



Praying for the Persecuted Church!!!!

In Africa, North Korea, China, India, the Philippines, and all around the world, Christians face severe persecution ranging from loss of employment to beatings, imprisonment and even death. Church buildings are burned and vandalized. Pastors are beaten and killed many times in front of their congregation.

In America we have religious freedom. The worse persecution we face is sometimes being made fun of by our culture. We have no idea what real persecution is.

Daily we see stories popping up on FB or other social media formats showing a pastor, a church, a family being persecuted for their Christian stand. How many times do we just skip past the story? Or, open it up, read it, maybe even share the story with a friend. But what happens after that? We go back to our daily routines forgetting all about those we prayed for. Pictures of persecution may feel like something to avoid. So much unpleasantness and, after all, what can we do to stop it?

Now, try putting yourself in those circumstances, placing yourself as a victim facing the same trials you just read:

...You feel the cold prison floor during an icy North Korean winter. The guards are being especially harsh this week, and you can't remember when a piece of bread was thrown your way.

...You look into your child's eyes and tell them there is still nothing to eat, as you embrace them and feel their bloated belly and rib bones popping out.

God told us in His Word to **"Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies."** Hebrews 13:3

If we think our supporting the persecuted church is "us" helping "them" we have missed what God intended. We are called to remember them as if we were in their shoes. We are called to be in prayer for them as if they were standing right in front of us.

How do we do this? After all, we are busy people. We have jobs, we have homes, we have family obligations, and we all need some time to relax and rest.

Five Ways You Can Help the Persecuted Church:

1. **Learn** where the church is being persecuted, what they are facing and how you can help.
2. **Pray** for the persecuted church. There are ministry websites who focus on prayer points for the persecuted church.
3. **Write** letters of encouragement to members of the persecuted church.
4. **Donate** financial resources, food, and ministry material to members of the persecuted church.
5. **Advocate** by raising awareness of the reality of Christian persecution and sharing with government, human rights, and religious freedom organizations.

Persecuted Church Ministries

Open Doors; One of the most well-known ministries advocating for the persecuted church.
opendoorsusa.org

Voice of the Martyrs: Another well-known ministry that raises awareness and provides support for the persecuted church.
persecution.com

Prison Alert: Part of Voice of the Martyrs.
prisoneralert.com

iCommitToPray: They are another ministry of Voice of the Martyrs. Their focus is to provide prayer requests from members of the persecuted church.
icommittoprayer.com

Check out these websites and **get involved;** pray, write letters, sign petitions.

Each Month!!!!

While we come to church if we want to—or not; while we read our Bibles if we have time—or not; while we sit in our comfortable homes and complain about how we are mistreated because we are Christians:

- 322 Christians are killed
- 215 churches and Christian properties are destroyed
- 772 forms of violence are committed against Christians (beatings, rapes, forced marriages)
- According to The Pew Research Center, over 75% of the world's population lives in areas with severe religious restrictions (and many of these people are Christians).
- According to the United States Department of State, Christians in more than 60 countries face persecution from their governments or surrounding neighbors simply because of their belief in Jesus Christ.

Top Ten Countries for Persecution

1. North Korea
2. Somalia
3. Afghanistan
4. Pakistan
5. Sudan
6. Syria
7. Iraq
8. Iran
9. Yemen
10. Eritrea

You can go to opendoorsusa.com and check out the World Watch List there. You can also view detailed reports on each country and exactly what type of persecution Christians in those countries suffer.

Become informed. Pray intelligent prayers. Share with your family and friends!

CTI Music Ministries will be with us Sunday, November 26 @ 9:00 and 10:30 Services

- ◆ ENCOURAGING the body of Christ through music, testimony and drama.
- ◆ CHALLENGING Christians to action in response to the Great Commission.
- ◆ SHARING the hope of Christ with those who need to hear.
- ◆ CTI offers short and long term mission opportunities. More info available at the event or at join.ctimusic.org

instagram: @ctimusic snapchat: cti1421 facebook.com/ctimusic



Beginning in November we will be collecting gifts for Inner City Mission in Springfield, IL. Be sure to sign up to buy a gift for one of the residents. Gifts will need to be returned to the

church (wrapped) by **Sunday, December 3** and we will take the gifts to the center on **Saturday, December 9.**

Elderberries



Tuesday, November 14 at 11:30. Main dish will be beef stew so bring a bread, salad or dessert and join us.



Turn your clocks back!!!

Don't be late for church

November 5

This month's soup supper will be

Sunday, November 5



In the Spotlight

Ann Bosold

After leaving a small Christian Church in Alaska, Ann drove by MCC and thought "I thank you Father." She was glad to find another small Christian Church in her new home and began attending in 2013. The first time she attended she saw Norma Leone and her mother. They had been neighbors to Ann's family since the 1950's.

Raised Catholic, Ann loves the Christian Church because she feels it emphasizes learning the Bible. She has also found the pastors and smaller churches to be a blessing.

God has blessed Ann with two wonderful sons who each have a beautiful daughter. One of her granddaughters, Cassie, is studying to be a nurse. Ann says that she is also very close to her brother and sister.

Mysteries or stories about the history of Ireland and Germany are her interests. (Just ask her—she's Irish!!!) The book of Psalms is her favorite in the Bible.

Ann worked as a 911 radio operator and was witness to a lot of tragedy and trauma. As a result, she has been diagnosed with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). She also worked 15 years ER triage in Alaska for the United States Public Health Corp.

Her favorite worship songs are: *Open My Eyes Lord*, *From the Cross to the Grave*, and *Far Side Banks of Jordan*.

Hobbies include reading, listening to music, cooking and spoiling her dog.

When asked how her faith in God effects her life, she said, "Every day I am assured that God has a plan."

For Ann, the best thing about heaven will be the happiness, peace and beauty that cannot be described.

Ann is a dependable volunteer at MCC events, bringing food for church suppers, candy for Trick n Trunk night and helping out where needed.

Ann says, "I can be funny or sarcastic. Not much worries me as long as there is no blood, broken bones or someone has breathing issues. I was told by my mom to write a book. I told her 'Steven King would be afraid.' She wanted to know who Steven King was."

Her small group refers to Ann as "Sunshine." If you spend any time talking to her, she will make you laugh—or at least smile.

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The first request of persecuted Christians is “*Pray for us!!!*”



Coming in November

Financial Freedom University continues

Sign up for Christmas gifts for ICM

November 5—International Day of
Prayer for Persecuted Church

November 5—turn your clocks back

November 5—Soup supper

November 14—Elderberries

November 23—Thanksgiving

November 26—CTI will be guests

The Vision of Milan Christian Church is to strive every day to take the Gospel of Christ to those who need to hear it, to bring them into relationship with Christ through the waters of Christian Baptism, to teach them to become disciples of Christ, and equip and encourage all Christians to live their lives as Christ would live.