

*We are persecuted, but God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed.*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:9 ERV



- More than 365 million Christians around the world suffer persecution or discrimination for their faith in Jesus Christ. That means they experience some kind of hostility for proclaiming the name of Jesus or living out their faith.
- Open Doors' research shows that the number of countries where Christians suffer high and extreme levels of persecution has almost doubled in the last 30 years.
- According to Open Doors, just a few short years ago, 1 in 8 Christians worldwide faced persecution. Today that number is 1 in 7; in Asia, it is 2 in 5. As more and more Christians are oppressed each day, the cries for God's Word grow louder.

## PRAY FOR *the Persecuted Church*

### *Week 1*

Pray for persecuted believers, wherever they are in this world. Some are rejected or disowned by their families, friends, and communities. Some are refused jobs or educational opportunities. Others are denied access to water, electricity, food, and health care. And still others face abuse, are thrown into prison, or are even killed.

The majority of Christians in **Pakistan** live in severe poverty and risk imprisonment, violence, and death simply because of their faith in Jesus. Please pray for them!

Members of an anti-Christian group in central **India** severely beat Pastor Santosh as he led a church service.

*Please turn over...*

## PRAY FOR *the Persecuted Church* (continued)

Currently in Bible League's Church Planter Training, he was hospitalized with serious injuries, including broken bones. Pray for his healing, for ministry in his village, and for his protection.

### **Week 2**

Rajdev is a believer taking part in Bible League's Church Planter Training in eastern **India**. Recently, members of a radical anti-Christian group attacked him and others in his church. The local police refused to let the believers press charges against their attackers. Instead, they warned the congregation to not hold worship services. Pray for church members to be strong in their faith and continue their spiritual walk with Christ.

Pray for persecuted churches in western **Ethiopia** following reports of opposition. Muslim extremists in that region recently hurt local believers living in the province of Illubabor.

Pray for a Bible League-trained church planter named Daniel in south-central **India**. He is leading a church with seven families from the Gond tribe, one of India's largest people groups. However, village leaders have ordered him to halt the ministry. Pray for this situation.

### **Week 3**

Bible League's director in **Armenia** notes that as a Christian nation among hostile Muslim neighbors, they face threats of war from those "intent on wiping

out Christians." She says, "We trust the Lord God of Hosts as our only hope, help, and protection. Pray for the peace of Christ to prevail!"

According to the 2024 World Watch List, the number of attacks on churches and Christian-run schools, hospitals, and cemeteries exploded in 2023, a six-fold increase from 2022. Reports note that mob violence in **India**, church closures in **China**, and attacks on believers in **Nigeria, Nicaragua, and Ethiopia** sparked the increase. With the exception of Nigeria, Bible League has ministry in each of those countries. Please pray for Christians around the world.

Pray for Christians across **India**, especially those in states that have anti-conversion laws on the books. In those places, Christians who share their faith can be accused of a crime, intimidated, harassed, and even met with violence.

### **Week 4**

Pastor Gopal in eastern **India** is leading three small group Bible studies using Bible League's Bible study program. However, Muslims in his area are now persecuting him. Please pray for God's protection so that these groups will continue to meet—and grow!

Knowing they may face persecution, 10 new believers in northern **India** received baptism. They all found new life in Christ after going through Bible League's *Project Philip* Bible study. Praise God! Please pray for their spiritual growth and their protection.