

Prayer Items February 2011

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

[Psalm 34:1-4](#)

Iran Hangs Two Men Detained during 2009 Unrest – January 24, 2011 – Amnesty International

24 January 2011

Amnesty International has condemned the executions of two men who were arrested in September 2009 during mass protests following Iran's disputed presidential election.

Ja'far Kazemi and Mohammad Ali Haj Aghaei were hanged this morning at Tehran's Evin Prison. Both men had been convicted of *moharebeh* (enmity against God) for having contact with a banned opposition group, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), and "propaganda against the system". At least four others are facing execution after conviction on similar charges.

Ja'far Kazemi was allegedly tortured while in detention. Mohammad Ali Haj Aghaei and Ja'far Kazemi were sentenced to death in April 2010.

Their hangings are the latest in a wave of executions which has seen the Iranian authorities execute at least 71 prisoners since the beginning of this year – an average of more than 20 each week. Thousands more prisoners are on death row.

To read the full report visit: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/iran-hangs-two-activists-detained-during-2009-unrest-2011-01-24>

Pray for their families and for the families of others executed and for those awaiting execution in Iran for exercising their right to free speech, thought, and worship.

CFI Calls for Urgent Prayer for Pakistan Amidst Recent Violence and Murder – LAHORE,

Pakistan, Jan. 4, 2011 /Christian Newswire/ -- The governor of Pakistan's Punjab's province was murdered today by his own security guard, angered by the governor's support of a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy. According to CFI coworkers in Pakistan, "Governor Salman Taseer was murdered because of the blasphemy law as he tried to support Asia Bibi's case. The guard surrendered himself and said that he only murdered Taseer because he was trying to favor Asia Bibi."

CFI coworkers in Pakistan plead for urgent prayer. "There is a great havoc in the whole country and the condition here is so much worse now for Christians. Roads are blocked and there is a great traffic jam here in Lahore. Oh, please keep praying for Christians in Pakistan." Interior Minister Rehman Malik said the governor's guard surrendered to police after the shooting, and told them he was angered by Taseer's recent public endorsement of a pardon for a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy.

That position had earned Taseer threats from Islamist parties, who held a strike last week against

proposed changes to the nation's controversial anti-blasphemy laws. Taseer stood by his stance, posting on Dec. 30 on his Twitter account: "I was under huge pressure sure 2 cow down b4 rightest pressure on blasphemy. Refused. Even if I'm the last man standing."

CFI president Jim Jacobson, who recently visited Pakistan, said, "The situation for minority Christians in Pakistan is extremely bad. Extremists are attempting a systematic elimination of Christianity in the region."

NIGERIA — Christians Killed in Christmas Eve Attacks — VOM Contacts / Compass Direct News

[Romans 8:35–39](#)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

On Christmas Eve, five explosions near Jos killed 31 people and severely injured more than 50 others. The explosions occurred in the Christian suburbs of Kadong and Kada Bui as people shopped in outdoor markets. Also on Christmas Eve, a Baptist pastor, the Rev. Bulus Marwa, and five other Christians were killed during attacks on Victory Baptist Church in Alemderi and a Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) congregation in Sinimari. Both churches are in the mostly Muslim Borno state, in northeastern Nigeria. The Islamic extremist group Boko Haram reportedly claimed responsibility for the explosions near Jos as well as the church attacks in Borno state. Tensions remain high in Jos, Plateau state, which lies on the dividing line between the majority Muslim north and mostly Christian south, and in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state. Christians in these areas have been under attack for decades. Please pray for the families of those killed in the bombings and church attacks, and pray that God will heal the injured. Pray that the love and grace of Jesus Christ will be evident in the words and actions of Christians living in these troubled areas and that Christians will respond to their Muslim neighbors with love rather than revenge.

BANGLADESH — Christians Threatened Over Christmas Worship — Compass Direct News

[2 Corinthians 12:10](#)

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

A Buddhist political group, The United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), threatened Christians in the Khagrachari district, about 180 miles southeast of Dhaka, Bangladesh, prohibiting them from holding Christmas services, according to an anonymous source. "They threatened the Christians, telling them not to celebrate Christmas in the village and not to do any other Christian activities," the source said. "The UPDF members warned the Christians that if they celebrated Christmas, they would be in grave trouble. They warned the pastor not to take care of the congregation and ordered him to go back to his previous religion, Buddhism." Christian elders told the UPDF leader by telephone that they had

arranged food for around 100 people, but the UPDF members allowed them to eat only their rice and curry. “The UPDF leader threatened them, saying, ‘If you worship today, it will land you in unforeseeable consequences,’” the source said. The pastor and some members of nearby Shuknachari Baptist Church have been living like refugees for several months due to threats from the armed UPDF. Of 18 Christian families in the village, only seven or eight families have maintained their faith in Christ in the face of this opposition, with the others returning to Buddhism under compulsion. Pray that God will grant strength and courage to the believers in this part of Bangladesh.

