

## August 2021 Prayer

*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

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*  
—Galatians 6:2

**International**—Around the globe, developed nations have received and distributed large numbers of COVID vaccinations, with high percentages having received both doses. In contrast, in poorer countries most of the population have not received even a single dose of any vaccination—and these are in areas already struggling with circumstances that make the spread of disease extra difficult to prevent and with lack of resources to deal with cases when they occur. Now with the suggestion that a potential booster might be warranted, there is concern pharmaceutical manufacturers will be tempted to direct more doses to countries who already have high vaccination rates, but who will pay more for the medication, before other more vulnerable countries have a chance to receive their needed first doses. Pray that those in power will act justly and ensure that all people have equal access to these vaccinations. Pray that pharmaceutical companies will put the safety of all around the globe ahead of profit. Pray for the poor and the vulnerable, who always suffer most acutely during any crisis. Pray that the Father of the widow and orphan will be very present among those who suffer, providing comfort, peace, and material provision. (*Source: The New York Times*)

**Nigeria**—Please pray for Rose who was recently widowed when her husband was violently attacked and killed because of his faith. She is now the only financial provider for her two daughters and unborn child. Pray for her comfort and encouragement, and pray that she would cling to Christ and trust Him fervently. Praise God that she was able to set up a food stand to earn a living. Pray that this would generate enough income for her and her children. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

**Madagascar**—Southern Madagascar is facing its worst food crisis in decades as the region has been beset by drought, deforestation, and an agricultural and livestock system totally disrupted by the COVID pandemic. People in the area are suffering extreme malnutrition, and the population is spread out over a vast, remote area with poor infrastructure. NGOs such as Doctors Without are trying to get emergency aid to the people and are overwhelmed by the needs and precarious situation. On top of this, the government is in turmoil, as they have arrested numerous generals and high-ranking officials over an alleged assassination and coup plot against President Andry Rajoelina. However, the election that brought President Rajoelina to power has been plagued by accusations of fraud. Pray for the vulnerable population of this country caught between political unrest, natural and man-made disasters, and a global pandemic. Pray for the Father to make a way for emergency relief to reach those on the brink of death. Pray for peace in this troubled country. (*Sources: Doctors Without Borders; France 24; Reuters*)

**India**—Rakesh Sinha, a member of the Indian parliament, is trying to force all Christian missionaries to leave India. He is heavily influenced by Hindu nationalists who seek to eliminate religious minorities. His statement along with recent anti-conversion laws have also spurred many acts of severe persecution toward Christians and Muslims. Pray that this violence would no longer be sanctioned by the Indian government, but penalized, and pray that Mr. Sinha would change his

policies and recognize the value of missionaries in his country. Pray that as Christians and Muslims are both treated with injustice, they would befriend one another and that many Muslims would come to Christ. Pray for many Hindus in India to recognize Jesus as their Lord and Savior as well. (*Sources: International Christian Concern; Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India*)

**Burkina Faso**—This once peaceful West African nation saw one of the deadliest attacks in years, when armed assailants opened fire on the town of Solhan on June 4. More than 130 people were killed and many homes burned, and it has now been discovered that most of the assailants were children between the ages of 12 and 14. Burkina Faso, along with Niger and Mali, have seen increasing assaults by Islamic State and al Qaeda, and these terrorist groups have been actively forcing the recruitment of child soldiers. Pray for the loved ones of the hundreds who have been killed in these attacks, the more than 1.2 million people who have been displaced by violence, and for the more than 300,000 children who have been affected by the closing of over 2,200 schools. Pray for the children that are lost to violence, both as targets of attacks and by being forcibly drawn into committing violence. Pray for the adult perpetrators of these horrific atrocities that they might repent of this evil and find the grace of Jesus. (*Sources: Reuters; AP News; US News & World Report*)

