

July 2019 Prayer Items

The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

—Proverbs 18:10

Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress.

—Isaiah 33:2

Chile—Forty churches, seminaries, and other ministry-related buildings in the La Araucanía and Bío Bío regions of Chile have been partially or completely destroyed primarily through arson. At the sites, notes and other evidence have been found indicating that the churches were specifically targeted, and that those perpetrating these crimes intended to attack more churches. This has led to widespread fear among congregations, who are mostly low income and unable to repair and rebuild their buildings. Pray that Chilean authorities would take seriously these crimes and tenaciously investigate them, bringing those responsible to justice. Pray that the government would also accept and implement the recommendations suggested after a recent review of their human rights policies, which they regularly must submit to as a UN member state. Pray for courage and peace for the attacked congregations, for provision for alternate meeting places, and for protection from further attack. Pray for those who feel compelled to commit such violence on innocent people. (*Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

Pakistan—As we continue to rejoice in the freedom and safety secured for Asia Bibi, we also persevere in prayer for the country of Pakistan and believers there. Even amid the trial and acquittal of Asia, another Christian woman, Shagufta Kausar, was imprisoned and sentenced to death in 2104, along with her husband, Shafqat Emmanuel. The couple were accused and convicted of sending a blasphemous text, despite the fact that both are illiterate and, therefore, completely unable to do that. Both are suffering incredibly in prison, physically and mentally. Shagufta's brother Paul has had to flee Pakistan, as he received a threat of the same incarceration and charges that his sister faces. Bonded labor and blasphemy laws continue to be the two most common methods of persecuting Christians in Pakistan. Continue to pray for the sustenance and comfort and eventual freedom for this couple. Pray for the leaders of Pakistan, that they would repeal these unjust laws, seek justice for all their citizens, and find life in Christ. Pray for the protection and successful efforts of lawyer Saif-ul Malook, who represented Asia Bibi and is now representing Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel. Pray for all believers in Pakistan that they would remain strong in their faith and would be safe. (*Source: Jubilee Campaign*)

Nigeria—On Monday, June 17, 30 people were killed and 40 more injured after a suicide-bomb attack at a video hall where people had gathered to watch a football match in Konduga village in Borno state, where Boko Haram was first formed. Horrific as this crime is, even worse is the fact that it was carried out by three children—a common practice of this terrorist group, who has forcibly recruited children to be combatants for them. In 2018, 48 children died after being used as human bombs—38 of them girls. Over the decade-long brutal insurgency led by Boko Haram, it is estimated that thousands of children have “recruited.” In addition to being used as suicide bombers, girls are raped, often impregnated and giving birth with no medical attention. Related to this an estimated 8 million children are not being educated in 10 Nigerian states, because of fears of sending children to school where they are vulnerable to attacks and abductions. Around 10 million children total are said to be unable to access safe education in Nigeria. Pray against these dark atrocities and for those who perpetrate them. Pray for these most vulnerable children who suffer unspeakable violence against them and for the long-range effects of an uneducated generation. Pray for God's mercy and swift intervention. (*Source: BBC*)

Sudan—Since the forcible removal of President Bashir from office, protests have continued to seek democracy and widespread social, political, and economic reform. This has continued as the Transitional Military Council (TMC) has also refused to hand over power to a civilian-led government. Tragically, on June 3 over a 100 people have lost their lives, more than 600 have been injured, and at least 70 incidents of sexual violence occurred as protesters were violently cleared from the Khartoum. On June 30, tens of thousands turned out to protest in what has been termed “The Millions March,” after the TMC rejected Ethiopian mediators’ proposals for a transition, and the death toll and numbers injured have both risen as the military has used live ammunition to disperse crowds—who have remained peaceful. The TMC has recently agreed to meet face to face with protesters to negotiate the situation, and we pray for the success of these talks and for peace and democracy to come to Sudan. Pray for comfort for those who have been injured or lost loved ones in these turbulent crises. Pray for the leadership of Sudan that after decades of genocide, tyranny, and oppression, they might seek justice, mercy, and integrity for all their citizens. (*Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide; Aljazeera*)

