



Christians worship in a house church service in Europe.

PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

THE persecuted CHURCH

GOD'S WORD PROMISES THAT PERSECUTION WILL COME TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW JESUS. PRAISE GOD THAT HIS WORD ALSO PROMISES THAT HE WILL BE WITH THEM IN THEIR SUFFERING AND REWARD THEM GREATLY IN HEAVEN. JESUS EVEN CALLED THEM BLESSED. GOD NOT ONLY HELPS BELIEVERS ENDURE PERSECUTION, BUT HE ALSO USES IT TO DRAW THE LOST AND EMBOLDEN THE CHURCH.

God used a persecuted woman's faithful witness to draw her husband to Himself

Once Noor heard the gospel from a believing friend who bravely shared it with her, it didn't take long for her to become a passionate follower of Jesus. That alone is a miracle worth celebrating. It's common for new believers in northern Africa and the Middle East to experience persecution from their family. However, Noor's husband, Ahmed, completely supported her even though he didn't believe. His support was a blessing, but Noor wanted her husband to experience new life in Jesus too. So, she and her believing friends began praying for Ahmed. Not long after Noor's decision, she experienced persecution from her family. They restricted her from seeing others, even her husband. When weeks turned into months, Ahmed lost hope. He and Noor's believing friends feared that she was dead. Then one day her friends heard a familiar voice behind them. It was Noor!



She told them all about how her family had beaten her and berated her for following Jesus, but through it all, Noor faithfully loved them and shared the gospel with them. It was a challenging time, but they eventually let Noor go. When she returned home, Noor said that Ahmed asked her to read the Bible to him. He studied the Word with Noor and the other believers for a couple of weeks and became a believer! It was clear that God used Noor's persecution to draw Ahmed to Him.

Praise God for sustaining Noor during persecution and for drawing Ahmed to Himself. Pray that Ahmed will fully surrender to Jesus and trust in Him. Pray for other believers in this area of the world who suffer persecution from those they love.

1 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Hamid's persecution began before his profession of faith. His wife and children were taken from him by the family because he was listening to the Word on his phone. Pray for Hamid to continue seeking and to be saved. Pray that his family will be returned to him.

2 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Leo and LouAnne are a believing couple in northeastern Brazil's indigenous KDD tribe who lost their jobs after refusing to recant their faith in Jesus Christ. Ask God to provide for them and their family during this time when the couple is out of work.

3 AFGHANISTAN. Pray for the believers that remained behind. Pray God would raise up leaders and they will work to rebuild the church. Pray they will fulfill the Great Commission by boldly share with neighbors, giving hope to all those who have none.

4 HAKKA PEOPLE OF EAST ASIA. Pray for Hakka seekers who have heard the gospel but hesitate to follow Jesus because of family pressure to worship ancestors and temple gods. They risk being cast out of their families. Ask God to give them courage and wisdom to count the cost and still follow Him.

5 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. An identity card is crucial for school, work, and travel. Believing families fled conflict and can't provide for themselves without new cards, which have been denied. Pray that the authorities will give the needed permissions. Pray for emotional healing for each family.

6 EUROPEAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. Sharing the gospel among the Poles in Brazil is difficult. Many Polish people who leave the Catholic Church are ostracized by their community, so they remain unreached at 0.5% evangelical. Ask God to tear down the barriers keeping them from knowing Jesus as their Savior.

7 INDIA. Persecution of believers is increasing across India, particularly in southern India. Believers are unjustly imprisoned, beaten, and threatened. Church gatherings are prevented. Pray that believers will remain faithful and that their response will be a strong witness.

8 AFGHANISTAN. Pray for unbelievers who were able to leave. Pray God would orchestrate divine appointments for them to hear the Good News. Pray that by leaving the oppressive atmosphere of Afghanistan, people will have the freedom to make Jesus Lord of their lives.



A woman in South Asia holds a Bible.

9 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. Naima and Ali were in prison for their faith, and God miraculously freed them. A year later Ali was killed in a car accident. Ask God to comfort and strengthen Naima and her children. Pray that He will meet their needs in a place where it is very difficult to follow Jesus.

10 SUMATRA. A man saw Jesus in a dream then believed the gospel. His wife was physically healed then believed too. They are now rejected by their community. Ask God to provide for them and spread the gospel through their witness. Pray also for the new house church they've joined.

11 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray that God will use the bold witness of a believing couple in northeastern Brazil's indigenous KDD tribe. May the persecution they experience bring glory to His name and to grow His church among the KDD in years to come.

12 FULANI OF WESTERN NIGER. Pray for Western Fulani believers to have wisdom as they share their faith amid persecution from a local religious group. Two families of believers were recently forced to leave their homes due to terrorist activity. Pray for daily provision and peace for them and for Niger.

13 PEOPLES OF RHINE, RÜHR, MAIN RIVER AREAS, GERMANY. New believers in Germany are often shamed by their family and friends and pressured to keep living as they did before. Any Christian religion other than Lutheranism and Catholicism is seen as a cult. Pray for them to be strong in their faith and loving in their witness.

14 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. Fatima has been secretly following Jesus for five years. Her family still doesn't know. Even though she's in Europe, she fears her parents will persecute her. Now that she is older and independent, pray that God will open a door for her to share boldly with her family.

15 SOUTH ASIA. Pray for a local harvest worker as he plants three new churches. People fear persecution there, so trusted leaders and safe homes to meet are needed. Pray that the other churches this worker has started will continue functioning well as he plants more churches.

16 CHINA. In February 2021, online Christian ministry in China began to experience tighter restrictions. Pray for believers to have wisdom in knowing how to navigate these restrictions. Ask that they will find creative ways to proceed sharing the gospel and discipling believers.

