

July 2020 Prayer Items

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I have hope in Him.”

—Lamentations 3:24

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

—Genesis 28:15

Nigeria—In the early morning of June 3, extremists of the Fulani ethnicity attacked a predominantly Christian community in Kajuru, Kaduna State with machetes, killing 9 people, and injuring many, many more. Seven people are still missing, and the next morning little Elizabeth Samaila died from her many machete wounds after suffering through the night. She was only 3. Far from uncommon, this is just another in an ongoing genocide targeting Christians in this the largest nation in Africa. Persevere in prayer for Nigeria, for the seemingly indifferent government to take action and protect vulnerable citizens; for the perpetrators of these atrocities, motivated as much by land-usage as by religious and ethnic differences, to come to repentance and salvation; for those Christians in constant peril, stress, and oppression to know His peace and comfort. Pray for God’s miraculous intervention and protection, and most of all, that many would somehow come to know Him even through these tragedies. (*Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

Myanmar—Nearly 900,000 Rohingya refugees live in cramped, dirty camps in Bangladesh after fleeing for their lives when Myanmar’s military began a systematic campaign of terror by murdering, torturing, and raping Rohingya and burning their villages 3 years ago. Now their lives are in increased danger as COVID-19 circles the globe and transmits rapidly in the close and unhygienic quarters of refugee camps. And another 600,000 Rohingya are fleeing mortal danger within Myanmar, as the military has threatened to resume their violence. This will not stop until the international community finally declares this a genocide, as has already been determined by the US State Department, the UN, and NGOs such as Refugees International. Pray that international governments will have the political integrity and will to officially call this a genocide and take appropriate action to bring it to an end. Pray for all Rohingya, like 60-year-old Ayassa, who witnessed the murder of seven people on her doorstep before fleeing for her life. Pray for God’s hand of mercy and grace on the “least of these.” (*Source: Refugees International*)

Laos—After becoming Christians, the Mua family began to be persecuted by their village neighbors, who lodged a formal complaint with local officials against them, stating they do not like people who follow the “Jesus religion.” Even still, the Mua family led 6 others to faith in Christ, and the village forced them all to leave their homes and the community. Ultimately the Muas and their new-believer friends were camped out by the side of a main road, having nowhere to live. Give thanks that these new believers were able to connect with Voice of the Martyrs workers in the region, who have helped with temporary housing so they are no longer out on the street, and who are trying to find a more permanent housing solution. Pray for every person in that village in Laos to not only be convicted about how they have wronged the Muas and the others, but more so that they would discover the joy and salvation of the “Jesus religion.” (*Source: Voice of the Martyrs*)

Colombia—The constant battle for freedom of speech and information in Colombia has long been arduous and dangerous. In recent months, it has reached disturbing proportions as 23 social leaders were killed between March 15 and April 24. Additionally, it has been revealed that the Colombian government has been spying on at least 130 human rights defenders, politicians, judges, and journalists

—including foreign correspondents such as Nick Casey of *The New York Times*. These unlawful assaults on basic freedoms were also committed using US resources. Pray for the Colombian government to cease this paranoid attack on basic rights of speech and dissent in their country, and pray mightily for the protection of all those who seek to expose the truth and defend freedom. Give thanks for the 43 United States members of congress who have signed a letter calling for those responsible for assaults, executions, and disappearances to be held accountable. Pray for the country plagued by tyranny, oppression, and corruption to be transformed by many coming to know Christ as their Savior. (Source: *Solidarity Collective*)

Syria—Already devastated by years of war, the situation in Syria has become even more precarious as the borders have been closed in an effort to contain the corona virus. This has meant that food aid and other relief materials have been halted, and the shortages within Syria have become dire. The cost of medicine has already increased 60 percent, and it is anticipated to be as high as 500 percent more before long. This is on top of food shortages and skyrocketing prices there too. Persevere in prayer for the vulnerable population in Syria that has already suffered so much. Pray for the churches that have been valiantly feeding and caring for people as best they can. Pray that the necessary food, medicine, and supplies would miraculously be provided by the God who is not limited by borders or hindered by their closures. (Source: *Voice of the Martyrs*)

United States/Guatemala—Give thanks that after nine months in detention, Guatemalan asylum seekers Emerson and his seven-year-old daughter, Maddie, were freed. Emerson, a bus driver who also taught music at his church, fled Guatemala with his daughter after they were targeted by gangs because of their “ideological and political principles as Evangelical Christians.” Give thanks for the tenacious work of Amnesty International on their behalf, along with their lawyers who helped establish their case for asylum, especially in one of the most unwelcoming climates for refugees and asylum seekers in US history. Give thanks that God preserved them for two months in Mexico as they were homeless, chased, and threatened, prior to the nine months of detention in Berks Family County Residential Center. Pray that their faith will remain strong and that they will experience the peace and security they risked their lives to secure. Pray for an end of violence, corruption, and gang rule in Guatemala. (Source: *Amnesty International*)

