

July 2022 Prayer

*I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.
I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.
Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

—Lamentations 3: 19-23

Congo—Twenty-five-year-old Kahindo and her two-year-old daughter, Nuela, were captured by the Allied Democratic Forces and held in a forest for more than three weeks. The terrorist group had attacked her village and murdered her parents, her husband, her two brothers, and two of her children. She said that when they saw she was alive, “They shouted that they had found a wife for their leader. So, they took me and my child away to the forest to be a sex slave to their boss. He abused me for a few days but stopped when my caesarian section scar started bleeding. For the three weeks that the rebels held us, they did not give us food. I used to pick some soil soaked in my blood and eat it together with wild green leaves and also give it to my child. We had no water but we could trap some with our hands when it was raining.” The Congolese army rescued them, and she was able to flee to a refugee camp where she is staying now. Please pray for emotional healing from this unspeakable horror and physical healing from going without food and rape. Pray for the hearts of these Islamic militants who are brutally torturing or killing Christians to be miraculously convicted and broken. Pray that God would intervene in this horror and redeem it for His glory. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

China—Thirty-three years ago thousands of peaceful protesters were massacred in Tiananmen Square by the Chinese military, and in the decades since the Chinese government has attempted to erase the atrocity from history by criminalizing any commemorations. However, in Hong Kong there have been annual candlelight vigils until recently. Activist, barrister, and vigil organizer Chow Hang-tung was just sentenced to 22 months in jail for “unlawful assembly.” She is also awaiting trial on charges of “inciting subversion,” for which she could face 10 years in prison. All this for lighting a candle. Pray for those who face prison and harassment for the simplest of actions calling for human rights in China. Pray for a government so set on repressing and controlling its population, it will stop at nothing to retain power. Pray for those in power to repent of these abuses, for the protection and freedom of Chow Hang-tung, for a free, just, and civil society to be restored to China, and for the continued growth of the Church in China. (*Source: Amnesty International*)

Egypt—A 17-year-old Christian named Thomas was lured into a neighbor’s apartment in Alexandria with pleas for help. This neighbor is known for being anti-Christian, and when Thomas entered the apartment, he tried to attack him with a knife. Thomas escaped to the balcony, locked himself in there and called for help. When his father, Awad Allah, heard from

across the street, he barged into the apartment and the neighbor stabbed him seven times, shouting, “Infidel!” He was rushed to the hospital in critical condition but is now home recovering. Please pray for his healing and protection for the whole family. Pray for Thomas who is traumatized by the memory. Pray also for justice as the neighbor claimed to be mentally ill to avoid being sentenced. (*Source: World Watch Monitor*)

Cuba—Loreto Hernández García is a religious leader in Cuba and the founder and vice president of Association of Free Yorubas, an independent religious organization that works for religious freedom and protections for Christians in Cuba. This group has been routinely targeted by the Cuban government. Loreto and his wife, Donaida Perez Pasairo, are serving 7- and 8-year sentences in prison for participating in the July 11 peaceful protests—though the charges against Loreto falsely claim disrespect and public disorder. He has suffered a great deal in prison, having been humiliated, severely beaten, and even thrown down a set of stairs by a prison guard, who mocked his religious beliefs. Like Pastor Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo, who also has been imprisoned for his faith, Loreto and his wife need prayers for strength, comfort, and peace as they face these hardships. We join with Christian Solidarity Worldwide in praying “for the strength and protection of Loreto Hernández García, and that he will be granted the medical treatment he needs; for the release of all those who were detained in connection with 11 July, including Loreto Hernández García, his wife and the other members of the Association of Free Yorubas; and that Cuban State Security will cease all targeting of independent religious groups, instead working towards a future where every citizen is free to believe.” (*Source: CSW*)

Somalia—After meeting some Christians, a Muslim man named Abda turned to Christ. He later married, and he and his wife met with other Christians secretly because of the extreme persecution in Somalia. Despite the precautions, an extremist group started following him because of his conversion. They caught him at his home worshiping with other believers, chased them away, and attacked him severely. They shouted at him that they did not want Christianity in their village. The attack caused him to lose consciousness for two days, and a severe wound required his arm to be amputated. Abda feared that he would not be able to farm and provide for his family, but God has provided him with oxen to help and a new opportunity to share his faith. Although he is shunned by his neighbors, the community has allowed him to stay in the village. Because his faith is no longer a secret, he’s able to share it quite openly. Pray that God will continue to provide for him and his wife, and pray that his testimony of Christ would be powerful and effective. (*Source: Open Doors*)

