

[Jesus said,] “A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” JOHN 15:20 NKJV



- Persecution of Christians worldwide is one of the biggest human rights issues of our time. However, this hasn't stopped bold believers from sharing the love of Christ in their communities.
- Right now, 360 million Christians worldwide live in places where they experience high levels of persecution and discrimination. Most persecuted Christians live in countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.
- Although the risk of persecution is high in these areas, people in more than 15 countries will study God's Word this year, many for the first time.

Pray for the Persecuted Church

Week 1: Pray for a local church in western Albania that recently started two new Bible League *Project Philip* Bible study groups—one with teenage girls and one with women. The church is in a city where many people follow Islam. Pray that participants won't face negative pressure from their families or husbands. Ask God to open their hearts to receive Jesus as their Savior.

Intercede for churches in both central and southern Ethiopia that were burned three or four years ago. In

areas with a strong Muslim presence, some churches still haven't been fully restored. Ask God to work in the hearts of people persecuting and destroying the churches in Ethiopia.

Please pray for 47 Bible League-trained church planters in South India, their churches, and their communities. Pray, too, for those who persecute them. Despite the dangers they face, these newly trained church planters are committed to planting churches on the

Please turn over...

Pray for The Persecuted Church (continued)

firm foundation of God's Word. They want to reach everyone in their communities, especially the hurt, the broken, the scared, and the hopeless. They even want to reach their persecutors.

Week 2: Pray for evangelism activities in northern Albania, where new believers and church planters often lose support from their family members. Churches are regularly prevented from doing ministry or renting buildings, especially in areas with a strong Muslim presence. Ask God to allow ministry to continue in these areas.

May the Lord be with persecuted Christians in both northern and southern states in India. Bible League-trained church planters and *Project Philip* Bible study participants regularly face persecution from family members and their communities. Some believers are thrown out of their homes. Pray God would protect these believers and allow their faith to flourish despite their difficulties.

Pray over a recent terrorist attack in northern Mozambique. During the attack, six people were killed. A school, three churches, and several houses were burned. Pray for strength to continue sharing God's Word through *Project Philip* Bible studies.

Week 3: Pray for God to strengthen the members of a new *Project Philip* Bible study in northern India. Eight new people accepted Jesus and started to attend the small group. However, local village leaders are

opposing the group. Pray for these eight people to grow in faith despite the odds.

Intercede for a land conflict between a church congregation and local leaders in a Muslim-dominated area in Ghana's capital, Accra. Here, local leaders are preventing believers from worshipping at the church due to the dispute. Ask God to change the leaders' hearts and for the church to receive a breakthrough in this dispute.

Pray for believers in southern India. Once a safe-haven for Christians, this region is seeing a surge in persecution. A growing number of churches are being vandalized. More pastors are being beaten. Some even are murdered, simply because they follow Jesus.

Week 4: Let us pray for the ministry of Albanians in North Macedonia. There, the pressure from Muslims keeps increasing. A small Bible study group that started to meet recently with teenagers was closed after the local imam pressured parents to stop their children from attending. Pray God would open the parents' hearts to allow their children to attend the study.

Pray with us for peace and reconciliation in northern Ethiopia, where there is fighting between guerrilla and government groups. Pray for the persecuted churches, destroyed worship centers, and displaced and rejected believers. Ask the Lord to strengthen them during the persecutions they face.