

## September 2022 Prayer

*“Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”*

–Daniel 4:27, Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.*

–Ephesians 2:19

**Philippines**—The government in Manila has charged 16 people in a Catholic missionary group with financing terrorists. The accused group, named the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, is mostly nuns, and the New People’s Army is the armed branch of the Communist party. The ridiculous accusation has resulted in their bank account being blocked and their website being taken down, and there may soon be warrants for their arrest. The missionary group defends the rights of indigenous people in Mindanao by living near poor farmers and fishermen and documenting human rights violations against them. In recent years as some attempt to exploit them and steal their land, the missionaries have stood up for them. Clearly some in the government are trying to stop their work among those in need. Please pray that God would protect both the poor of this region in the Philippines and protect those that are trying to help them. (*Source: Asia News*)

**North Korea/South Korea/China**—The plight of North Koreans in general is notoriously difficult, but the situation of North Korean women within North Korea, and when they defect to China or South Korea, is markedly more dangerous and difficult. Within North Korea, women face high levels of rape and sexual violence at the hands of government officials, along with arbitrary and prolonged imprisonment, torture, slavery and conscripted labor, summary and public executions, and deliberate starvation and malnutrition. Of North Korean women working in the public sector or military, almost 50 percent considered sexual violence to be “common.” Yet, when these women defect in an effort to find a better life and greater safety, they find their situation in South Korea to be complicated, as their rates of domestic violence are nearly 60 percent higher than their South Korean counterparts. South Korean culture tends to be patriarchal and does not sufficiently address or prosecute domestic violence, especially for North Korean defector women. They are also vulnerable to being trafficked for prostitution and cyber sex material. In China, North Korean defector women are exploited in incredibly high numbers, 50 percent of whom are forced into prostitution, 30 percent sold into fraudulent and unwanted marriages, and 15 percent pushed into the cybersex industry. Also, due to the One Child Policy, selective abortion, and the resultant gender imbalance, North Korean women in China are frequently forced into slave labor, domestic servitude, and sexual slavery. Jubilee Campaign reported, “defector women and girls sold into the cybersex industry are restricted to small apartments where they are forced to spend up to 17 hours per day performing dehumanizing sexual acts on camera to a live online paying audience. These victims exhibit high rates of physical exhaustion, depression and suicidal ideation, and HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).” North Korean women in China are often denied medical care, even if they have a Chinese husband. Defectors—especially in China—constantly face the danger of repatriation, which means horrific “rehabilitation through labor” or execution. If these women had been victims of forced prostitution or forced marriage to Chinese men and they are now pregnant, they are made to get abortions or relinquish their newborns to infanticide in an effort to eliminate half-Chinese children. Pray for defector women such as Lee, who was repeatedly raped and forced to undergo two abortions by two officials of the South Korean Armed Forces Intelligence Command. Pray for the protection of women within North Korea and those who flee to find a better life. Pray for men who instead of protecting and uplifting the vulnerable, choose to

exploit and abuse them. Pray for these three countries to pursue justice and freedom and safety for all, both on a private, cultural level and on a governmental, nationwide level. Pray that many would find Jesus, who is the perfect model of loving, gentle respect of women. (*Source: Jubilee Campaign*)

**Nepal**—Please pray for the work of Isa Rai and his ministry called Gospel Publication which translates Christian books into Nepali. 70-80 percent of the population are Hindus, most of the rest are Buddhists, and only 1-2 percent are Christians. Isa Rai shares the good news with Buddhists who try to achieve nirvana through good works and with Hindus who try to achieve Moksha through good works. Isa says that Hindus believe in so many gods that adding Jesus Christ to their list of gods is easy to do, and sadly they just think he is the incarnation of one of their own gods. As he speaks to gurus and common people, he seeks to show them that Jesus is the only God and that He offers them salvation by grace alone. Pray that God would open hearts and minds to the truth of the Gospel. Isa says that Hinduism creeps into the church and into the doctrine, so there is a need for good Christian books. Praise God that his ministry is able to translate theological works and get them into their hands. Pray for sanctification, maturing, and protection from false theology in the small body of believers in Nepal. Pray that this ministry and outreach would be used by God to bring many more to faith. (*Source: Desiring God Ministries*)

