



The Widow's Might



GLOBAL *Prayer* GUIDE

Join us in praying for Christians being persecuted around the world.

**Evangelist Dies in
Traffic Accident**



**Family Loses
Benefits, Income
for Not
Recanting**



**Christian Fears
Being Sent to
Eritrea**



**Ministry Helps
Fulani Christians**

Evangelist Dies in Traffic Accident

Pastor Mathieu Tchando, along with 13 others, was leaving a Christian conference in Nigeria on November 1, 2024 when a large truck hit their minibus. The group was outside of Lagos when the truck hit three vehicles. One person was killed at the accident site, and three others were seriously injured. Pastor Tchando suffered a brain injury that left him comatose; another minister was hospitalized with broken ribs, and doctors were concerned about internal bleeding; and the third was in stable condition. Sadly, Pastor Tchando succumbed to his injuries. Pastor Tchando and his wife cared for two persecuted children and he worked as an evangelist and in Bible translation in Benin. Please pray for his wife to experience God's comfort as she grieves the loss of her husband.



Pastor Tchando, his wife and two of their children.

Ministry Helps Fulani Christians



In recent years, militant Fulani Muslims have attacked and killed numbers of Christians, but some have also become followers of Christ. Fulani converts are often rejected by their families and struggle to find supportive communities. A ministry in Burkina Faso is helping Fulani Christian converts by providing a safe place where they can grow in their walk with the Lord and meet other Fulani followers of Christ. In a four-month period, the center hosted Saturday vacation Bible schools which 675 children attended. A front-line worker recently delivered four boxes of audio Bibles to the Fulani followers of Christ. "I feel so honored to be able to serve my Christian brothers and sisters in this way," he said. "Just seeing and listening to their prayers and praises to God for receiving his Word is awesome."



Christian Fears Being Sent to Eritrea

Ishaq is active in evangelism and Bible distribution in the Arab nation where he was born, but his future there is tenuous. Ishaq was permitted to be in the country while his Eritrean father, who had lived and worked there for decades, maintained his official work status. But when Ishaq's father died during the coronavirus pandemic, Ishaq's residency visa expired, and he has been unable to renew it. Ishaq has not been arrested for his unofficial status but has been stopped by police numerous times. "If he were to be deported to Eritrea, where he has never lived, it could be very dangerous for him," said a front-line worker. The Eritrean government has imprisoned hundreds of Christians over the last two decades simply for practicing their faith. "In Eritrea, he will likely be sent to prison as soon as he came into the country," said the worker. Ishaq does not have any clear options and is seeking the Lord's direction for his future.

Family Loses Benefits, Income for Not Recanting

Gia and her husband, Dai, have been believers for 15 years. Because they chose biblical names for their children, getting birth certificates for them was difficult. Their daughter, Ruth, was diagnosed with a condition that has affected her neurological and physical development. There is a fund intended for children with Ruth's condition, and the family was called to a government office to receive these funds. After waiting there all day, however, they were presented with an ultimatum: Change Ruth's name and renounce their faith or leave without the funding. They refused the money. Additionally, when they later harvested their crops, a neighbor who has opposed them for their faith in Christ blocked them from bringing a vehicle close enough to gather their harvest and take it to a processing plant, so the whole crop, their primary income for the year, rotted in the field.



CHINA

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN CHINA

OVERVIEW:

Revival and rapid church growth have characterized China's churches since the 1990s. About 130 million Chinese are Christians, most of whom worship within the house church movement. Millions of others worship with the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), which, as the only legal church, is controlled by the Communist government. Despite continuous pressure and oppression from the Communist government, house church leaders refuse to compromise the gospel by joining government-controlled churches. Because of decades of government oppression, many Chinese Christians do not have their own Bible or access to discipleship literature.

MAJOR RELIGION:

Influenced by their atheistic government, many Chinese are nonreligious. About 20 percent are Buddhists, and another 20 percent practice Chinese folk religion. 9 percent are Christians.