17 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Ahmed came to believe as a young adult. He reads the Bible daily in public with others. “We know what you do and what you believe, and you’ll never get a work permit,” he was told. It’s difficult for believers to find jobs. Ask God to provide employment for Ahmed.

18 INDIA. Pray for Pastor Sam as he leads work and trains leaders throughout the state of Karnataka, India, which has a population of 66 million people. Ask that he will have wisdom as he makes plans amid threats and persecution. Pray for his physical and spiritual protection.

19 EUROPEAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. Most Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina think they’re saved by infant baptism in an Orthodox church. Believers (less than 0.1% of the population) are ridiculed for trusting God’s Word over a priest’s word. Pray for the lost to be drawn to God’s Word and come to know Jesus.

20 AFGHANISTAN. Pray for the brothers and sisters who were able to leave Afghanistan. Pray that wherever they find themselves, they would be salt and light to those around them. Pray God will use them to further his kingdom to Afghans all over the earth.

21 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. Pray for a group of believers who are undergoing social pressure because of their faith. Men and women in this group have lost relationships with friends and others because of their faith in Jesus. Pray that they will be encouraged and bold despite, their losses.

22 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Believers in Brazil’s KDD tribe were accused of betraying their tribal culture and are now experiencing pressure to recant their faith in Jesus. Join them in praying that God will make them strong and help them spread the gospel seed in their community.

23 GENT, BELGIUM. Pray for Belgians in Gent to desire to know God. Most are lost and prefer intellectual studies and forward-thinking to Bible stories. Pray for encouragement for Belgium believers who are worn down by responding to harsh criticism, rejection, and ridicule over the years.

24 DEAF PEOPLES. Pray for Deaf Chinese believers as their government tightens reins on social media and online content. Deaf believers there use social media to share videos of God’s Word in the local sign language. Now the government may be watching and try to stop their witness.

27 MUSLIMS OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA. A believing couple battle fear of local, antagonistic Muslim groups. Recently, they faced their fears and invited several Muslim families over to share a meal and to share the gospel! Pray that God will draw these families to Himself and start a church in this home.

28 AFGHANISTAN. Pray for all Afghans who are living under the Taliban rule and the declining economic situation of the country. As people are looking for ways to provide for their families, pray that God would give them dreams and visions and they would look to Jesus for their hope and provisions.



“If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” (1 Peter 4:14 ESV)

25 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. In 2021, several believers were jailed for sharing Jesus. This was a time of growth for them and other believers. Praise God that they are now free and continue to share. Pray for all believers as they count the cost, share boldly, and work in unity to build the church.

26 PEOPLE OF CENTRAL TAIWAN. Pray for Christian students as they go home for holidays like Chinese New Year and Tomb Sweeping Day. Ancestor and idol worship are big parts of these celebrations, and many students will be pressured by families to participate. Pray for them to remain faithful to Christ.

29 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. The daughter of strong believers was killed when her husband found out she had been talking to her parents after he had forbidden it. The believers have never seen their grandchildren. Pray for grace and mercy for families of those who give their lives for Jesus.

30 TORCH PEOPLE OF EAST ASIA. Pray for believers among the Torch people. Recently, a church was raided, and believers were arrested. But while they were in jail, 19 prisoners heard the gospel, and two accepted Christ as Savior! Ask God to empower these believers to faithfully endure persecution.

South Asian believers resonate with Daniel's story of persecution in the lion's den



A print in a believer's home of "Daniel's Answer to the King" by Briton Riviere (1840-1920).

Some South Asian believers decorate their homes with an art print based on Daniel in the lion's den. Daniel's gaze is fixed heavenward while the lions lay behind him. This image resonates with them because following Jesus is costly, yet many choose to leave behind man-made idols and rituals and run to the one true God. As followers of Jesus in South Asia are disowned, the gospel spreads to homes with open doors. When they are run out of their towns, the gospel goes with them to new areas. As they are imprisoned, the gospel spreads to those prisons. And if followers of Jesus are killed, the gospel spreads as others hear the story of the hope those martyrs had in Christ. May He alone receive the praise of South Asia's 1.8 billion worshippers. May the South Asian church not grow weary as they proclaim the name of Christ with their words, their deeds, and their very lives. May their faithful witness echo throughout all eternity.

Faith in Jesus cost them their jobs, but believers' persecution emboldened the local church

Leo and LouAnne are new believers in northeastern Brazil's indigenous KDD tribe. Recently, 60 leaders told them to either abandon their faith in Jesus or lose their jobs as schoolteachers in the community. The leaders accused the couple of being traitors to their tribal culture. "It's not easy to follow Jesus, but I don't want to quit now," Leo answered. Leo and LouAnne lost their jobs that day. "We feel sad to be hated for our faith and to have lost our jobs, but we also feel happy on the inside, knowing that we are standing firm in our faith in Jesus!" LouAnne said. This persecution has strengthened the faith of the believers in the KDD tribe, who still meet and study the Word together weekly. "They can't take the seed of the gospel away from us," a believer said. "Let's ask God to make us strong and make this seed grow!"



Light shines in the darkness as the remaining believers in Afghanistan persevere in faith

Last summer, the world watched in horror as Afghanistan fell into the hands of the Taliban and a mass of people fled their homeland. Among this group, many Afghan believers escaped what they feared would be certain death because of their faith in Christ. Please pray for the believers who remain in Afghanistan. Most have not experienced the physical persecution and death that was expected with the Taliban takeover—

but life is still grim. Many feel alone and abandoned. They dread what the future holds as the Taliban tighten rules and economic hardships rise. Pray God will strengthen them to shine in great spiritual darkness. Pray that God will build up his church among both the diaspora of Afghans scattered around the world and the remnant of believers persevering in Afghanistan.

