

*Sunnyside Church of the Nazarene*

**International Day of Prayer (IDOP) November 5, 2023**

**Prayer Points**

**Day 1 – Sunday, Nov. 5**

**Afghanistan**

Afghanistan is #1 in rank among the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. It is impossible to live openly as a Christian in this country. Most Afghans have never heard of the Gospel. Evangelism is forbidden. Beatings, torture, and kidnappings are routine for Christians. Afghanistan's population is around 38,914,000. As of 2022, there are more than 10,000 Christians in Afghanistan; almost all are converts from Islam.

-Pray that Taliban leaders will have encounters with the Lord our God that will transform not only their lives but the lives of people across Afghanistan.

-Pray for secret believers that they will be protected from the violence of the Taliban.

-Pray that isolated Christians will be able to find secret fellowships and be encouraged.

-Pray for around 200 Afghan refugees in the Portland area since Nov. 2021, that they will come to saving faith.

**Day 2 – Monday, Nov. 6**

**China**

China is #17 in rank among the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. To date, there are around 96,700,000 Christians in China, from a total population of 1,428,481,000. Surveillance in China is among the most oppressive and sophisticated in the world. The government has installed more than 170 million facial recognition cameras, many in or near churches, to identify those who attend worship services. Church attendance is religiously monitored, and many churches are closed.

-Pray that despite intense surveillance, faith will flourish in China and more people will discover the love of God. -Pray

for strength and perseverance for Christians in China to enable them to stand firm against persecution and opposition, that the authorities will see Christians as a force for good and harmony in society and stop the persecution of the Church.

-Pray for the authorities in China to recognize the importance of religious freedom and allow the churches to gather and worship without restrictions.

**Day 3 – Tuesday, Nov. 7**

**India**

India is #10 in rank among the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. The persecution of Christians in India has intensified, as Hindu extremists, local governments and nationalists Hindus seek to "purify" India by making it entirely Hindu. Many pastors have been beaten and jailed and several are martyred each year.

-Praise the Lord that despite persecution, the number of Christians in India continues to grow. Pray for believers to have courageous and bold faith in the face of rising persecution.

-Pray for healing of the many victims of religious violence injured in recent attacks in India. Ask the Lord to heal both hearts and bodies.

-Pray for protection for India's Christian community. Pray that Christians model God's love across religious, regional and caste barriers.

-Pray that hearts of Hindu extremists in India will be softened and that they will come to know Christ.

-Pray that India grows into a community that is committed to caring for the weak, the discriminated, and the marginalized—such as the homeless, the immigrants, the elderly, the orphans, the outcasts, and the poor.

-Pray for greater access to aid and education for millions suffering in abject poverty.

#### **Day 4 – Wednesday, Nov. 8**

##### **Iran**

Iran is #9 in rank among the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. There are no church services permitted in Farsi, the national language of Iran. Converts from Islam are most at risk of persecution, especially by the government. If discovered as Christians, they may be banned from education, lose their jobs and find it very difficult to get back into employment. Women are likely to be violently punished or divorced by their husbands and have their children taken away from them.

-As of 2019, it is recorded that the fastest growing church in the world is in Iran! Praise the Lord for the 10,000 Iranians who came to faith within 1 year! Pray for their spiritual growth!

-Pray for Supreme Leader Ali Hoseini-Khamenei, and other religious leaders of Iran, that they would have their hearts changed to recognize Jesus as Lord.

-Pray that Iranians who have dreams and visions will come to faith in Jesus Christ.

-Pray for believers who are in prison because of their faith. Pray that the Lord our God will give them hope and faith.

-Pray that our brothers and sisters be protected, and given their rights, so that they do not have to flee the country.

-Pray that house churches will continue to grow and powerfully equip believers for serving Jesus.

#### **Day 5 – Thursday, Nov. 9**

##### **Israel-Hamas war**

-Let's pray for God's grace and comfort for those imprisoned, kidnapped, injured, and mourning and for Jews and Arabs alike to find hope in Christ. Pray for true forgiveness to replace longstanding hatred and bitterness, and that the love of Jesus will capture the hearts of Hamas members.

