

PRAYER GUIDE

DAY OF PRAYER

FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Join us in praying for our
persecuted brothers and
sisters around the world.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

imb.org/persecuted



1

PERSECUTION IS ON THE RISE

More than 365 million Christians worldwide suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. That's a staggering 1 in 7 believers. According to Open Doors, a ministry that raises awareness and support of the worldwide persecuted church, the number of countries where Christians suffer high and extreme levels of persecution has almost doubled in the last 30 years.

2

WHAT IS **PERSECUTION?**

Persecution takes many forms and often looks different in various contexts throughout the world. Believers might be separated from their families or ostracized by their communities. They may face discrimination in the workplace or education system. They could lose jobs or become the targets of extremists. They might have to flee their homes, or even face imprisonment, torture, or death.

3

WHY PRAY FOR **PERSECUTED** BELIEVERS?

The world's greatest problem – lostness – is growing every day. As believers, we have the solution to that problem – the gospel. When we pray for persecuted believers, God uses their witness to inspire gospel transformation among the lost.

IN WASSULU COMMUNITIES RIFE WITH PERSECUTION, JESUS IS WORTH THE COST

Over many years and miles, God has woven lives together for His glory among the Wassulu people in West Africa. Pastor Paul, of Wassulu ancestry, left Islam to follow Jesus and has shared the gospel among the Wassulu since the 1990s.

In the village of Dalton, where Paul visited and preached, persecution had once been particularly intense. In prior years, a believer survived attempts on his life and fled due to the pressure from village elders. However, the believer's brother, Adam, and Adam's wife, Margo, later became followers of Christ. Adam became the first baptized believer in Dalton. He and Margo suffered persecution yet clung to Jesus. "I know Jesus is the truth, and I will die on this path," Adam once said.

Adam remained faithful to Jesus until he succumbed to health issues in April 2024. Upon his death, Dalton villagers refused to prepare Adam's body, but Christian men from nearby villages ensured a burial and Christian service that honored Adam's life. The day after Adam's funeral, older men from Dalton gathered to hear Paul answer questions about the Christian faith and the hope in which Adam had died. Margo, now a widow, remains strong in her faith despite often standing alone. Her non-believing neighbors are treating her well, an answer to prayer.

The faith of Paul, Adam, and Margo shines brightly among the Wassulu, an unreached people group, demonstrating that following Jesus is worth the cost. As persecution continues, please pray that God will use their lives and testimonies to draw others to Himself.



A West African believer and subsistence farmer. IMB Photo.

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with you

WE PRAY

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH GLOBALLY

This story of persecution among the Wassulu people is one of many that are unfolding around the world right now. We must unite in prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters.

- Ask God to comfort and strengthen persecuted believers who “are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).
- Pray for the Church to be confident in Christ’s ultimate victory on the cross, remembering John 16:33 – “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
- Pray God will give persecuted believers the perspective and grace to “count it all joy” and trust “that the testing of [their] faith produces steadfastness” (James 1:2-3).
- Pray for believers around the world who endure persecution to continue speaking God’s Word “with all boldness” (Acts 4:29). Ask God to use their witness to draw many people to Himself.

IMPACTING THE WORLD

with you

WE PRAY

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH PRAYER

The Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is an opportunity for individuals and churches across the Southern Baptist Convention to unite in prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus.

As persecution persists, so must our prayers.



Join us in a month-long prayer journey with IMB's PrayerPoints newsletter.

Download or subscribe:

imb.org/prayerpoints

When we pray for persecuted believers, God glorifies Himself through their steadfast faith and our persistent intercession. He uses their witness to reveal the surpassing power of Christ and transform lives through His gospel.



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MISSION BOARD**

THANK YOU

**FOR JOINING US IN PRAYER
FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH.**

INFORMATION FROM OPEN DOORS CAN BE FOUND AT [OPENDOORSUS.ORG.](https://opendoorsus.org)