Hong Kong—In early June, pro-Beijing legislators in Hong Kong began talks to pass a bill that would allow for extraditions to mainland China, and in response tens of thousands marched outside the council building in protest. The government in turn used tear gas, batons, and pepper spray to disperse the crowds. A primarily digital and leaderless movement, the protests have persisted—on the one hand, keeping participants and the movement safer, as the government cannot target particular leaders or groups, but on the other hand has left it vulnerable to the more aggressive and violent actions of some, as seen in the smashing of windows and destruction of property at the council building. Meanwhile, mainland China watches, not tipping their hand as to possible intervention. Pray for the maintenance of relative freedom in Hong Kong, for the safety and integrity of protesters, and for a quick, peaceful, and positive resolution of the conflict. Pray especially for Christian believers as they participate in these calls for preservation of freedom, that they would be full of the grace of Christ. (*Source: The New York Times*)

United States—Pray for the hundreds of children in migrant detention in the United States, who were recently discovered to be living in horrible and overcrowded conditions, unbathed with an open toilet in the center of rooms, where the children eat and sleep. Children under the age of ten were found caring for infants, amid a lice infestation and an influenza outbreak. There has been a legal argument that access to soap or toothbrushes are not required. Pray for the mental and physical protection of these children who are separated from parents and adult caregivers. Pray for a swift, compassionate, and just resolution to this traumatic crisis. (*Source: BBC*)

Eritrea-- On June 23rd, Eritrean authorities raided a church meeting held by Faith Missions Church in Keren, the second largest city in the country. Among those who were arrested were pregnant women, mothers, and children. The church has been in Eritrea for over 50 years but has been awaiting official registration since 2002. Please pray for these very vulnerable prisoners of faith. Pray for God's complete protection and a very speedy release. Pray that they would call out to Him and trust him. In addition, please pray for this country to radically change its treatment of innocent citizens and overhaul it's human rights situation. (*Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

Uganda-- 20-year-old Asuman Kaire became a Christian in 2017 but has hidden his conversion from his Muslim stepfather and the rest of his family. This spring his stepfather discovered that he had become a Christian and beat him, kicked him out of the house, forcing him on the street. His new church family welcomed him in and protected him in the church, but on June 15 a mob of extremist Muslims attempted to get into the church to grab him, yelling that he needed to die. Thankfully, local

Christians and Muslims came to his aid and caused the mob to leave the church. Asuman is now living secretly in a Christian home. Please pray for his protection while his faith continues to grow. Pray for him to walk with his newly-found Savior and to trust Him. Thank the Lord that our brother in the faith was protected from the violent mob. Pray for his own family to turn to Christ, and may he have safe opportunities to boldly share the Gospel. *(Source: International Christian Concern)*

Mexico-- Alma, age 17, has not been able to enroll in school for 2 1/2 years, since her family was forced from their village with 60 others because of their Protestant faith. Because of her ambition to become a nurse and a strong sense of injustice, Alma was brought to the capital to speak to government officials. Churches around the globe wrote letters to their own Mexican embassies to advocate on her behalf. As a result, she was able to see the president and receive an apology from the National Council to Prevent Discrimination. Praise God that this action had an affect and that Alma will be able to attend school again. Pray for the many other children in Mexico, including 40 in one community in Hidalgo, who are still unable to be in school. Pray for fair and equal treatment toward the religious minorities in Mexico. In addition, pray that the Mexican government will uphold human rights and not turn a blind eye to this sort of discrimination. *(Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide)*

Yemen-- Yemen has been in the midst of an ugly Civil War since 2015 and millions of people require humanitarian assistance in the midst of a widespread famine. Outbreaks of cholera also threaten the population, and because of instability it is difficult for aid organizations to deliver medical help and food. Please pray for deliverance from this unbearable suffering. Please pray that those countries and organizations that are able and willing to help would have opportunities to do so. Please pray that Yemeni Christians would share the love of Christ with those around them and that many can cling to the Bread of Life and Living Water during their suffering here on earth. *(Source: International Rescue Committee)*