

30. EGYPT – pray for **Sara** whose husband and deacon in St George Coptic Church in Tauta was one of the victims of the Palm Sunday bombing. She and their daughter, **Priscilla**, continue their lives without their beloved husband and father. She sees it as a sacrifice for Christ but not one she has to deal with alone. “Despite everything, God has put comfort, peace and great grace in my heart.”

31. CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC – pray for **Hannah** who 2 years ago lived without hope after becoming one of the many women who were sexually assaulted amid unfolding political conflict, and was one of the ‘Seleka women’ because she was raped by Seleka fighters. Today she is the proud owner of a little shop through Open Doors micro-finance program. Through the program the women come together to discuss their problems, study God’s Word, and save money. Hannah has led 2 such groups over the past 2 years. “We are what we are today because of God’s grace,” she said.

REMINDER – November 5 is the **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**.

10 Ways to pray for persecuted Christians, that our persecuted family will...

Sense God’s Presence – Heb 13:5

Experience God’s comfort – 2 Thes 2:16,17

See God open doors to evangelism – Col 4:3

Boldly share the Gospel – Acts 4:29

Forgive and love their persecutors – Matt 5:44

Know we are praying for them – 2 Tim 1:3

Be granted wisdom in covert ministry work – Acts 9:23-25

Remain joyful in suffering – Acts 5:41

Mature in their faith – Col 1:28-29

Be rooted in God’s Word – 2 Tim 3:16-17

Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus

SOURCES:

CHURCH IN CHAINS; CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE; CHRISTIAN TODAY; OPEN DOORS; PRISONER ALERT; RELEASE INTERNATIONAL; VOICE of the MARTYRS; WORLD MAGAZINE; WORLD WATCH MONITOR

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart. Luke 18:1
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STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

October, 2017

- 1. NORTH AFRICA** – pray for a pastor and a faithful church member who take great risks transporting boxes of Bibles and Christian books in their region of North Africa. When police discovered their contraband cargo, they detained and interrogated the 2 Christians for several hours. The believers could face charges of proselytizing and transporting Christian material without permission.
- 2. TURKEY** - continue praying for US pastor **Andrew Brunson**, 49, who has been imprisoned in Turkey for almost a year now. Turkey piled on new charges of spying and insurgency against him in August, demanding 4 consecutive life sentences in prison against the 23-year resident of Turkey. Nearly 11 months after his arrest, the Presbyterian pastor and his lawyer continue to be denied access to the legal file of detailed charges and alleged evidence against him.
- 3. NORTH KOREA** – pray for **Hannah Cho**, who with her family, escaped North Korea and became Christians in China. They were discovered by Chinese secret agents, arrested, and sent back to North Korea. They were imprisoned- each in solitary confinement – ‘a small cage.’ “We didn’t receive any food or water and couldn’t sleep,” said Hannah. She and her husband were both beaten. Then miraculously they were released. Hannah and 2 of her daughters escaped to China then South Korea. Her husband died as a result of his injuries. Her son is still in North Korea. She prays for him everyday, “Lord, Lord, please help!”
- 4. EGYPT** – pray for **Amal Awad**, 46, a Coptic woman who was attacked and stabbed multiple times by an unknown man after attending a church service at the Church of the Holy Virgin and Archangel Raphael in Alexandria on August 21. Those who attack Copts seem to have a preference for important Coptic festivals or active members of the Coptic community. Amal was attacked after attending Vespers on the eve of the Coptic Feast of the Assumption of Mary, and she is an active member of the Coptic community and teaches Sunday School.
- 5. NIGERIA** – pray for the Christian family of **Baba Kale Dankali**, 62. He and his son, **Micah Kale**, 20 were attacked and killed by local Muslims in Nigeria’s northern state of Kano. The armed men also targeted other Christian families, kidnapping 3 women and a baby. Locals say the latest attacks are part of ongoing persecution aimed at uprooting Christians from the region.
- 6. CENTRAL ASIA** – pray for **Samed**, 23, who lives in poverty with her mother, sister, and little daughter after her husband kicked them out of the house for refusing to leave their Christian faith and return to Islam. “Now they call me a betrayer of the ‘pure religion and true prophet Muhammed.’ I am a Christian but also – still - an Asian woman,” she says.
- 7. IRAQ** – pray for **Father George**, a local priest in Qaraqosh who is helping about 1500 Christian families, more than 20% of the total Christian population before IS came, as they rebuild their lives through the Center for Support and Encouragement, a project based in Nineveh’s liberated towns to help returnees who fled IS invasion.
- 8. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** – pray for Polish missionary, **Father Robert Wieczorek**, who was kidnapped Sept 3 by ex-Seleka militia men when they attacked his parish in the northwestern town of Ndim. The priest was tortured before being released overnight. He lost a lot of blood and had to be admitted to a nearby surgery for treatment. He has been serving in CAR for more than 20 years.

