



Prayer for the Persecuted Church for September 11, 2020

from ICC:

<https://bit.ly/32gfSpq>

Pakistani Christian Sentenced to Death for Alleged Blasphemy

09/08/20 Pakistan (ICC)

Asif Pervaiz, a 37-year-old Pakistani Christian, has been sentenced to death for allegedly sending blasphemous text messages in 2013. According to Pervaiz's attorney, the death sentence was announced by the court despite there being "no evidence" to implicate his client in the case. In Pakistan, false blasphemy accusations are often motivated by personal vendettas or religious hatred.

- HOW TO PRAY: Pray for this death sentence to be dropped.
- Pray for peace and protection for Asif Pervaiz during his time in prison.
- Pray for Pakistan's blasphemy laws to be overturned.

Imprisoned Chinese Christian Lawyer Denied Bible

09/06/20 China (ICC)

According to the wife of Chinese human rights lawyer Qin Yongpei, Deng Xiaowun, her imprisoned Christian husband was denied access to the Bible and a book on biblical stories by his detention center. The reason for the decision was that Qin might "spread the gospel in prison." In the end, Qin will instead receive two other classic Chinese divination text as an alternative.

- HOW TO PRAY: Pray for better access to the Gospel within China's prisons.
- Pray for the release of Qin Yongpei from prison.
- Pray for Bibles to be distributed throughout China like never before.

Iraqi Christian Village Empty After Turkish Airstrikes

09/06/20 Iraq (ICC)

A report published by Rudaw shared that the Christian village of Sheranish is left abandoned because of Turkish airstrikes in the area over the

past several months. Some residents have suffered displacement before, further adding to the pain of yet again having to leave their homes. Residents say that Turkey indiscriminately bombed the village and its surrounding area.

- HOW TO PRAY: Pray for indiscriminate airstrikes in the region to cease.
- Pray for protection for Iraq's Christian community.
- Pray for peace to spread throughout the Middle East.

Sudan Omits Christian Classes from Primary Education

09/04/20 Sudan (ICC)

Despite great strides forward for religious freedom in Sudan, Christians in the country continue to fear that they will always be viewed as second-class citizens. Last week, the government of Sudan released the list of educational classes that will be taught in all primary schools. Among that list were Islamic studies. However, absent from the list was any Christian education.

- HOW TO PRAY: Pray for equal rights for Christians and other minorities in Sudan.
- Pray for children in Sudan to access the Gospel despite this development.
- Pray for greater steps toward religious freedom in Sudan.

<https://bit.ly/2Zo572l>

500 Christians Killed in Ethiopia since June, Report States

09/08/2020 Ethiopia (International Christian Concern)

Ethiopia is home to one of the oldest churches in the world. It is believed that the first people to convert to Christianity lived were brought to the faith by Matthew and Bartholomew, as well as the Ethiopian Eunuch who spoke with Phillip. The Ethiopian orthodox church was then founded in the 4th century as the country's religion by its rulers. Despite this extremely old history, the church is coming under attack in recent days according to the Barnabus Fund. The report states that, "coordinated killings, targeting Christians from a wide range of ethnicities including Oromo Christians, began soon after the alleged assassination of a popular Oromo singer, Hachallu Hundessa, who was shot dead on 29 June..."

There has been ongoing strife in the Oromo region of the country for the past several years, but the Barnabus fund says that the recent killing of these young Christians has been conducted by Islamic extremists. “The attackers are from the Oromo ethnic group, which has traditionally been Muslim, and are members of Qeerroo (meaning, “bachelors”), an Oromo male youth movement. In door-to-door attacks on Christian households the Qeerroo extremists arrived in cars and, armed with guns, machetes, swords and spears, sought out and slaughtered Christians. Children were forced to witness their parents being brutally murdered with machetes.”

Not only have lives been lost, according to the report, “Christians’ business premises and houses were burnt down, vandalised or destroyed by the extremists. Billions of dollars of damage was caused to property, including businesses owned by internationally renowned Christian athlete, Haile Gebreselassie, in Ziway and Shashamahe towns.” Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia who are suffering at the hands of hateful and violent neighbors.

From Open Doors
<https://bit.ly/2Q0MqQK>

Hope through loans in Syria

In Aleppo, new businesses are opening, and hope is rising. War, followed by economic collapse, had crippled the city. People were left unable to secure even their basic needs. So far, 125 income-generating projects have started through small business loans that your support has provided to believers.

While the businesses may vary, each one provides dignity. Each one is helping Christians rebuild their communities—Christians like Shadia, a 24-year-old pharmaceutical graduate, who was able to open a pharmacy and now supports her parents and her siblings’ education. Dr. Berj Haddidan opened a much-needed dental clinic. Elias Arkilo started his own tailor shop and can now provide for his family.

September 11

- Pray for discernment and creative thinking for our ministry partners who oversee this loans initiative. Ask God to guide their efforts.

September 12

- The coronavirus pandemic has brought even more uncertain economic times. Pray that more Christians will be able to participate in income-generating projects.

September 13

- Praise God for the opportunities for hope and dignity that these businesses are providing.

September 14

- Pray that believers who have stayed in Aleppo would be strengthened in their faith as they rebuild.

September September 15

- Pray Muslims in Aleppo would come to know Christ as believers share the hope they have.

September 16

- Pray for healing for the emotional scars left by the trauma that believers have endured.

