

JUNE 2014

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Philippians 1:12-14 ESV

Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.

Amos 5:24

South Sudan- Please pray for Meriam, a Muslim- background believer in Jesus, who was sentenced to death by hanging for apostasy and adultery because she married a non-Muslim and turned to Christ. She is married to a Christian and they have a young son and another soon to be born. After given a chance to recant her faith, Meriam affirmed that she is a Christian. Please pray that her lawyer's appeal would be effective, and that her husband's US citizenship would help grant her amnesty. Praise God that so many, including congressmen Trent Franks and Frank Wolf, have spoken out on her behalf. Pray for God's peace and protection on her and her family. Pray for her husband to be permitted to see her and her son, who is in prison with her. Praise God that she remained strong in the faith, and pray that she would be strengthened all the more through the difficult days ahead. (Middle East Concern)

Laos- Praise God that a house church in a rural town in Laos is thriving, despite losing its leader, Than, last year to martyrdom. Than's church had ten families last year, and it now includes fifteen families, including the leader of the village who originally led the effort in persecuting the Christians. Praise God for this man's change of heart and salvation. Pray for the Laotian Christians to continue to grow in unity, courage, and faith. (Voice of the Martyrs)

China- Pray for strength and comfort for the thousands of Christians in Wenzhou Province whose dozens of church buildings have recently been demolished by the authorities. Pray that this persecution would strengthen their faith and unity, knowing that the true church cannot be destroyed. Praise God that state churches and house churches genuinely united as one to help and encourage one another. (BBC, China Aid)

Nigeria- Boko Haram Islamist Militants abducted over two hundred teenage girls from their school on April 14. Sadly, the military have not been able to rescue any of the girls and a Boko Haram leader has threatened to sell the girls as slaves. Please pray that the many efforts being taken to rescue them are successful. Praise God that our country and so many others around the globe are involved in rescue efforts on behalf of these girls. Please pray for their protection and that God would be a shield around them, a refuge, and a mighty fortress. Pray for comfort for their anxious families. Pray that they would be released or escape soon. (BBC)

Malaysia- Although it is illegal in Malaysia to proselytize, praise God that Dian was able to boldly share his faith with his Muslim brother-in-law. Praise God also that his brother-in-law accepted Christ, despite the fact that it is illegal for a Muslim to convert to Christianity. Please pray for protection for these dear brothers in the faith, and pray that they would be shining lights as they hold out the Gospel of Truth. (Voice of the Martyrs)

India- The recent election of India's new prime minister, Narendra Modi, has caused alarm for many Christians because of his history of persecuting religious minorities. Please pray for protection for the believers there and pray for the church to grow despite the difficulties it experiences. (International Christian Concern)

Brunei- As of April 30, Shariah law is now in effect in Brunei, a small Southeast Asian country. Please pray for God's protection for the Christians there while living under such strict and harsh laws. Pray that His church would not be silenced as a result of this law, but that believers would find safe ways to obey God and share the Good News. Pray that they would have opportunities to spread the Gospel in particular among the tribal groups, even though this is now illegal. (Open Doors)

Philippines- Muslim missionaries (named tablighs) entered a house church in a village in Southern Philippines, demanding to know why the Muslim-background believers were gathered there without their permission. Please pray that the new believers would be strong in the faith and not be tempted back to Islam, and pray that the tablighs would instead come to know Christ. Pray that the house church there would find safe ways to continue to worship and evangelize. (Open Doors)

Iran- Please pray for Iranian Christians who are held in horrible conditions in prison because of their faith. Pastor Farshid Fathi has been in prison for two years and has recently been injured during a raid in the jail and denied treatment. Additionally, a house church was raided on Easter Sunday and five people were arrested and imprisoned. Pray for healing for their health issues and pray that they would remain strong in their faith and able to use this difficult time to witness and share Christ with those around them. (Middle East Concern)

Egypt- An Egyptian court sentenced 683 men to death in a mass trial for their involvement in a riot in which a policeman was killed. They were not given a fair trial or even a chance to appear in court, there were no witnesses or evidence, and they were not given a chance to defend themselves. It is assumed that they are being punished due to their support of the former President Morsi, and their alleged involvement in the Muslim Brotherhood. Please pray for a fair and just outcome to these trials. Pray that no innocent victims would be punished, and that their death sentence would be overturned. (BBC)