

Prayer Guide

BARNABAS FUND INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2017

DESIGNED TO BE USED ALONGSIDE *PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH 2017* BOOKLET

Thank you for joining with Christians around the world to pray for the persecuted Church. Barnabas Fund supporters and project partners from across the globe will come together for 24 hours to pray for brothers and sisters who face discrimination and persecution because of their stand for the Gospel.



In this prayer guide are suggestions meant to aid and inspire your prayers. There is

more information on the suggested countries to pray for in Barnabas Fund's *Praying for the Persecuted Church 2017* booklet. A copy of this booklet is included in our Suffering Church Action Week Inspiration Resource Pack and extra copies are available via the website at bit.ly/SCAW-Guide, or available for free from your nearest Barnabas Fund office (contact details on the back page). As the hours pass, believers in different time zones will intercede in turn for the various countries suggested.

But these are only suggestions. Please pray as you feel led. The written prayers can be used as they are or you can adapt them and the ideas they contain to frame your own prayers.



Suffering Church Action Week

MIDNIGHT

Prayer for the Persecuted Church 2017

God of grace,

Look upon Your suffering people.
In their distress, hear their cry.
Save them from those that seek to harm them.
From violence deliver them
And grant them protection from their enemies.

God of goodness,

Look upon Your wandering people.
In their alienation, hear their cry.
Homeless, vulnerable refugees
and sojourners,
From rootlessness deliver them
And grant them a resting place here on earth.

God of mercy,

Look upon Your hungry people.
In their need, hear their cry.
Famished, thirsty, sick, exhausted,
From poverty and destitution deliver them
And grant them provision from Your bounty.

God of justice,

Look upon Your hurting people.
In their shame, hear their cry.
Save them from injustice and false accusation.
From cruel lies deliver them
And grant them vindication.

*For You, O Lord Jesus, were reviled,
You were abused and falsely accused.
You were dependent for Your daily bread.
You, a refugee and wanderer,
Had nowhere to lay Your head.
You fell into the hands of violent men.*

*So feed Your people with the manna
from above.
Give them to drink from Your life-giving streams.
Deliver them from all evil
And guide them to their heavenly Home.*

In Your Name we pray.

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 CHINA (PAGE 11) KYRGYZSTAN (PAGE 24)

1 AM

Lord Jesus, we lift to You in this midnight hour our brothers and sisters who love You, trust You and follow You but have to do so secretly for fear of persecution. We pray also for those who are isolated and alone, knowing no other believers with whom they can meet and have fellowship. Please help them to hear the voice of Your Holy Spirit, comforting them with His presence and guiding them into all truth. In their isolation, may they know in a powerful way the joy of abiding in You, as You abide in them.

 NORTH KOREA (PAGE 32) SAUDI ARABIA (PAGE 35)

2 AM

O God, we lift to You our brothers and sisters who are this moment in prison because of their love for Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank You that You know each one and what they are enduring right now, whether it is heat or cold, hunger or thirst, sickness, beatings or torture. May they be comforted and sustained by Your Holy Spirit and may their words, actions and reactions bring glory to You.

 IRAN (PAGE 19) ERITREA (PAGE 13)

3 AM

Heavenly Father, we remember before You those of Your children who take real risks to meet and worship You in countries where Sunday worship meetings or even prayer meetings are often targeted in violent attacks. We thank You for the courage of those who are determined to continue gathering week by week, especially those who have already suffered in earlier attacks. Please take away any remaining fear or distress and enable them to worship You whole-heartedly and to learn from Your Word. We ask this in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

 INDIA (PAGE 17) UZBEKISTAN (PAGE 46)

4 AM

Father in heaven, we pray for the children of persecuted Christian families. Be their Comforter and Protector at all times of violence and their Provider when families have to flee in the face of danger. We lift to You those who have no access to education, asking that You will enable them to break free from the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. For those for whom the classroom is a place of trauma and danger, please make a way for them to study in a safe and nurturing environment. Please enable persecuted children to grow up to be faithful men and women of God, their faith and love for You strengthened by what they have endured. In the Name of the Lord Jesus, we pray.

☐☐ PAKISTAN (PAGE 33) TAJIKISTAN (PAGE 41)

5 AM

Lord Jesus, we pray for the older generation of Christians in contexts where they live in poverty and suffer persecution because of their faithfulness to You. We remember especially those left behind in war zones when younger and fitter members of the family fled to safer places. Please uphold them in their sufferings, meet their needs and make Your power perfect in their weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). May they know Your peace and joy in their remaining years and may their wisdom and experience strengthen younger Christians and help them to grow in You.