**United Kingdom**—It is an internationally recognized right of all people to seek asylum in countries not their own when facing threat or danger within their home nations. Since the takeover of Afghanistan, Afghan asylum seekers certainly more than qualify for fleeing for safety. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons submitted an urgent statement in 2021 calling on UN member states to intervene in the escalating conflict to protect the rights of civilians and to keep their borders open, especially for Afghan refugees. Yet, when Afghan refugees attempt to find asylum in the United Kingdom, they are often forced to make dangerous crossings in tiny boats, and they are treated with suspicion, and are not allowed to work, making them vulnerable to trafficking or exploitative work. In addition to this, the UK has contracted with Rwanda to house and process detainees, an effort that has actually not deterred trafficking but made it worse. Pray for desperate people fleeing a violent, repressive regime in Afghanistan. Pray that those seeking asylum will be protected and treated humanely, by whatever country that receives them. (*Source: Freedom United*)

**Nigeria**— In northern Nigeria, as many as 48 percent of girls are married before age 15. Most of these are Muslims or Christians who are forcibly converted to Islam. Two months ago, Anna Nimmyel's only child, her 16-year-old daughter named Grace, was abducted by a Muslim man named Mallam Abdulra'ub and forced to convert to Islam so he could marry her. Anna contacted the police, and Mallam spent one night in jail, while Grace spent seven nights behind bars. She was then released back to her kidnapper. The authorities say they can not return her to her mother because she is now of a different religion. Anna has been trying to defend her daughter's rights legally (the Nigerian Constitution protects minors under 18 and considers separating a child from her mother a crime) but this ridiculous catch-22 has closed all doors. Please pray for justice and protection for Grace and Anna and that Anna may safely be returned home soon. Pray also for Grace to be safe both emotionally and physically. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

**Iran**—Husband and wife Homayoun Zhavah and Sara Ahmadi were originally arrested in 2019. Homayoun spent a month in prison, and Sara spent 67 days, over half of them in solitary confinement. Originally, they were given 2-year and 11-year sentences, respectively, for membership in a house church and for leading a house church. As their lawyers have continued to appeal and seek retrials, they have been allowed to live at home. However on 13 August 2022, they were summoned to the police station for what they thought would be the return of confiscated property. Instead, they were both

detained. Many are concerned for their safety and well being, especially as Homayoun has Parkinson's. We join Middle East Concern in praying that: God will comfort, encourage, and strengthen Homayoun and Sara at this difficult time; their harsh sentences will be reviewed, especially since Homayoun is in poor health, and that they will be acquitted; the Iranian authorities will stop the persecution of their citizens for the peaceful expression of their faith. *(Source: Middle East Concern)*

**Libya/Europe**—Slave markets that sound like something out of a previous century are thriving in Libya. They are well-sourced by the Libyan Coastguard intercepting desperate migrants at sea, and the Libyan Coastguard is heavily funded by European Union nations. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the United Nations have all documented major human rights violations—including food and water deprivation, torture, and electric shocks. Many are dying from tuberculosis, and racism is rampant, with darker-skinned detainees being targeted for slavery and human trafficking. Pray for poor, vulnerable people who are so desperate that they will risk their lives to try to make it to a safe and free life. Pray that European nations would cease supporting the Libyan Coastguard's efforts to intercept, detain, and traffic migrants. Pray that this great evil of slavery would be ended. *(Sources: Freedom United; The Guardian)*

**Thailand/Burma**—Saw Eh became a Christian when he heard somebody share their testimony near his home in Burma. His family pressured him to change his mind until one night he awoke to his father trying to kill him. The teenager fled to Thailand for safety and found refuge in a Buddhist temple where they fed him and allowed him to read his Bible. The Buddhist monks directed him to a nearby Christian school for persecuted Christians. He is now a student there and is learning a trade while he witnesses to unbelievers. Praise God for Saw's salvation and His miraculous protection over him. Praise Him for leading him to a safe place so close to a Christian school. *(Source: Christian Freedom International)*

**Peru**—From 1980 to 2000, Peru was embroiled in an internal conflict between government troops and guerrilla forces, during which atrocities, extrajudicial executions, and forced disappearances were rampant. Over 60,000 people were killed or disappeared, and decades later families of victims still await answers. Pray for those who still await answers, that they might be comforted by the God of justice. Pray that the Peruvian government will do due diligence, investigate these cases, and provide closure and justice for grieving families. *(Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide)*

**Algeria**—In Algeria, where laws prohibit peaceful evangelism and conversion to new religions, Foudhil Boulil was arrested for "spreading poisonous ideas to unemployed youth". Soon after, a pastor named Rachid Seighir and a Christian bookstore owner named Nouh Hamini were both arrested for spreading information and books that were "undermining the faith of Muslims". Rachid's church was also shut down. Pray for the believers in Algeria where persecution is so intense that many have to hide their faith. Pray for courage and protection among the believers and for the release of these three Christians in prison. Pray for a work of the Holy Spirit to convict the hearts of the lost and to seek out Christians who can share the truth of the gospel with them. *(Source: Christian Freedom International)*