

## July 2021 Prayer Items

*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

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

—Isaiah 41:10

**Nigeria**—Probable militant Fulani herdsmen abducted Dr. Precious Emeka Chinedu from his hospital without requesting ransom money and immediately killed him in the bush. He was well-loved, hard-working, and greatly contributed to his community and hospital. Fulani militants killed seventeen other Christians this month in Nigeria and 1,500 Christians this year. They specifically target Christians and Christian symbols in an effort to eradicate them from the region, yet the government considers it a minor tribal issue. Please pray for those that have lost loved ones so tragically. Pray for the community and family members that are mourning Doctor Chinedu's death. And pray that the violent perpetrators would be convicted and repentant and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation and forgiveness. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

**Nicaragua**—Following peaceful protests in 2018, President Daniel Ortega embarked on a repressive strategy to quell dissent of any kind in his country. It has resulted in an ongoing human rights crisis that has led to the killing of 328 people, more than 2,000 injured, and tens of thousands of people having to flee the country. To this day, more than 100 people are still detained for merely participating in the protests, and 100 journalists have been exiled. Numerous human rights organizations have had their legal status revoked and have been targets of government harassment, including confiscation of assets. A peasant leader and human rights activist, Francisca Ramírez received death threats from senior-ranking government officials. Pray for the restoration of human rights, free speech, and freedom of expression in Nicaragua. Pray for the protection of those who have stood up for a free, just, and civil society—and because of that have faced persecution, violence, threats, and illegal detention. Pray for the healing of those injured and comfort and peace for those who have lost loved ones. Pray that President Ortega will cease using oppression to desperately hang onto power, but rather come to know the salvation and freedom of Jesus. (*Source: Amnesty International*)

**Sudan**—June 3 marked two years since Sudanese authorities attacked unarmed protesters in Khartoum, beating and sexually assaulting them, disappearing others, and killing over 100. The demonstrators were calling for a more democratic governmental system after the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir. Despite outcry from people of Khartoum and around the world, justice still has not been served for the bloody mass murder. Those advocating for a fair trial fear that, because of the lack of legal repercussions for those who committed the violent acts of June 3, similar attacks will occur. Like they predicted, on May 11, 2021, again in Khartoum, at least two individuals—who were peacefully protesting those unaddressed brutalities—were shot and killed by security forces. Pray that the families and loved ones of those who were killed in the attacks—and those who survived and are suffering the trauma of what they faced two years ago—are given peace and are drawn only toward the God who is perfectly just. Ask that God work in the lives of individuals, as well as the systems at play, which are allowing these evils to go unchecked; pray that He bring some form of justice for these wrongs. Pray that legal action is taken soon so that these kinds of human rights violations are discouraged from happening again. (*Source: Amnesty International*)

**Pakistan**—Sadly, yet another girl was forced into marriage in Pakistan last month. In Gujranwala, a 13-year-old girl named Nayab Gill was abducted by her employer, Sadam Hayat. She worked in his beauty salon during the pandemic while schools were closed. Nayab recently claimed in court that she was 19 (instead of 13), had converted to Islam, and married 30-year-old Hayat. While saying this in court, she had bruises on her face and her eyes were red. She also had confided to her grandmother that she wanted to go home, so she probably lied under threat of some sort. Sadly, the judge allowed her to be taken by Hayat and separated from her family. Please pray fervently that Nayab will be able to safely escape from this prison of forced marriage and forced conversion. Pray that she and the one thousand other girls forced into marriages each year in Pakistan would be protected and returned to her families. Pray that the Father of the fatherless would carry her through this trauma and that she'd cling to Him. (Source: *International Christian Concern*)

**Iran**—On 26 June, Amin Khaki, Milad Goudarzi and Alireza Nourmohammadi were sentenced to five years in prison and fined approximately \$1600 each after being charged for possessing “propaganda that educates in a deviant way contrary to the holy religion of Islam.” In November 2020 Iranian intelligence officers raided their homes, confiscating Bibles, cell phones, and computers. At their June 21 trial, which only lasted an hour, they were informed that their lawyer was not “registered” as their counsel, and they were forced to represent themselves. They have 21 days to appeal their sentences. We join Middle East Concern by praying the Lord will strengthen and encourage Amin, Milad, and Alireza, giving them and their families the “peace that transcends all understanding.” Pray that the appeal process will be successful, and that the Iranian government will no longer persecute religious minorities, which is in direct defiance of international law. (Source: *Middle East Concern*)