☐☐ IRAQ (PAGE 20) SYRIA (PAGE 40)

6 AM

A Morning Prayer for the Persecuted Church

May the cross of the Son of God,
which is mightier than all the hosts
of Satan,
and more glorious than all the hosts
of heaven,
abide with God's Church
in its going out and its coming in.

By day and by night,
at morning and at evening,
at all times and in all places
may it protect and defend God's Church.

From the wrath of evildoers,
from assaults from evil spirits,
from foes visible and invisible,
from the snares of the devil,
from all the passions that beguile the
soul and body
may it guard, protect and deliver
God's Church.

(from India and Pakistan)

☐☐ TURKEY (PAGE 44) VIETNAM (PAGE 47)

7 AM

O God, Who knows our hearts and understands our innermost thoughts better than we do ourselves, we confess our lack of trust in You, and our lack of love and concern for our Christian family around the world. While our brothers and sisters face injustice, violence, false arrests and imprisonment, even death for Christ, we often find our minds preoccupied with worries that are trivial in comparison. Please enable us and them to stop being anxious but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, to present our requests to You. Thank You for the promise that Your peace, which transcends all understanding, will then guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, in Whose Name we pray. (Philippians 4:7)

☐☐ ETHIOPIA (PAGE 14) KAZAKHSTAN (PAGE 21)

8 AM

O Lord, we pray for Christians in north-east Nigeria and neighbouring countries, who have faced violent persecution for so many years by Boko Haram Islamist militants, seemingly unstoppable by any human agency. We pray for those still in their homes, never knowing from day to day whether they will be attacked. We pray for those who have had to flee, losing homes and livelihoods, not knowing how they will feed themselves or their children. When anxiety is great within them, may Your consolation, O Lord, bring joy to their souls. We ask this in Jesus' Name. (Psalm 94:19).

☐☐ NIGERIA (PAGE 31) CAMEROON (PAGE 9)

9 AM

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

I cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me.
He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me

I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.
For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth

(from Psalm 57)

☐☐ MOROCCO (PAGE 27) RUSSIA (PAGE 34)

10 AM

Lord Jesus Christ, who commanded us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, we pray today for Islamist militants, who try so hard to hurt and destroy Your people. Please draw to Yourself those who are so zealous for the cause of Allah, so willing to follow the rigid law of Islam and sacrifice their lives for what they believe in. Reveal Yourself to them as the Way, the Truth and the Life. Channel their zeal to serve the King of love, and may they take up their cross and follow You, giving their lives for Your Kingdom and Your glory.

☐☐ LIBYA (PAGE 26) SOMALIA (PAGE 37)

11 AM

O God, we praise and thank You for the living hope that You have given us in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that Christians who suffer for His Name's sake will be encouraged by the promise of an eternal inheritance and so stand firm in their faith. May His joy and resurrection power be their strength, today and every day. May we too, in our own sufferings, be sustained by this hope, joy and power.

☐☐ EGYPT (PAGE 12) IRAN (PAGE 19)

MIDDAY

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☐ NORTH KOREA (PAGE 32) SYRIA (PAGE 40)

1 PM

Lord, we lift up to You our brothers and sisters whose lives have been torn apart by violence. Please fill them with Your peace, when intimidation or attack has left them feeling vulnerable and uncertain. Please provide for the material needs of those who have been left impoverished and destitute after being forced to flee their homes or losing the breadwinner of the family. May they find in You a mighty rock and refuge, when they have no earthly safe havens left, and give them the courage and grace they need to maintain a loving witness to You in the face of violence. (Psalm 62:7)

☐ CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (PAGE 10)
TANZANIA (PAGE 42)

2 PM

Heavenly Father, we bring to You in prayer the Christians in many countries who are harassed and persecuted by false accusations being made against them, causing them to be arrested and imprisoned, often without a trial. We pray that they may take comfort in remembering that Your Son, our Lord Jesus, was Himself accused on trumped up charges, tried and condemned. Enable them to shine as stars in the universe as they hold out the word of life to those around them in prison. (Philippians 2:15-16) O God of justice, intervene in power and bring them vindication.

☐ SUDAN (PAGE 39) ZIMBABWE (PAGE 49)

3 PM

Thank you, O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the faith and love of Your persecuted people. Please fill them with the knowledge of Your will through all wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that they may live lives worthy of Christ and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to Your glorious might, so that they may have great endurance and patience, while giving joyful thanks to You, Father. (Colossians 1)

☐ ALGERIA (PAGE 5) NEPAL (PAGE 30)

4 PM

Dear Lord, we praise You for our brothers and sisters who, trusting in You, persevered in faith and did not cling to life in the face of death (Revelation 12:11). We ask that their sacrifice will inspire us and other believers to endure and will convince their persecutors of the truth and power of the Gospel. We pray also for their bereaved families and churches that they will not grieve without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13) but will be comforted by the knowledge that their loved ones died for You.