PERSECUTOR:

The main persecutor is the government.

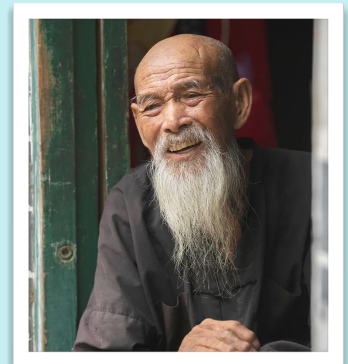


PRAYER REQUEST:

- Pray that Chinese pastors will be encouraged and stand firm in the face of government threats.
- Pray that children and young people, especially in remote villages, will have access to God's Word.
- Pray for imprisoned Chinese Christians, like Wang Yi and Fu Xuanjuan.
- Pray that Christian leaders like Xu Yonghai will have the freedom to minister to their congregations.
- Praise the Lord for Christians in China who share the gospel despite police intimidation!
- Pray for the advancement of the gospel in China by any means necessary.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN CHINA

In the early 2000s, many unregistered churches enjoyed some freedom from government intrusion and harassment despite their illegal status. However, in recent years, restrictive religious regulations and persecution have increased significantly. Hundreds of churches have been forced to close, pastors and church members have been arrested or detained and the online sale of Bibles has been prohibited. The government has installed hundreds of millions of facial recognition cameras, many in or near churches, to identify those who attend worship services. Church leaders are under intense pressure to join the government-controlled TSPM. It is illegal to disciple anyone younger than 18. Christians are often charged with participating in cults or with other spurious accusations, such as "bad business practices".



RUSSIA AND AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL

OVERVIEW:

Christians in Russia who are not part of the Russian Orthodox Church are legally restricted in several activities of their faith, especially evangelism. While the Putin regime hasn't yet used these laws to severely persecute Christians in Russia, there is great concern at how ideologies, such as the "Russian World" (Russkiy Mir), that lead to persecution are being instilled in Russians through media portrayals, government edicts and Russian Orthodox Church teaching. For example, Russia's 2016 Yarovaya Law (named for the law's political champion, Irina Yarovaya) claims to counter terrorism and secure public safety, but the law restricts Christians' freedom of worship and evangelism. The law and its amendments characterize Christians and churches outside the Russian Orthodox Church as religious extremists, criminalizing the speech and activities of Russian Christians who faithfully witness for Christ.

Christians in Russian-controlled areas outside the country face increased restrictions and suffer violence at the hands of those acting on behalf of the Putin regime. In these areas, all Christian activity is tightly controlled by severely restrictive religious laws. Churches outside the Russian Orthodox Church, even those that previously had been legally registered, are being denied permission to exist, and unregistered churches face punishment. All Christian literature must be approved by Russian-backed authorities before it can be legally distributed. In addition to these restrictions, churches have been violently attacked, pastors have been attacked and abducted, and some pastors have been killed.

With respect to Putin's war with Ukraine, the intent of the war is not to persecute Christians but rather to further Putin's consolidation of power. However, elements of persecution are occurring within the context of war. Persecution has been used as a tactic to isolate Christians who are opposed to Putin and his regime. While Putin is not opposed to (Orthodox) Christianity and has publicly espoused conservative moral values, even presenting himself as the "protector of Christianity" in Russia, he is opposed to the West and views evangelical Christianity as being connected to the West. Some Christians with connections to the West have been targeted for persecution, while Russian Christians who do not oppose the regime still meet openly in their churches.

In Muslim-majority regions of the North Caucasus, such as Chechnya and Dagestan, Christians face persecution from their families and communities.

PRAYER REQUEST:

- Pray that Christians worshiping outside the Russian Orthodox Church will boldly witness.
- Pray that Christians will have a vision to reach the lost.
- Pray that the body of Christ will be the light of the world (Matt. 5:14)
- Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a great turning to Christ in this region.
- Pray that many will have an insatiable hunger for God's Word.