**Myanmar**—As Myanmar experiences wave after wave of COVID infections for which its health system is ill-prepared, the church there has stepped up to provide aid. Many who are severely sick wait to receive oxygen because its economy has been weakened by the protests and fighting of the past year. Although the church has been persecuted more and more this year, many continue to serve faithfully. Saint Joseph's Catholic Seminary, Thanliyin Seminary, and Epiphany Church have been converted into care centers that provide oxygen and care for the ill. They are attempting to acquire more beds as the wait list grows, but lack of sufficient 24-hour electricity has been a challenge in this war-torn country. Praise God for how He uses His body to serve the needy. Pray that this would be a powerful witness to the lost. Pray also that He would miraculously provide the electricity, funds, and helpers to continue to provide this service. Pray that many would seek Christ after being helped by "His hands and feet." (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

**Cuba**—On July 11, general protests broke out in Cuba in response to a severe economic crisis and the dangerous surge in COVID cases. While the government has given mixed messages, first calling on the population to "bear with them" as they do their best, they have also employed the liberal use of their usual tools of arrests and violent oppression. Pray for transformation in Cuba—especially giving thanks for the release of pastors Yéremi Blanco and Yarian Sierra, who were arrested amid the protests and held for two weeks, until released to house arrest on July 24. Pray for Pastor Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo, who was also arrested on July 11, but has been held incommunicado. His wife has despaired that she doesn't even know if he is dead or alive. Pray for his release and for the healing of the families of all three pastors who will need to heal from this trauma. Pray for freedom in Cuba. (*Sources: The New York Times; CSW*)

**Eritrea**—The war in Tigray has wreaked havoc and caused utter devastation. Attackers are raping thousands of young to old women, looting homes and stores, and emptying hospitals of much-needed medication and equipment. Because livestock has been stolen and fields burned, half the population is going hungry. Persecutors are instigating more and more attacks against Christians in particular, seemingly to coincide with religious festivals when large groups are present. In particular, seven hundred people were killed from the Maryam Zion Church in Axum. They were pulled from the church and killed in the streets. Please pray for this tragedy to come to an end and for God to bring justice and mercy to the situation. Pray that many call out to Him as their Rock and Redeemer. Pray for those

soldiers who are instigating such violent crimes to be convicted of their grave injustices and turn to Christ for forgiveness and renewal. (Source: *Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

**China**—China’s harassment of Christian worshipers has expanded to online and Zoom services. On July 11, Shenzhen Trinity Gospel Harvest Church’s Zoom online worship service was raided by CCP officials and police, and authorities forced Pastor Mao Zhibin and Elder Chu Yanqing to stop preaching. The church building was also surrounded. A member of the church, who had fled to the United States, witnessed the raid on the church from afar. This July incident follows closely after a similar raid on the church in April, where worship was interrupted, the church banned, and everyone gathered was forced to leave. The church has been meeting for 4 years and has attracted many dissidents because of its strong stand for justice, including Pastor Mao Zhibin and Elder Chu Yanqing signing Pastor Wang Yi’s “A Joint Statement by Pastors: A Declaration for the Sake of the Christian Faith.” Pray for the continued safety of those imprisoned. Pray for those who worship at risk to their own safety, that they will continue to be bold and courageous for Christ. Pray for those who persecute believers in China that the Holy Spirit would soften their hearts and many would turn to Jesus through the faithful witness of those who suffer for Him. (Source: *ChinaAid*)

**North Korea**—Praise God that despite persecution like nowhere else on earth, generations of believers have persisted in this dark country. Praise God that although the physical church buildings were all destroyed long ago, the underground body of believers has continued to share the Gospel and the Word of God in secret. Please pray that the idolatry built around the dictator would be destroyed and that many North Koreans would recognize the one, true God. Pray that basic needs like food, clean water, and warm clothing would be available for all North Koreans who suffer with such a poor standard of living. Pray for God to do a mighty work and save countless people there who are lost and blind and suffering. (Source: *Christianity Today*)