Turkey—Pray for Luetfue and Joy Subasigueller and their three small children, after Joy’s residency permit was recently revoked after 10 years living in Ankara, Turkey. Joy is an American married to Luetfue, a Turkish citizen, for 7 years. All three of their children were born in Turkey and are Turkish citizens, the oldest of whom is only 4 years old. However, Joy could be deported any day, despite restrictions on travel due to COVID-19. Beyond this, Joy’s parents are no longer living, so she has no one in the United States to go to. The Turkish government gave no reason for denying her residency permit, but all familiar with the case understand that it is due to Luetfue’s work as an honorary pastor at their Protestant church. In the past three years, the government has expelled approximately 200 foreign Protestants, and now has begun targeting the foreign spouses of Turkish Protestants. It is also against the law for Turkish citizens to be trained in ministry, even in very ancient traditional denominations such as Greek Orthodox. Pray for the sustenance of believers in Turkey, that God would uphold and protect them, and give them the ability to worship and study the Bible and grow in grace and wisdom, despite the attacks on leadership. Pray especially for this young family, that God would make a way for this issue to be resolved, for them all to remain together, and for them to continue their ministry in the country they call home. (Source: *Die Stuttgarter Zeitung [Stuttgart Newspaper]*)

Iran—In 2016 Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani, Saheb Fadaie, Yuhan Omid, and Yasser Mossayebzadeh

were all arrested in Rasht and given 10-year sentences for “acting against the national security through propagating house churches and promoting Zionist Christianity.” A recent appeal has reduced Pastor Yousef’s and Saheb’s sentences to 6 years and Yuhan’s to 2 years. A decision regarding Yasser’s sentence is still unknown. Pray for each of these men that they will be encouraged and uplifted by this news. Pray that the appeal would lead to an immediate overturning of their convictions altogether. Continue to pray for Christian converts in Iran, and all religious minorities, that they might be able to soon practice their faith in peace, security, and freedom. (*Source: Middle East Concern*)

United States—Continue in prayer for racial reconciliation in the United States. Pray for justice for those who have suffered violence, fear, and even death because of the color of their skin. Pray that fallen human systems would be reformed and renewed. Pray that the church would lead the way to reconciliation and that we all would heed the biblical admonition to be “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger” (James 1:19). May we love Jesus more than any platform or party, and be more devoted to prayer than to anxious obsessing and arguing on social media. May people of every and all races and ethnicities know their immeasurable worth to the Heavenly Father, and may we see each other with His eyes. (*Source: Christian Advocacy Now*)

Eritrea/International—This totalitarian state has long persecuted Christians and other religious minorities and political dissidents, imprisoning them in the harshest of conditions without trial and, in some cases, without even a definite sentence. Another brutal practice has come to light with the use of forced labor under the guise of “National Service.” Often used for excessive hard labor in mines and construction projects, people are pulled from their lives against their will and under threat of punishment and forced to work in dangerous and unjust settings at the government’s bidding. Though national service is technically only meant to last 18 months, in Eritrea—much like their prison sentences—this hard labor lasts indefinitely, often continuing for decades. It is estimated that 300,000 to 400,000 people in a country of only 6 million are currently languishing as forced laborers. Because of this endemic practice, Eritrea is one of the top countries for producing refugees, who then become extremely vulnerable to being exploited and trafficked as slaves elsewhere. Pray for those who suffer in modern slavery that they might find freedom in this life, and even more so, eternal freedom in Christ. Pray for international companies like Australian-based Danakali mining company to follow the lead of Canadian mining companies and divest in projects in Eritrea that use forced labor, or to ensure that ILO’s protocols for safe, fair, and free labor practices are adhered to. Similarly, pray for the European Union as they navigate funding of a project in the infrastructure of Eritrea that was meant to stem the tide of migration feeding the refugee crisis, but because of a lack of oversight of the project, has actually led to the funding of slave-labor practices which fuel the refugee crisis. Pray for wisdom, integrity, and meaningful action on the part of multinational corporations and other international actors to hold this repressive government accountable for the treatment of their population. Pray for Eritrea that the light and freedom of Christ might spread through this nation and bring about great change for the thousands and thousands that suffer there daily. (*Source: Freedom United*)