

# Malvern Mashal 20

## Pray for those who are suffering for their faith

It is a popular myth that persecution always makes believers strong. Many simply feel worn down by the injustice they are up against and the sheer struggle to survive. This edition offers you the chance to catch up with a number of issues that are happening around the world, and to bring at least a number of them to the Lord in prayer.

The following are amongst the issues highlighted in the most recent prayer feeds from <http://www.barnabasfund.org/BFrssPrayer.php>

Turkey (attempts to woo Christian children over to Islam and to guard the nation against conversion)

Egypt Indonesia and elsewhere (harsh and unfair sentences passed against believers for supposedly anti Muslim remarks or practices)

Zimbabwe (continuing faith despite immense sufferings)

Angola (serious attempts to win pastors over for Islam)

Congo and Northern Uganda (Lord's Resistance Army continuing to kill Christians and abduct children)

Burma (famines/oppression)

China (sixty house church leaders arrested)

India (immense anti-Christian violence from Hindu extremists in Orissa)

South Africa (rise of Islam that has taken the Church by surprise)

Please also keep Algeria in prayer, where the church has come under much pressure.

E.g. <http://www.persecution.net/algeria.htm>

<http://collectifalgerie.free> (pdf file)

[www.biblesociety](http://www.biblesociety)

For many years we have also been subscribers to Open Doors, who provide an excellent prayer bulletin.

<http://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/iran/>

They also run a youth and student website: <http://student.opendoorsuk.org/>

See also <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/>

<http://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/iran/>

<http://www.opendoorsuk.org/htmlmail/epa.pdf>

<http://www.opendoorsuk.org/women/index.php>

<http://www.opendoorsuk.org/pray/documents/WomensMinistry.pdf>

## Praying for Persecuted Christians

We reproduce this overview from [www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org) with their permission.

When we read of the suffering which our brothers and sisters in Christ endure for the sake of His Name, our hearts are moved and we long to bring them before the throne of grace. But sometimes it is difficult to know exactly how to pray, especially if we have never experienced such injustice or persecution ourselves.

The Bible tells us that the Church will be persecuted. So if the Lord will continue to allow persecution, what exactly should we ask Him for when we pray about these situations? We hope that the ten points below will be helpful suggestions, under the guidance and prompting of the Holy Spirit.

1. God that He is all-knowing that in Christ He himself experienced shame, pain and agonising death, as well as the glorious resurrection. Thank Him for His promise: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Josh 1:5).
2. Pray that all governments will work for justice and righteousness. While Jesus says that in this world we will have trouble, (John 16:33) He does not say that it will always be present in every place.
3. Pray that leaders of liberal democracies will use their influence to find ways to reduce, if not end, persecution in countries where it occurs. Just as Paul appealed to Caesar to seek justice (Acts 25), so Christians can appeal to secular governments.
4. Pray for the growth of the Church where persecution flourishes, remembering that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."
5. Pray for strength and courage for those undergoing persecution, and for peace that only God can bring. Thank Him that His grace is sufficient for their needs (2 Cor 12:9). Pray that their faith will not fail, but that their suffering will draw them closer to Him and increase their faith.
6. Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable persecuted Christians to forgive and love their persecutors (Matt 5:44) and that their Christ-like reactions will have an impact on their persecutors.
7. Pray that the Lord will be at work in the hearts of those who currently persecute our sisters and brothers to bring them to a saving knowledge of Himself, as He did with Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9).
8. Thank the Lord for the privilege of entering into the sufferings of our sisters and brothers, remembering that "if one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it" (1 Cor. 12:26).
9. Pray that Christians who are experiencing persecution will not lose the ability to accept or trust genuine approaches from those who have formerly persecuted them, as when the believers in Jerusalem had to learn to ac-

cept the reality of Saul's conversion (Acts 9). Pray that the Lord will give discernment, and relief from unnecessary fears.

10. Pray for yourself and for persecuted Christians to be spiritually ready for whatever tomorrow brings, be that persecution, respite from suffering or Christ's return (Matt 24.42).

**New book by Brother Andrew:** *Secret Believers* (Hodder 2007). Challenging accounts stories of what happens when Muslims turn to Christ. The book is written as a novel but based entirely on true stories.

[www.ruachministries.org](http://www.ruachministries.org)