September 17

- Pray for insight and favor for Christians like Shadia as they operate their businesses.

<https://www.icommittoprayer.com>
Sep. 10, 2020 | Turkey

American-Born Wife of Turkish Pastor Expelled

The US-born wife of a Turkish citizen was recently told that her residency permit was revoked, even though she has lived in Turkey for nearly 10 years. Joy Subaşıgüller was told her residency permit had been revoked on June 5. She is married to a Turkish pastor, Lütfü, and the couple has three children, all Turkish citizens. The couple has filed an appeal, but they expect it to be denied. In 2019, at least 35 foreign Christian workers were expelled from Turkey when their residency permits were revoked or denied. So far this year, at least 16 others have been forced to leave the country.

- Pray for Joy and her family as they make decisions and respond wisely.

Sep. 10, 2020 | Tanzania

Pastor and His Wife in Zanzibar Assaulted

Vandals attacked the Calvary Mission Church in Mwamboni, Zanzibar on Feb. 24 and Feb. 29, 2020. Before the attack, Pastor Philemon Mafilili, 51, said he had received threats from a local official. This man had told the pastor to “leave as soon as

possible, because the Muslim community does not want a church here.” On Feb. 24, a group of radical Muslims came to the church armed with machetes, hammers and a container of gasoline, intending to set the church on fire. Church members who were nearby intervened, but the attackers beat the pastor’s wife before running away. Five days later, they were back. This time they had machetes, axes and knives, and they assaulted the pastor, sending him to the hospital.

- Pray for Pastor Philemon, his wife and all the Christians in the area.

Sep. 10, 2020 | Ethiopia

Priests Provoke, Then Attack Evangelicals

When five families came to faith in a small village, they became at odds with the rest of their community. Shango became a believer in 2002. Through his faithful witness, he led four other families to faith in Jesus, and they worshipped at his house. In that area, evangelical Christianity is regarded as anti-Ethiopian Orthodox, and the evangelical believers were discriminated against in community life and frequently had their livestock stolen. Recently, Orthodox priests asked the believers to participate in a feast in the name of a dead person, knowing evangelical believers do not participate in such ceremonies. When they declined, the priests levied heavy fines. When the believers appealed to the government, the government fined the priests for acting illegally. In outrage, the priests incited their followers to burn down the homes and businesses of the evangelicals. On June 6, five families lost their homes and provisions. A local church planter was threatened with death if he did not leave the area.

- Pray the faithful actions of the evangelical believers will be seen by their neighbors and will give testimony to their persecutors.

From Voice of the Martyrs Global Prayer Guide
<https://bit.ly/2DNZoeN>

Global Prayer Guide: CHINA

OVERVIEW:

Explosive growth has characterized the church for at least the past 30 years. About 100 million Christians live in China, but only 30 million are affiliated with the government-authorized Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), the state church controlled by the Communist government. The remaining 70 million worship in unapproved house churches.

Despite continual pressure and oppression from the Communist government, house church leaders refuse to compromise the gospel and join government-approved churches. About 60 percent of believers in China live in rural areas. Few house church leaders have formal theological training or access to Bible study materials.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

Because of decades of atheistic communist belief promoted by the government, most Chinese are nonreligious, though about 20 percent are Buddhist and another 20 percent practice Chinese folk religion.

PERSECUTOR:

The main persecutor is the government.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN

CHINA:

Ten years ago, unregistered churches in China’s “house church” movement enjoyed a measure of acceptance by the government, but today things are much different. In February 2018, a new religious regulation led to increased government restrictions on unregistered churches. Hundreds of churches have been forced to close, pastors and church members have been arrested or detained and the online sale of Bibles is prohibited. A campaign to remove crosses from churches also continues in one province. In the past few years, the government has installed more than 170 million facial recognition cameras, many in or near churches, to identify those who attend worship services. Church leaders are under intense pressure to join the government-controlled church. If they refuse, the government often files false charges against them. In general, the farther Christians are from Beijing the more freedom they have. Authorities pressure Christian parents by refusing their children an education, and even the grandchildren of Christians are often denied schooling. It is illegal to teach religion to anyone younger than 18. Christians are often charged with participating in cults or with other spurious charges, such as “bad business practices” or “intent to undermine the state.”

ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Those living in rural areas have little access to Bibles and usually can’t afford them even when they’re available. Bibles can be purchased at some bookstores operated by the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, the only state-sanctioned church, but rarely in bulk. Still, the average of 300,000 Bibles that VOM distributes each year makes only a tiny dent in the massive demand. Give Bibles

VOM WORK:

VOM distributes Bibles in the least reached, most challenging areas of China. We distribute children’s Bibles, which are illegal, as well as study Bibles

for Christian leaders, which are both illegal and expensive. We also supply literature to groups that are reaching Muslims in China. Give to VOM's Global Ministry

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for Pastor David, as the government forced him to close his house church.
- Pray for the release of Pastor John Cao, who is serving a seven-year prison sentence.
- Pray for the pastor and members of Early Rain Covenant Church who are in prison.
- Pray for the protection of missionaries, despite the government's offer of cash to informants.
- Pray for a Uyghur believer who was kidnapped two years ago.
- Pray for children, who are forbidden to attend church or Sunday school.
- Pray for Pastor Xi and his wife, who were arrested, tortured and forced to relocate.