☐ BANGLADESH (PAGE 6) KENYA (PAGE 23)

5 PM

Lord Jesus, as You prayed on the cross for Your enemies, so we pray for those who seek to hinder the growth of Your Kingdom and shame or hurt Your people. May they be amazed at the peaceable response of those they persecute, at the love and forgiveness of Christian people, at their courageous perseverance and endurance, at their refusal to deny You. We pray that You will powerfully reveal Yourself to the persecutors of Your people, as you did to Saul of Tarsus, and that they will come to a saving personal knowledge of You.

☐ INDONESIA (PAGE 18) NIGERIA (PAGE 31)

6 PM

An Evening Prayer for the Persecuted Church

O Jesus, King of the poor, shield this night those who are imprisoned without charge, those who have 'disappeared.'
Cast a halo of your presence around those who groan in sorrow or pain.

Protect those whose livelihoods are threatened.
Encourage those forbidden to worship.
Encompass your little ones gone hungry to sleep, cold, and fitfully waking.
Guide your witnesses for peace.
Safeguard your workers for justice.

Encircle us with your power,
compass us with your grace,
embrace your dying ones,
support your weary ones,
calm your frightened ones –

And as the sun scatters the mist on
the hills,
bring us to a new dawn,
when all shall freely sit at table in
your kingdom,
rejoicing in a God who saves them.

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☞ ERITREA (PAGE 13) TURKMENISTAN (PAGE 45)

7 PM

Heavenly Father, as we look around the
world, we hear news from every side of
Your children being attacked, especially
where they are few in number, poor and
oppressed. We feel overwhelmed by the
scale of suffering but we remember that
You are the everlasting God, Creator of the
ends of the earth, who will not grow tired or
weary. So we pray with confidence, asking
You to act in power to deliver our brothers
and sisters from their enemies who seek to
destroy them. Please strengthen their faith,
increase their hope and enable to them to
respond with forgiveness and love, as our
Lord Jesus did, in Whose Name we pray.

☞ MYANMAR (BURMA) (PAGE 28) SRI LANKA (PAGE 38)

8 PM

Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks for
the faith and courage of those who leave
another religion to follow You, in the full
knowledge of the loss and suffering that
is likely to follow. Please protect those at
risk of violence, provide for those who have
lost their homes, jobs or livelihoods, and
comfort those who have been rejected by
their families with the knowledge that their
place in God's family can never be taken
away from them.

☞ AFGHANISTAN (PAGE 4) LAOS (PAGE 25)

9 PM

Ashamed to be Your servant, Lord,
I will never be.
To sound forth the Gospel message,
To serve You
As You saved me
For You came not be served
But in sacrifice to give.
How can I be ashamed of You?

Ashamed to suffer for Your Name,
I will never be.
To bear your marks on my body
So let it be.
How can I deny Thee, when Thou didst not
deny me?
To boast in You is all I seek
And to suffer for Your sake.
How can I be ashamed of Thee?

☞ SAUDI ARABIA (PAGE 35) SOMALIA (PAGE 37)

10 PM

O Lord, we pray for Christian minorities in
countries where the police and security
forces do not protect them from mob
violence. We ask that You will keep their
hearts from fear and remind them of
Your many promises of deliverance and
blessing. May they lie down to sleep in
peace, knowing that You sustain them and
that they need not be afraid even if tens
of thousands are drawn up against them
on every side. Where human authorities
are too weak or timid to help them, may
our brothers and sisters know that You
Yourself are a shield around them. In
Jesus' Name we ask. (Psalm 3)

☞ PAKISTAN (PAGE 33) EGYPT (PAGE 12)

11 PM

Lord Jesus, we long for Your return to set
right the injustices of our world, to bring
an end to violence, conflict and war, to
vindicate Your people and establish Your
Kingdom. As we think of Christians around
the world suffering for Your Name, waiting
patiently for deliverance, we ask that You
will fill them with hope and confidence in
You. O God of Peace, we rejoice in Your
promise that You will soon crush Satan
under our feet. We join with our persecuted
brothers and sisters in looking for the day
when sin and evil, death and destruction
are no more and our enemy is defeated.
(Romans 16:20)

☞ BRUNEI (PAGE 7) HOLY LAND (PAGE 16)

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