-Pray for the hostages according to Isaiah 49:24-26 – *“Can plunder be taken from warriors, or captives be rescued from the fierce? But this is what the LORD says: ‘Yes, captives will be taken from warriors, and plunder retrieved from the fierce; I will contend with those who contend with you, and your children I will save....Then all mankind will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.’”*

-Pray that the Lord will use this tragic event to cause people to seek him about their own eternal destiny.

-Pray for GOD's guiding wisdom and righteousness for Israel's leaders.

-Pray that God will restrain Iran, Turkey, Hezbollah, and others who openly threaten to exterminate the Jews.

-Pray for our Palestinian brothers and sisters who are deeply impacted by the ongoing conflict. Pray for their protection and that they would somehow see God at work amid so much devastation.

-Pray for God to use Palestinian Christians as a bridge for peace between Arabs and Jews.

-Pray that Christians—whether from Arab or Jewish backgrounds—will be a powerful witness for Jesus.

#### **Day 6 – Friday, Nov. 10**

##### **Nepal**

Nepal is #48 in rank among the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. Christians are routinely persecuted by family, community members and/or extremist groups because of their Christian witness, like facing harassment and beatings from local Hindu nationalists, Muslims and Buddhists especially in

response to evangelism and conversions in rural areas. Conversion to Christianity is a criminal offense in Nepal. They call this anti-conversion law. Anyone found changing his or her religion would be expelled from the country so that following Jesus is even more difficult.

-Pray that the Lord will cause these anti-conversion laws to be repealed.

-Pray that the Lord will bless and comfort Nepalese Christians who come from Hinduism and endure the rejection of their families after they find Jesus.

-Pray that the Lord will soften the hearts of the ruling classes and castes, so that they would allow true religious freedom to flourish.

-Ask the Lord Jesus to comfort Christians who lose their families when they convert from Hinduism to follow him.

## **Day 7 – Saturday, Nov. 11**

### **North Korea**

North Korea is #2 in rank among the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. In North Korea, anyone caught following Jesus is at immediate risk of imprisonment, brutal torture and death. Their communist-inspired dictatorship is founded upon “Juche”, or self-reliance, an ideology that requires worship and subservience to the Kim family.

-Pray that God will pour out His grace on North Korea today, and that he would turn the hearts of the Korean people to himself – especially Kim Jong Un and his family, as well as the other leaders of the North Korean regime.

-Pray that Christians in North Korea will experience God’s protection as they face danger daily.

-Pray that Christians will hold firmly to their faith, even as they currently suffer in prison and labor camps. Pray that our God will fill them with all joy and peace as they trust in him, and that he will help them endure the harsh realities of life in these camps.

-Let’s pray that God will strengthen the secret believers in North Korea, that they will not lose hope but continue to trust in God. Pray that the Lord will open doors to share the gospel even in the darkest places especially those confined within political and labor camps. Pray that God will remember them, and He will bring comfort and strength.

## **Day 8 – Sunday, Nov. 12**

### **Pakistan**

Pakistan is #8 in rank among the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. Religious minorities, especially Christians, face discrimination and persecution in many forms. The famous “blasphemy law” allows the death penalty on anyone who insults Mohammed, and life in prison for anyone who damages a Quran. Extremists use this law to falsely accuse innocent people. They stir up religious frenzy so the crowd enforces the punishment. Enemies of Christ vandalize or destroy churches. They beat, murder, abduct, rape, or force conversion on Christians and other minorities.

-Pray that even amidst such persecution, Pakistani Christians might always be ready to share about Jesus, and to repay violence with love.

-Pray for the repeal of the Pakistan’s “blasphemy” laws and for falsely accused Christians to be acquitted. Let’s remember to pray for believers who are accused of blasphemy.

-Pray that the Lord will protect Christian women and girls from abduction and forced marriage to Muslim men and conversion to Islam. Pray that their judicial system will apply the law fairly in bringing abductors to justice.

-Pray for healing for believers traumatized by kidnapping and sexual violence.

-Pray for heavily exploited workers (essentially slaves) in the brick kiln industry who work under inhumane conditions. Many of these are children, and many are our Christian brethren.