9. **KENYA** – a group of around 30 heavily armed men in military gear, suspected to be al-Shaab militants, killed by beheading 3 men in Lamu West, Sept 6. The 3 men were all Christians. Pray for the family of **Gerald Wanjohi**, one of the victims, and his wife, **Catherine**, and daughter, **Guchu Ndungu**, who were forced to watch the men die.
10. **NIGERIA** – pray for **Bulus**, 32, who belongs to the ethnic Fulani tribe in northern Bauchi State. When he decided he wanted to become a Christian, he was not only ostracized by his family – they also made sure he ended up in prison on false charges. His days now seem endless, sharing his cramped prison cell with more people than is healthy, unable to find enough room to lie down at night on the cold, dirty floor, and emaciated from insufficient nutrition and bouts of diarrhea. Open Doors has provided a lawyer to defend Bulus and have his case heard in secular court, rather than a Sharia court.
11. **FRANCE** – pray for **Oliver Pfingstag**, 33-year old father of 2, who was raised in the predominantly Muslim housing project in Bethoncourt in eastern France. He became a Christian at age 18 and after pastoral studies came back to Bethoncourt as an associate pastor involved in community evangelism. His family has faced threats because of his work as director of Quartier Libre, a Christian ministry in the city. “Even those who want to come to Christ are locked in a culture that is very hard to leave,” says Pfingstag. “So to combat the challenges, we pray, from 7-8 each morning.”
12. **INDIA** – praise God that **Father Tom Uzhunnalil**, kidnapped in Yemen in March 2016, has been released.
13. **EGYPT** – praise God that the **Coptic Orthodox Church of St Mary and St Michael** in the village of al-Furn in Minya has reopened after police closed it ‘for security reasons’ in August, when they banned the 400 Copts from the premises. Pray for **Fr Daniel Babawy** as he leads the reopening services of the church.
14. **AFGHANISTAN** – praise God that a Finnish aid worker who had been held hostage for 4 months has been freed. She had been kidnapped from an international guesthouse in Kabul run by Operation Mercy. Her German female colleague and Afghan guard were killed during the attack.
15. **MYANMAR** – pray for new believers **Lau Nu**, 73, and her **son**. She is unwelcome now in her hometown and has since moved away. “They don’t want to talk to me anymore because I am a Christian,” she says. “They said I was a betrayer.” She refuses to be discouraged; instead she says she will use her free time to pray.
16. **TURKEY** – pray for members of the **Diyarbakir’s Surp Giragos Armenian Apostolic Church** which has been desecrated and sustained considerable damage to the sanctuary by the Turkish government after it took possession in March 2016.
17. **ERITEREA** – pray for **Ruth**, whose husband, a church leader, has been imprisoned. They have 3 children. Without her husband, life is very difficult. She says, “The Bible says we are supposed to love our enemies and forgive what they do to us. We would love to have a better life, but we always pray for forgiveness and ask the Lord to give us what we need in life.”
18. **PAKISTAN** – pray for **Nadeem Masih**, 24, from Gujrat in Punjab Province, who has been sentenced to death for blasphemy. His lawyer, Riaz Anjum, says the evidence used against him was not admissible.
19. **IRAQ** – pray for Syriac Catholic Archbishop of Qaraqosh, **Yohanna Petros Mouch**, who is very optimistic about the return of hundreds of Christian families to their villages. “When you look around the villages you see life is back again,” he says. Christians have been called to forgive those who attacked their towns and villages forcing them out of their homes.
