship. Pray for ways for them to be encouraged.

4 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. In Western Europe, Christ is openly mocked. Pray for God to pour out His mercy on those who mock Him. Pray that they will see Him as He truly is and repent. Pray that God will strengthen believers there to obey all of Christ's commands even if they are mocked as He was.

5 ACACIA PEOPLE OF NORTHERN AFRICA. Abdullah, a teacher at a local mosque, heard the gospel and believed. He has since encountered intense persecution and has fled his home. Pray for Abdullah and other new believers in this area to find comfort in God's presence and remain firm as they follow Jesus.

6 BANGLADESH. In the turmoil of the recent overturn of the government in Bangladesh, Christians there are being attacked. Please pray for the Church in Bangladesh to look to God for their comfort and share the hope they have in Christ with those around them.

7 CITY OF SALT AND LIGHT, EAST ASIA. Ashley is a follower of Jesus. She said that the restrictions and constant surveillance make it difficult for believers in her city to meet or to communicate with each other. Please ask God to provide them with persistence, joy, and boldness during these difficult times.

8 REFUGEES IN UGANDA. Around 100 believers from a Muslim Sudanese tribe have arrived as refugees in Uganda. Pray for these believers who have fled war and persecution. Pray for an IMB team working to help refugees through trauma healing groups, discipleship classes, and skills training.

9 SPARROW PEOPLE OF THE HORN OF AFRICA. As the gospel spreads among the Sparrow people, believers are experiencing more persecution. Some are beaten. Some dodge thrown rocks while giving out New Testaments. One believer has disappeared. Pray for the believers' continued boldness and for more to trust in Christ.

10 PEOPLES OF NORTHERN MALUKU ISLANDS, INDONESIA. Matt and Ruth suffer much for the gospel yet faithfully share the good news amid trials. Pray for them as Ruth recovers from an attempt on her life through poisoning. Pray for Rebecca, the woman who poisoned her, to come to know Jesus and be a light in the darkness.

11 PAKISTAN. During an evangelism training for women, many of the participants said they live in fear of talking about their faith because they can be rejected or persecuted. Pray for courage and boldness for these women to walk in obedience in furthering God's kingdom in Pakistan.

12 MIXTECS OF GUERRERO, MEXICO. God has opened many ministry opportunities in a Mixtec community in Mexico. But it isn't easy for someone in this town to give their life to Christ due to fear of persecution. Ask God to help them overcome this fear and follow Him.

13 PERSIANS OF THE SOUTH CAUCASUS. Many Persians in the South Caucasus who have chosen to follow Jesus make this decision while they're travelling or away from family. They may face persecution from their families and friends for following Him. Ask God to deepen their faith and help them get access to His Word and a church.

14 DEAF PEOPLES. When Matt, a West African Deaf man, told his family that he follows Jesus, they kicked him out of the house. No support and no more family ties. Please ask God to provide for this young man. Pray that his faith will continue to grow and that God will work in his family.

15 HIGHLAND PEOPLE OF THE HORN OF AFRICA. Moussa and his family share their faith boldly and disciple believers despite the risk of persecution. A new water project brought them favor with village leaders, some who had previously been persecutors. Pray for continued favor and boldness for Moussa and his family.

16 THE PERSECUTED CHURCH. Pray that believers who face persecution will “not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. [May they] rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

17 PEOPLES OF JHARKHAND, INDIA. Lately, believers in Jharkhand have been facing a lot of persecution and pressure to return to Hinduism. Many families have done so due to persecution. Pray that they will repent and turn back to Jesus. Ask God to encourage the believers to stand strong in their faith.

18 ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE. Many believers in Abidjan are persecuted by their families and friends for following Jesus. In their suffering, pray that God will sustain them and satisfy them. Pray that they will bless those who persecute them by praying for the salvation of their persecutors.

19 DIGITAL MINISTRIES, SINO-MONGOLIAN PEOPLES, ASIA. Parts of Asia are difficult for Christians to access and share the gospel in person. Pray for the lost in in these hard-to-reach places to have opportunities to hear the gospel online and through other media. Pray for believers there to be disciplined.

20 JEWISH DIASPORA WORLDWIDE. For Jewish people around the world, much persecution has arisen over conflicts in the Middle East. Pray that Jewish believers will boldly share the hope they have in Jesus with their communities. Pray for more Jewish people to give their lives to Him in faith.