“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” [Revelation 11:15](#)

SUDAN—Southern Sudan Votes for Independence—The Associated Press

[Jeremiah 33:8–9](#)

I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me. Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it.’

Voters in Southern Sudan are flocking to polling stations to cast their votes on whether to secede from Northern Sudan. On Sunday, the first day of voting in the week-long balloting period, 20 police died in an attack by Arab tribesmen, and 30 other people were injured. The south is widely expected to secede, splitting Africa’s largest country in two. The creation of a new nation would free Southern Sudan’s large Christian population from the harsh rule of the Islamic north and offer hope for an end to decades of violence. Pray for the voters’ safety as they head to the polls. Pray also that President Omar al-Bashir will allow the south to secede peacefully, as he has promised.

YEMEN—Christians Pray for Revival—VOM Contacts

[Psalm 80:18](#)

Then we will not turn back from You; revive us, and we will call upon Your name.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12, believers in Yemen will pray for revival in their country. In this poor nation on the Arabian Peninsula, many are without hope and under the bondage of Islam. Pray along with Yemen’s believers that the Holy Spirit will move in Yemen and that many Yemenis will see Jesus as the answer to their hopelessness. Pray that Yemenis will seek the God of the Bible, and pray that believers there will be bold as they share Christ.

IRAN—Governor of Tehran Promises More Arrests of Evangelicals—Mohabat News

[Romans 13:5](#)

Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.

In a speech in Tehran on Jan. 4, the provincial governor of Tehran, Morteza Tamadon, said several Christian pastors had been arrested and that more will be arrested soon. Tamadon described evangelicals as a “corrupt and deviant movement” and compared evangelical Christians to the Taliban. The governor said arresting Christians is justifiable as a defense against the cultural enemies of Iran. Recently, Iranian newspapers have reported the conviction of several Iranian Christian converts from Islam. During the Christmas and New Year’s holidays, security forces arrested and detained more than 60 new Christians in Tehran and several other cities. Their whereabouts are unknown. Pray that God

will soften Governor Tamadon's heart toward Christians. Pray also for the Christians who were arrested and for all Christians in Tehran.

But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. [Mark 13:11](#)

LAOS—Villagers Destroy Christians' Rice Fields—VOM Sources and Compass Direct News

[Psalm 61:4](#)

I will abide in Your tabernacle forever;
I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

On Sunday, Dec. 26, officials and residents of Katin village destroyed the rice paddies of 11 Christian families. The families have been camped on the edge of the jungle since they were expelled from the village one year ago because of their faith. Since their expulsion, seven other families have decided to follow Christ. Village officials told the new converts that they, too, would be expelled unless they gave up their faith. The seven families refused and were kicked out of the village at gunpoint. They joined the other Christian families outside the village. A few days later, while the believers were worshiping in a temporary shelter, residents of Katin drained the water from the Christians' rice paddies, burned fencing around their farmland and stomped on rice seedlings to ensure it could not grow. The 18 families now have nothing to eat, and authorities have done nothing to help them. Pray that God will provide the newly expelled believers with food, clothing and shelter. Pray also that their firm commitment to Christ will cause their persecutors to want to know him, too.

EGYPT—Bomb Kills 21 Outside Church in Egypt—VOM Canada and The New York Times

[Exodus 12:31](#)

Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said.

At least 21 people were killed and 100 wounded on Jan. 1, when a bomb exploded outside a Coptic church in Alexandria, Egypt. The explosion occurred as churchgoers were leaving a New Year's Eve service at the Church of the Two Saints. Witnesses reported that a driver parked a car near the entrance of the church, then ran away seconds before it exploded. No one has claimed responsibility for the bombing. Attacks against the minority Coptic Christian community have increased greatly in the last two years. Last January, several Coptic Christians were killed by a gunman as they left church. Pray that all Christians in Egypt will remain firm in their faith, even as opposition against them grows. Pray that these attacks will cause Copts to welcome Christian converts from Islam into their churches and better understand their unity in Christ.

NORTH KOREA—North Korean Defectors Shot in China—VOM Sources

[Deuteronomy 32:40–42](#)

For I raise My hand to heaven,
And say, "As I live forever,

If I whet My glittering sword,
And My hand takes hold on judgment,
I will render vengeance to My enemies,
And repay those who hate Me.

I will make My arrows drunk with blood,
And My sword shall devour flesh,
With the blood of the slain and the captives,
From the heads of the leaders of the enemy.””

Five North Koreans were shot to death and two others wounded by North Korean border guards as they tried to flee the country. The seven crossed the frozen Yalu River into China on Dec. 14. They were pursued by North Korean border guards, who shot them after they had reached the Chinese side of the river. The two wounded North Koreans were taken back to North Korea. Border guards have never before shot a defector inside Chinese territory, and this incident may reflect a change in policy toward defectors. Observers say border guards must have new instructions. Please continue to pray for Christians in North Korea and China, as well as all North Koreans who suffer under an incredibly harsh regime.