

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR THE 365 MILLION CHRISTIANS WHO EXPERIENCE PERSECUTION FOR THEIR FAITH.



Prayer Guide

FOR THE

Persecuted Church

Jesus Above All Else



They chose to follow Jesus above all else.
(Luke 14:26)

ACCOUNT OF PERSECUTION

“On our recent trip to Ethiopia, I met with a church planter who stood and wept before me. Standing there, visibly shaken with tears running down his face, he talked to me about the terror his family felt. Just the night before, rebels from a militia group had invaded his rural village. Seeking Christians, they found the home of a priest, an orthodox priest, and pulled his entire family out into the road, slit their throats and left them for dead for all the villagers to witness. The children of this priest were friends of the church planter’s children. They went to school together. Can you imagine their terror, their fear? This militia group was targeting Christians of any denomination. Fearing for his family’s safety, the church planter immediately took his wife and children out of the village. Once he knew they were safe, he returned to the village, understanding the cost and risking his own safety. He knew, now more than ever that he needed to care for his church and continue sharing the Gospel with these traumatized villagers. He chose Jesus above all else—as he stood before me, he wept.”



LINDA NOAH
Executive Director

According to [Open Doors](#), more than 365 million Christians worldwide suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. That means that 1 in 7 Christians around the world experience high and sometimes dangerously violent levels of persecution.

TAKING JESUS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Going to the ends of the earth means going into places that are high-risk and dangerous. It means going into places where people and tribes have no concept of God and often are anchored in traditional cultural belief systems and practices that are harmful and can be dangerous.

**“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”
— John 15:20**

Following Jesus has always been a call to risk everything and follow Him. *“Take up your cross and follow me”* (Matt. 16:24). These brave men and women serve as frontline missionaries in their own nations to reach the unreached, knowing the cost. They risk personal safety, face opposition from traditional religious leaders, work in areas with minimal infrastructure, and sacrifice personal and financial security for the sake of sharing the Gospel.

“Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” — Luke 14:33

Despite their challenges and intense persecution, these church planters remain passionate about **RESTORING HOPE** and bringing Redemptive Lift to the rural villages they serve. They choose Jesus above all else.



Learn more about [our approach](#) to train and equip indigenous leaders to take the Good News of Jesus to the 42% of the world that remains unreached with the Gospel.

**1 in 7 Christians
around the world
experience levels
of persecution.**

Who is the Persecuted Church?

The persecuted church refers to believers who face opposition, discrimination, danger, and even death for their Christian faith. In many regions, particularly in Africa, Christians face threats ranging from social ostracism to physical violence and death for their beliefs. Despite these risks, these faithful followers of Christ continue to serve and share the Gospel, no matter the cost.

Stand As One With Them In Prayer

“To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees.” — Billy Graham

The number one thing persecuted Christians ask is that you pray for them. We want to equip you to meet this request. Use the following prayer points and daily prayer focus in this prayer guide to join us in praying for these brave believers who are taking Jesus to unreached and underserved areas. Without their choice to follow Jesus above all else, the people in these remote and often dangerous areas would never hear the Good News of Jesus.

Use the information in this prayer guide to pray specifically over the areas where Petros Network serves— Ethiopia, Uganda, South Sudan and the bordering countries of these nations.

Despite persecution and opposition, Petros Network church planters continue to establish churches, disciple new believers, and serve their communities through various initiatives—women’s and girls’ empowerment, agriculture, children’s feeding, health care, water, education— because of this, they witness miraculous transformation in these communities. Their work has led to powerful testimonies of restoration and reconciliation, with former persecutors becoming believers and divided communities finding unity because of the Gospel. In the following pages you will find:

Overall Prayer Points - pg 4

Scriptures for Reflection - pg 4

Daily Prayer Focus - pg 5-7

Simple Prayer For the Persecuted Church - pg 7





Prayer Points

For Church Planters

- Protection during travel and ministry
- Wisdom in navigating cultural sensitivities
- Provision for their families
- Physical and emotional strength
- Bold faith in the face of opposition

For Their Communities

- Open hearts to receive the Gospel
- Peace in conflict-prone areas
- Breaking of spiritual strongholds
- Transformation through Biblical principles
- Protection for new believers

For Their Ministry

- Fruitful evangelism efforts
- Resources for community development
- Strong discipleship movements
- Unity among believers
- Sustainable church growth

Scriptures For Reflection

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” — Matthew 5:10

Additional scriptures:

- Acts 16:25
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Matthew 10:16-18
- 1 Peter 4:12-14

The Gospel Prevails Despite Persecution

Read the account from two of our church planters who experienced persecution while sharing the Good News of Jesus in a rural village.



petrosnetwork.org/news-stories



Daily Prayer

CONSIDER USING THESE FOCUS POINTS AS YOU PRAY
DAILY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Monday

Ethiopia church planters and ministry

Lift up the Ethiopian church planters, asking for divine protection as they travel to remote and often dangerous areas. Pray for wisdom as they navigate cultural sensitivities.

Scripture for the day

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.”
— Isaiah 52:7

Tuesday

Uganda church planters and ministry

Intercede for Ugandan church planters, seeking provision for their families and physical and emotional strength for their work. Ask God to empower them with bold faith in the face of opposition.

Scripture for the day

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” — Isaiah 40:31

Wednesday

South Sudan church planters and ministry

Pray for South Sudanese church planters, requesting divine guidance and protection in their challenging environment. Ask for resilience and perseverance in their ministry efforts.

Scripture for the day

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Thursday

Persecuted families throughout the regions

Intercede for families facing persecution, asking for God’s comfort, provision, and protection. Pray for their faith to remain strong amidst trials.

Scripture for the day

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”
— Psalm 46:1

Friday

New believers experiencing persecution

Lift up new believers experiencing persecution, praying for their steadfastness in faith and for God’s grace to sustain them. Ask for opportunities for them to grow in their newfound faith.

Scripture for the day

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.” — James 1:2

Saturday

Pray for the surrounding nations

Ask God to bring peace and stability to these regions, where political tensions and conflict often threaten communities. Pray that the Gospel will penetrate hearts and transform lives in these nations.

Scripture for the day

“The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.” — Psalm 29:11

Sunday

Church growth and protection

Intercede for the growth and protection of newly planted churches, asking God to strengthen their foundations and expand their influence. Pray for unity among believers and for their witness to impact their communities.

Scripture for the day

"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."
— Matthew 16:18

A Simple Prayer FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Lord Jesus,

We lift up our brothers and sisters serving in Ethiopia, Uganda, and South Sudan, and the areas bordering these countries as well as persecuted areas around the world. Protect these faithful servants as they carry Your light into dark places. Strengthen them when they face opposition and provide for their every need as they sacrifice to share Your love.

Give them wisdom as they navigate complex cultural and political landscapes. May their ministry bear lasting fruit, not only in souls saved but in communities transformed by Your Gospel. Help us to stand with them through our prayers and support.

In Jesus' name,
Amen



petrosnetwork.org/donate

Give to Support the Persecuted Church

When you give to Petros Network you are supporting the ministry of persecuted Christians who daily lay their lives down for Jesus.

Read Stories From the Persecuted Church

Visit our **News and Stories** page and hear from the missionaries who are boldly sharing the Gospel despite persecution.

Petros Network is a faith-based organization that partners with world-changers like you, to equip indigenous leaders to share, show, and spread the Good News of Jesus among their own people and end spiritual and physical poverty. Learn more at petrosnetwork.org.