**Kenya**—A radical individual in Odapako village, Mpingire Sub-County, confessed to killing 70-year-old Christian pastor, Bishop Francis Obo. Stopping the pastor on his way home from the market one evening, a small group of men called him an “infidel” for leading people away from the Muslim faith, and then killing him, while his wife ran for her life. Pray for the wife of Bishop Obo, who was taken to the hospital and treated for shock after losing consciousness upon reaching their home. Pray for the community of Christians who lost their beloved, trusted pastor, and who are fearing for their lives and feeling lost. Pray for a reprieve from—if not an end to—these targeted religious acts of violence. Pray that through these tragedies the number of people brought to Christ only increases, despite the loss of a faithful disciple in the faith. (Source: *Voice of the Martyrs*)

**Mozambique**—Armed conflict that started in 2017 in Northern Mozambique has escalated in the past year, and children seem to be most affected. When villages were attacked in March, thousands fled to the sea or the bush, and many children were separated from their families in their flight or tragically lost loved ones to violence. 350,000 children are now displaced from their homes and are in horrible conditions, many without adequate food, clean water or safe shelter. Cholera is widespread in the region, and half of all children under age five are stunted. Some children have been targeted for abduction, recruitment, and sexual exploitation (particularly adolescent girls). School has not been in session for over a year, and this has contributed even more to their instability and vulnerability. Pray for peace in this turbulent region and for protection for the vulnerable children. Pray for those who are suffering to know that our merciful God knows their pain and is mighty to save. And please pray that this underdeveloped country would advance and particularly be committed to basic human rights laws that protect children. (Source: *World Vision*)

**China**—With more and more escaped detainees of China's internment camps giving testimonies to a worldwide audience, a clearer picture of brutalities faced inside these facilities is painted for everyone on the outside. Because of their Muslim faith, those imprisoned are daily facing extreme violations of

their human rights, including the Chinese government's surveillance system (one of the most advanced in the world), which is mobilizing their crimes against humanity. Pray that God grows the strength and courage of those who are tortured because of their "extremist" beliefs, or who chose to use a common greeting in Islamic cultures, meaning "peace be upon you." But pray that this strength and courage is rooted in a relationship with Christ, who advocates like none of us can. Pray also that more truths about what is done daily by Chinese authorities, are exposed to the whole world—that we who have an individual voice in this world are inclined to amplify the suppressed voices. (*Source: Amnesty International*)

**Burkina Faso**—The deadliest jihadist attack in Burkina Faso left 130 civilians dead on June 4. Though this attack did not seem to target any specific religious or ethnic groups, it is only one of many bloody attacks that have occurred at least monthly in the country. It is now evident--as churches and Christian households are regularly invaded or razed, and those associated with the Christian faith are most frequently killed--that the majority of attacks target Christians. Pray for the protection of, and resilience and peace for the Christians and non-believers living in constant fear. Pray for transformation through a spreading, growing love for Jesus, and an end to this violence used by the country's several militant groups. (*Source: Voice of the Martyrs*)

**Colombia**—Recent protests around Colombia have been met with deadly force by police and governments troops, including the use of live rounds into crowds of protesters. The protests stemmed from calls for tax reform after the levying of another broad tax increase on the citizens of Colombia, a huge percentage of whom live in deep poverty. Close to 70 people have died in the protests, and thousands injured. Many are now calling for impartial investigations into these deaths, and President Iván Duque has been criticized for refusing to condemn excessive force. Recently though, he released a statement vowing to modernize the police force, including setting standards for police action, and more training. The protests have also included calls for reforms to healthcare and access to education for the poor, as well as protections for those living in rural areas who have been caught for decades in the crossfire between FARC rebels and government forces. Pray for the vulnerable in Colombia, who have so few resources and little hope. Pray for their protection, for their provision, and for them to turn to their Father in heaven for their needs as well. Pray for reform in Colombia, so that deep inequities and injustices can be addressed and righted. Pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, that they may be comforted and that they may see justice. (*Source: BBC*)