

# Prayers for the PERSECUTED CHURCH

Join us in praying as we extend **courage, strength** and **God's grace** to our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world!

Persecution comes in the form of social, geo-political and religious pressure that creates hardships in the lives of individuals, families, church congregations, and the Church at large. Pray that God will use the faith of his people as a testament of his strength to hold us and his commitment to persevere in our hearts.

Pray that those who need encouragement will find hope in Christ through a radio broadcast, a message on a media player, a social media post – whatever helps meet the specific need, where it's most needed!

In **Nigeria**, villages are ransacked and Christians are displaced. Pray that the persecuted in Nigeria would find encouragement and security through Discipleship Essentials, which is broadcast to French-speaking communities in West Africa and currently in translation and production in the Hausa language.

In **Pakistan**, mobs burn down churches and the homes of Christians; Christians are discriminated against, arrested and in need of hope and encouragement. Pray for the seekers in the Muslim community who are keen to know about the Bible. Pray that our signal strength and coverage will reach listeners in Pakistan through radio broadcasts such as *The Way of Righteousness*, *One God One Message* and *Message of the Prophets*, all of which preach the gospel, provide a biblical education and lead people to salvation.

Pray for the persecuted in **Iran**. Pray that the persecuted will be made spiritually strong and equipped through TWR Canada's Persian ministry. Pray that through web radio, social media and portable media devices, believers will find encouragement and connection. Pray that those who need answers and help will be called and safely guided to attend a conference and will be spiritually transformed.

In **India**, Christians face persecution for their religious beliefs, but this persecution often stems from a fear of upsetting societal dynamics that derive from social inequality. Using digital and social media to reach out with the hope of the gospel in India, we have partnered with Media Impact International to share the gospel and disciple believers who reach out online, as well as train partner organizations to do the same. Pray that each heart we connect with will plant seeds of hope that will be further carried into the lives of those who need answers and reassurance.

In partnership with Together Network, we equip Muslim-background believers and church leaders across the Middle East and North Africa to use Discipleship Essentials. There are over 20,200 groups using Discipleship Essentials materials across the region, including areas where persecution is high, such as **Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Saudi Arabia**. Pray that these groups would be equipped through these resources, that members of these groups would find encouragement through gathering, and that these numbers would continue to grow.



Persecuted Christians in **China** are arrested, jailed, or detained without charge. Pray that SOTA initiatives and fellowships would equip believers to stand firm in the face of persecution. Pray that *Bible Stories Alive*, translated into Mandarin, would be a blessing to children and adults alike.



Islamic extremist groups taking control in northern **Mali** have resulted in the burning of churches, with Christians forced into displacement. Pray for believers in Mali who live with the threat of violent attacks when they share the gospel. Pray that *Women of Hope* messages would reach into these hearts and bring the everlasting comfort of Christ. Pray for healing and renewed relationships in families and within the community.

Christians in **Colombia** experience violence from criminal groups, as well as from a growing secular intolerance to Christianity. Pray for those who see the church as a threat to their power and stability, particularly when gang members become Christians or church leaders speak out against violence and corruption. Pray that the new RTM office space and studio in Colombia would provide a central space for collaboration and organized programming distribution, allowing for many to hear the hope of the gospel.

Christians in **Indonesia** are attacked and killed for practicing their faith and sharing the gospel. As we translate and produce lessons of Discipleship Essentials, pray that these teachings will encourage persecuted hearts in Indonesia and equip them to continue sharing the gospel.

Christians in **Bangladesh** who have converted from a Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or indigenous belief background face discrimination and attacks from their communities. Pray that hearts would be encouraged and find safety and spiritual connection through radio home groups.



Christians in **Mexico** face violence and discrimination from drug traffickers, gangs, and indigenous communities. Pray that through *The Carpenter's Workshop* marriages would be reconciled into harmony and would be a positive display of God's grace to the country. Pray for the impact this program will have on its potential audience of 21 million people in Radio Encuentro's listening areas, which include Mexico City, Chiapas, Veracruz, and Yucatán.

**Cuba's** communist regime is intolerant of dissenting voices and of others gaining power. The church can fall into these categories, and so Christians can experience persecution. Pray that our two radio programs, *Messages of Faith and Hope* and *Our Home*, aired from our transmitter on Bonaire and shared on social media, would encourage believers across the island. Pray that through this ministry, believers would find safe and enriching spiritual connections through listener groups and through content published online through RTM Cuba.

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Thank you for praying with us! As we sit with the stark realities our brothers and sisters experience around the world in being persecuted for their faith, let us meditate on Ephesians 6:19-20, which says, "[Pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak" (ESV). Let us also be assured by Psalm 23, knowing that in all circumstances the Lord is our Shepherd, who is ever-present as he feeds us, restores us, guides us, shields us and leads us to peaceful and quiet waters.