21 MAPPILA MUSLIMS OF INDIA. Pray for a new media outreach that focuses on Muslim areas of Kerala, India. Pray that Muslims who are afraid to ask questions about Jesus due to fear of persecution will feel the freedom to engage with this outreach to hear about the risen Jesus.

22 A CARIBBEAN ISLAND. Hopelessness pervades a Caribbean island as food, gas, and medicine are in short supply. However, people are entering churches like never before, many for the first time. Pray many come to faith in Christ. Pray the Church shines brightly as a beacon of hope.

23 BEHDINI KURDS OF CENTRAL ASIA. Praise God for a new Behdini Kurdish believer in Central Asia. Ask God to protect her and strengthen her to witness to other Behdini Kurds so they may come to faith in Jesus. Pray for Behdini Kurds who are attracted to Jesus and are considering the cost of following Him.

24 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Churches in an Eastern European country are required to register with the government so authorities can control any opposition. Masha is a pastor's wife there and spent three months in prison before fleeing to a freer country. Pray for believers there amid persecution.

25 TAIWAN. Susan became a Christian as a college student 15 years ago. Her husband is a believer, but her parents are devout Buddhists. They have rejected Susan, her husband, and children. Pray for Susan and others like her who have lost their place at home for following Jesus.

26 DEAF PEOPLES. As Deaf students return home during a school break, they often face isolation from their family and community who, usually, haven't learned sign language. Deaf are also often persecuted for just being Deaf, even more if they are believers. Please pray for them.

27 PEOPLES OF MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA. Soon after Aaron and Anita, a married couple of new believers, were baptized, Aaron lost his job for refusing to worship idols. They are now facing eviction for their Christian faith. Pray for their faith to deepen and for their unbelieving family to trust in Christ.

28 WASSULU OF MALI, GUINEA, AND COTE D'IVOIRE. Pray for Pastor Paul's continued good health and ability to travel to Wassulu villages. Pray for his three sons to find Christian wives, and for his daughter and son-in-law's young family. They're the next generation challenged to stand firm as a small group of believers.

29 TRIBE OF PEACE IN NORTHERN AFRICA. Ibrahim was recently arrested for his faith. Now released, he remains in his city to encourage other believers and to continue sharing the gospel, despite the risk of violence and imprisonment. Pray that his dependence on God will increase and God's kingdom will advance.

30 THE PERSECUTED CHURCH. When believers experience persecution, pray that God will give them the perspective and strength to “count it all joy” and trust “that the testing of [their] faith produces steadfastness” (James 1:2-3).

AS THE GOSPEL FLOURISHES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, PERSECUTION INCREASES

After many years of prayer and hard work, by 2022, the whole New Testament was finally translated into the Sparrow people's language. The books were printed, but a holdup with distribution kept the books from reaching the Sparrow People. After months of waiting and praying, the New Testaments arrived at last in 2023. Since then, thousands of New Testaments have reached the Sparrow People in the Horn of Africa. Believers there are overjoyed to read God's Words in their own language for the first time. Many are gathering with others to study the Word. Some have been emboldened to share the gospel with their Muslim neighbors, using the Sparrow New Testament. Since the New Testaments were distributed, some Muslims, including a religious teacher, have come to trust in Jesus and follow Him. As the gospel spreads and changes lives, believers are experiencing more persecution. New believers have suffered threats and beatings. A believer named Kadija has taken some believers into her home where she can provide for their physical healing, their emotional support, and, most importantly, their spiritual growth. She has been ministering to street children and their families, teaching Bible stories from creation in Genesis to Christ's death and resurrection in weekly groups.

Pray for Kadija as she pours herself into these believers, meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Pray for her to have wisdom and discernment from the Lord.



An African believer reads his Bible. IMB Photo.

Pray for the persecuted Sparrow believers in the Horn of Africa, especially the new believers. Please pray that many Muslims will encounter God's Word and trust in Jesus.

Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

November 3

More than 360 million Christians worldwide suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. That's a staggering 1 in 7 believers.

You can make a difference through prayer.

Learn more at imb.org/persecuted

Week of Prayer for International Missions

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**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**