

May 2014

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8:34-38

Uganda- Pray for comfort for a young woman named Nanvunani Shamimu in Uganda who recently came to faith in Jesus Christ with her 19-year-old sister. When their father discovered that they had become Christians, he beat them so violently that the 19-year-old died. Nanvunani is now safely being taken care of by Christians and will not return home to her father. Pray for her comfort as she mourns the loss of her sister. Give thanks that her sister is in the presence of Jesus. Pray that their father turns to Christ himself in his remorse and conviction over what he has done. (International Christian Concern)

Turkmenistan- Pray for the church in Dashoguz, Turkmenistan as they struggle with various trials. Four of their church members were in a serious car accident that killed one, a father of five children, and seriously injured the other three. Another of their congregants, Umid Gojayev, is in prison because he defended himself while in a scuffle with neighbors and ended up injuring one of them. Police chose to arrest him because he was a Christian, and he was sentenced to four years in a labor camp. Pray for his release, despite the threats that he will not be granted amnesty because he reads the Bible. Pray also for his wife who is unwell, unemployed, and trying to raise their children alone while he is in prison. (Voice of the Martyrs)

Pakistan- Pray for Asia Bibi, who was arrested in 2009 and sentenced to the death penalty for blasphemy because she shared her faith in Jesus Christ and said that Muhammad is not alive. Asia was recently moved to a prison that is five hours away from her family, so it is difficult for her husband and daughters to visit her very often. Pray for strength and encouragement for this whole family that is undergoing such anguish. Asia has had four court hearings scheduled since January and all of them have been postponed. Pray for endurance and peace as she continually waits for a final verdict. (Voice of the Martyrs)

Nigeria- In March, more than twenty churches were destroyed in Benue State, Nigeria by Fulani herdsman. In these attacks over a hundred people were killed, including women and children. Please pray that this violent wickedness would end, and that the attackers would be convicted of their wrongdoing. Pray that they would turn to the living

God and be saved. Pray for comfort for our brothers and sisters who have lost loved ones and are now daily living in fear of more attacks. Pray that they would continue to meet together as the body of Christ even though the church buildings are in ruins. (World Watch Monitor)

Nigeria- The terrorist group Boko Haram abducted over one hundred high school girls from their boarding school in Northern Nigeria on April 14. Please pray for God's protection over these girls and that they would be rescued from this horrific experience. The terrorist group says that their aim is to cleanse the country of Christians. Pray that they instead would be cleansed by the blood of Christ and come to know Him as they repent of all these atrocities. Pray for comfort and peace for the families of these girls as well. (International Christian Concern)

Syria- A Dutch Jesuit missionary, Father Van der Lugt, was targeted and shot to death in Homs, Syria on April 7 by an extremist group. He had been serving the poor in Syria since the 1960s, and refused to leave when the UN was evacuating foreign workers. Please pray that his death would cause conviction and repentance in Syria. Pray for protection and release for other aid workers who have been abducted in Syria. In addition, pray for comfort for Father Van der Lugt's family and the Syrian church that mourn his loss. (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

Central African Republic- Please pray for the tragic state of affairs in this country, where a virtual genocide is taking place. Pastor Anatole Banga candidly admitted that those suffering in Central Africa Republic feel overlooked by the international community, as no aid or support is reaching them. Many pastors and church members are now homeless and in refugee camps. Please pray that the church as an international body will compassionately reach out and know how to help. (Open Doors)

Vietnam- Pray for Hang A Khua and his family as they were attacked by public security officers and neighbors because of their Christian faith. When they were told to renounce their faith in Christ and worship their ancestors, they refused and were beaten and whipped with electrical cable. Even their nine-year-old daughter has welts on her body as a result. The neighbors were then instructed to destroy their house and chase them out of town permanently. Khua and his family are now hiding in a forest. Pray for emotional and physical healing, especially for Khua's children who experienced such trauma. Pray that they will find a safe place to live. Other families in rural Vietnam have reported similar treatment in which they are beaten and driven out of town, so pray that the church in Vietnam remains strong in the Lord. (International Christian Concern)

Haiti- Praise God that Melissa, a 23-year-old single mother of three, is now able to provide for her young family through her new beignet stand. After the earthquake destroyed her home, she and her children resorted to living in a plywood shack. Recently, however, she received a stove, a cooking class, and start-up funds, and she is getting back on her feet. Praise God for His provisions and care and pray that she will serve Him. Pray additionally for others in Haiti who are still suffering from the effects of the earthquake and poverty. (International Rescue Committee)

Palatine, Illinois- Please pray for comfort and peace for the families of those killed at a Christian hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan. The victims of the shooting were Dr. Jerry Umanos from Chicago and Gary Gabel and his son John Gabel, from the Orchard Evangelical Free Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Please pray also for the Christians who operate the hospital during these very difficult circumstances. Pray also for the soul of the man responsible for these murders. (CBS News)