

DYING DAILY

WEEK 7: 4-10 NOVEMBER 2024

24-7 PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

*Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.
For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people;
but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.
The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
(Isaiah 60:1-3)*

In 2020, Christians accounted for around 60 percent of the Sub-Saharan African population, followed by Muslims with a share of roughly 30 percent. In absolute terms, there were approximately 650 million Christians in the region, a number forecast to increase to over one billion by 2050. Despite general church growth in this region, a crisis is currently unfolding in sub-Saharan Africa. Islamist extremists have unleashed unprecedented violence on Christians in places like Nigeria, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Let us take hands in spending this week in focused day-and-night prayer for the Persecuted Christians in sub-Saharan Africa, who daily pay the price for choosing to follow Jesus.

MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2024

BURKINA FASO

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:10-12).

The impact of Islamist militants in the country is expanding, even in cities that previously were unaffected. Christians have been targeted and killed, and churches have been destroyed. Similar attacks in Niger, Mali and the greater Sahel region are making the situation in Burkina Faso very serious. Hundreds of churches have been closed due to jihadist activities.

Let us pray

- Earnestly pray for the persecuted; that they will leap for joy, for their heavenly reward is great (Luke 6:23). Pray for them to remain faithful, grow spiritually and have opportunities to testify of God's love to their neighbours.
- Pray for Christians globally who suffer injustice simply because they follow Christ; that they will rely on the Lord and find comfort in Him.

TESTIMONY

PASTOR SORÉ: "WE ARE DISPLACED, BUT JESUS IS NOT"

Read the story of Pastor Soré and his family of 17 who fled the jihadist insurgency plaguing northern Burkina Faso in February 2023. Being displaced brings a multitude of problems, but it also places a heavy burden on this evangelist who wants to share the Gospel but has no church. [READ MORE](#)

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2024 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Matthew 5:44).

The looming crisis in neighbouring Sudan worsens the dangerous situation in the Central African Republic (CAR). Currently, lawlessness and anarchy prevail and make it hard for Christians to practise their faith safely. Armed soldiers illegally occupying parts of the country have been responsible for human rights abuses, as well as the burning and destruction of church buildings.

Let us pray

- Pray for Christians to testify of their faith in Jesus Christ in a way that will convince those who plan to harm them to accept Jesus as their Saviour (Acts 16:25, Luke 6:27-31).
- Pray for them to experience God's peace, despite feeling weak in challenging circumstances. Ask that they will know that His grace is sufficient for them, for His strength is made perfect in their weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

TESTIMONY

FILIBUS: "WE ARE HAPPY"

Imagine growing up without a Bible and, like Salisu, only being able to listen to others read God's Word. For 150 youths in the West African country of Niger, that was their reality. [READ MORE](#)

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2024 NIGERIA

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Christians in northern Nigeria, especially in the states that follow a strict interpretation of Sharia, face discrimination and exclusion, and are treated as second-class citizens. Christians from a Muslim background especially face rejection from their own families, pressure to give up Christianity, and often physical violence and death. In recent years, violence has increased and spilled into southern states. The result is a greater threat to safety and freedom for Christians. Religiously-motivated violence is taking place, pushing the Fulani herdsmen and their cattle southwards and putting stress on herder-farmer relationships.

Let us pray

- Pray that Persecuted Christians would feel deeply connected to Jesus amidst their suffering (John 15:19-20).
- Pray for them for wisdom and discernment in approaching every challenging situation and to remain devoted to Christ (Matthew 10:16-18).

TESTIMONY

AMINA: A FAITH FORGED BY FIRE

Boko Haram kidnapped Amina and held her hostage for eight months. These trials should have destroyed her. [READ MORE](#)

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2024

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER." (Romans 8:35-36).

In the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), notably in North Kivu, the situation for Christians has become increasingly difficult. The presence of armed groups like the 'Alliance for Democratic Forces' (ADF-NALU) which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS), has been particularly aggressive in targeting Christians. Christian villages have been burned down, pastors, priests, and lay Christians have been abducted, and untold suffering has been inflicted on Christian communities.

Let us pray

- Pray for Persecuted Christians to find comfort in the Lord despite the hatred, discrimination and violence.
- Pray that God will give them wisdom on how to respond when asked to give an account of their faith and that they will confidently share the Gospel.

TESTIMONY

NEEMA: "GOD FIGHTS FOR ME"

In January 2023, the Allied Democratic Forces detonated an explosive device in a church in the North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. That day, Neema* was in the church.

[READ MORE](#)

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2024

ETHIOPIA

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:3-5).

Non-traditional Christian groups endure the harshest abuses from both local authorities and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC), especially in areas where the EOC is very dominant. Converts to Christianity from a Muslim background, face significant mistreatment from their families and communities. In certain areas, Christians are denied access to community resources and face social exclusion. The political violence has intensified the vulnerability of Christians, exposing them to increased pressure and violence.

Let us pray

- Pray that Persecuted Christians from a Muslim background would have access to a Bible, food and shelter.
- Pray for militant Muslims to get to know the truth of Jesus Christ and stop persecuting believers. Pray for churches to be planted among unreached people groups in Ethiopia and beyond.

TESTIMONY

WASIHUN: A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS

Across sub-Saharan Africa Christian homes are robbed of fathers, leaving their grieving families vulnerable. Wasihu was only seven years old when three attackers inside their house shouted, "Stab him!" and then it was chaos. [READ MORE](#)

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2024

CAMEROON

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1).

The situation in Cameroon is becoming increasingly dangerous for Christians, particularly in the northern regions, where extremism is escalating among Muslims. Conversion from Islam to Christianity is very dangerous. Owning Christian literature, like Bibles, can bring about threats and even violence, forcing many converts to practice their faith undercover. Female converts are especially vulnerable, often subjected to forced marriages to non-Christians or Muslims. Church activities are often disrupted.

Let us pray

- Pray for women who are socially vulnerable or have lost custody of their children because of their faith. Ask the Lord to give them courage and that they will trust Him in all circumstances.
- Pray for comfort and hope for families who have lost everything and have been separated. Pray for them to know that God will strengthen them, help them, and uphold them by His righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

TESTIMONY

RUKAYYATU: MOST PRIZED POSSESSION

When Boko Haram attacked Rukayyatu in north Cameroon in 2022, she lost everything – her home, her field and her cherished Bible. [READ MORE](#)

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2024

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12).

Violence in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is at an all-time high. By the end of 2023, a staggering 16.2 million Christians across SSA had been forcibly displaced – many by persecution. Christians who have been forced from their homes and land because of their faith in Jesus are living in unbearable conditions in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Recorded testimonies indicate that Boko Haram, Islamic State of West Africa Province and militant Fulani groups have intentionally targeted Christians or Christian communities, their livelihood, faith leaders and places of worship for killing, abduction and the destruction of churches.

Let us pray

- Pray for churches to multiply in IDP camps. Pray that more people would be drawn to the inner peace and joy that Christians in these camps enjoy. Ask God to bring forth a river of hope flowing through these churches.
- Pray for the children in IDP camps to know Christ and grow in their faith. Ask the Lord to provide resources for them to return safely to school.

TESTIMONY

YOUTH: THE FUTURE OF THE AFRICAN CHURCH

Sadly, because of the large percentage they represent, youths are also the most affected by the growing persecution in Africa. [READ MORE](#)