International—The One Campaign, a movement to address extreme poverty globally, along with related issues such as food scarcity, chronic malnourishment, access to adequate healthcare and education, gender inequality, un- and underemployment, and more. Their most recent campaign shares UN data that the average life expectancy around the globe has dropped for the first time since it began tracking that information in the 1950s. While this may seem like nothing more than a statistic, it is an indicator that more people around the world are suffering more than previous generations. This means that despite our technical and medical advances, food production that is more than adequate to feed the world’s population, and greater awareness of the struggles of the world’s poor, millions of men, women, and children have been allowed to sink into such tremendous poverty and have such little access to education, healthcare, infrastructure, and opportunity that they are literally dying sooner. It

makes people vulnerable to exploitation like human trafficking and slave labor. Pray for the least of these around the world for the Father to provide for them in miraculous ways, and that the Church would be His hands and feet. Pray that the hearts of the world's leaders would be moved to work effectively for the uplifting of all people. Pray for justice for all people. (*Source: One Campaign*)

India—India's Supreme Court has agreed to hold a hearing about the numerous and escalating attacks against Christians. They are closed for the summer but will soon reopen and have promised to address this as a priority. The petition was initiated by an Indian archbishop, the National Solidarity Forum, and the Evangelical Fellowship of India. In response to their comments about the rising persecution against Christians (and this with impunity), the Court responded by saying, "What you are saying is unfortunate, if it is happening. What we can ensure is that the matter is listed on the reopening date itself." Praise God that they are willing to listen and look into this. Pray that truth will prevail and that the evidence would be clear. Pray for justice and fair punishment for persecution, which would deter further violence. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

Mozambique—Since 2017 Mozambique has been terrorized by a jihadist insurgency, and over 800,000 people have had to flee their homes, with 4,000 dead. Last year, the insurgency had largely been put down by a multi-African force. However, in May, extremists attacked six Christian villages in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, killing at least eight more people. ISIS released footage of the attacks, showing burned out villages and six decapitated bodies. The kidnapping of boys for child soldiers and women and girls for forced marriages and sex slaves is widespread. Meanwhile, neighboring Tanzania has refused to set up a refugee camp for those fleeing the violence and has forced 10,000 vulnerable civilians to return to Mozambique, violating the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits forcibly returning people to threats to their lives or freedom. Pray for the protection of Christians and other innocent civilians in Mozambique whose homes are being destroyed and very lives threatened. Pray for compassionate responses by neighboring countries, to welcome those fleeing for their lives from Mozambique. Pray for the hearts and minds of those who would perpetrate such grotesque violence. Pray that the Church in Mozambique would stand strong in their faith and that even their persecutions would serve as a great witness and bring many to know Jesus. (*Sources: Human Rights Watch; International Christian Concern; BBC*)

Vietnam—Minh Bao and his family have been persecuted for their faith since becoming Christians. His three sons were beaten severely, and he had to sell some of his land and two buffaloes to pay for their hospital stay. The village authorities seized part of their land when they would not renounce their faith in Christ, but Minh continued to share the Gospel and held church in their home. Then, local authorities forced them to leave their house because of their faith. They had been living in a makeshift structure on their land, but it did not keep out the rain. Praise God that they were recently given money to buy another house in a nearby village. Pray that this new home would offer them protection and opportunities to share the Word. Pray also for healing and protection for his sons. (*Source: Voice of the Martyrs*)

Israel—City of Life (CLM) is a humanitarian group and Messianic congregation led by Pastor Michael Beener in Sderot, near Gaza. CLM rents a large space to meet and to minister to the needy in this industrial area. For several years now, the group has faced ongoing opposition

from ultra-orthodox Jews in the area and the municipality. An ultra-orthodox Jewish man illegally entered their building a couple years ago and took video. When this was reported by CLM, the man received no consequences other than being ordered not to go within 100 meters of the CLM building. The Jewish organization Yad L'Achim has protested outside CLM in opposition to their outreach activities. Now CLM and Pastor Michael both are facing two separate lawsuits from the municipality claiming their building does not meet zoning requirements for a public place of worship, despite CLM hiring both an architect and a surveyor to confirm the appropriateness of the building for the worship and humanitarian work. We join with Middle East Concern in praying for this faithful congregation as they request that "the municipality will not use the occasion to temporarily close the building and hinder the ministry in Sderot; the lawyer will be able to prepare well for the court; God will provide the resources to cover the fees incurred by the architect and surveyor; the court will uphold the law in Israel and recognize that CLM is being unfairly treated on account of its ministry and Prayer House for the Messianic Congregation; God will touch the hearts of those who oppose CLM's ministry and bring them to the knowledge of salvation. (*Source: Middle East Concern*)