20. **NIGERIA** – praise God for the more than 100 **Chibok girls** freed from Boko Haram in the past year that have been reunited with their families and resumed their education. They have been in government custody undergoing rehabilitation therapy since their release. The Nigerian Women’s Affairs Minister, Aisha Alhassen, says they are now ‘fully recovered’ and were handed over to their parents earlier this month. More than 100 of the school girls kidnapped from Chibok remain in Boko Haram captivity but Ms Alhassen said negotiations with the militants are ongoing to secure their release. “Very soon we will have our remaining daughters back,” she said.
21. **NIGERIA** – Muslim Fulani herdsmen in central Nigeria’s Plateau State massacred 20 Christians as they slept just after midnight on Sept 8 in Ancha village, Miango District. Nine were children, ranging in age from 3 months to 17 years. The dead included 19 Baptists and 1 Methodist.
22. **INDIA** – pray for **Anisha**, 23, her father, **Bandhu**, 54, and their pastor. Bandhu and the pastor were attacked by the radical Hindu group RSS and severely beaten during a prayer meeting. Anisha had led her father to Christ and felt responsible. She yelled at the angry mob, “It is our faith. Let go!” Shocked at such boldness from a woman, the men scolded her but eventually let her father and pastor go.
23. **INDIA** – pray for **Jatya**, 90, who is eager to share about the 8 times he has been beaten for sharing the Gospel in his village. Born into a lower caste Hindu family, Jatya worked as a slave laborer for several decades. He came to know Jesus in his early 30’s after receiving a Gospel tract and found true freedom in God’s love. Today he and 2 of his 9 children co-pastor a church of 40 people who meet in a small room attached to the side of his house. When not with his church, Jatya is in his village praying with Hindus, handing out Gospel tracts and telling them that Jesus died for them too.
24. **INDIA** – Just 10 days after Narendra Modi, who joined the RSS at age 8, became India’s Prime Minister, **Patrik** and his family were targeted by Hindu nationalists. Since Modi became PM, Christians have come under increasing pressure to return to Hinduism. Patrik and his wife **Dharmi** and their 2 daughters have experienced shunning and intimidation by their Hindu neighbors. They are trying to confiscate his land. “If God is willing, I shall give it and go,” he said. “I just want Jesus.”
25. **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA** – pray for Christians experiencing what is being called the largest humanitarian crisis in 70 years. The effects of the famine extend to South Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria, and Somalia.
26. **COLUMBIA** – pray for members of the persecuted church of Columbia as they are extending forgiveness to their perpetrators. The government continues holding peace talks with communist guerrilla groups and the FARC revolutionary group.
27. **CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC** – pray for the stop of the spread of Islam which has shown significant growth in the last decade from 5 to 13 percent – strengthened by groups from Chad and Sudan. Local Christians are very concerned about the Islamic inroads being established in the country.
28. **UNITED STATES** – pray that the Trump Administration will appoint the **Ambassador-At-Large for International Religious Freedom**. This position is a crucial post designed to monitor hot spots around the world where people face persecution.
29. **NORTH KOREA** – pray for **Wonju** who lives in a prison camp in North Korea. He is currently serving a life sentence because his parents were caught holding a Bible Study in their home. The whole family was sent to prison. He works in the fields farming 10-12 hours every day. He often eats leaves and grass to stave off hunger. He has lived in this camp for 16 years. Yet he continues to cling to his faith to sustain a glimmer of hope of a different life.