# 24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH

**1-8 NOVEMBER 2026**



## A legitimate reason to deny ourselves

We live in a day and age where it seems the only time self-denial is acceptable is when we want to achieve a personal goal. Also, we're taught to do whatever we desire. Jesus teaches us something different. He says:

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."* (Luke 9:23)

As Christians, self-denial is more than sacrificing something today to get what we want tomorrow. Self-denial means choosing God's will over our own desires, even when it costs us comfort, acceptance, or safety. We must die to ourselves daily in the small things, so that when following Christ costs us something significant, we've already learned to say:

"*Not my will, but Yours be done*" (Luke 22:42).

This is something our persecuted family are already living out every day.

**Join us as we pray for them as they deny themselves and choose faithfulness to Christ even when it comes at a cost.**

*An initiative of Open Doors Africa and Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*

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# DYING DAILY

**24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH**

**Sunday, 1 November 2026**

*"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."* (Matthew 16:25).



# Yemen

In the third most dangerous country to be a Christian, the dangers facing Christians in Yemen continue to escalate amid an unrelenting tide of conflict, extremism and economic collapse. Escalating violence, growing Houthi and Islamic State (IS) influence, intensified surveillance, economic collapse and radicalisation have further worsened conditions for Yemeni Christians, increasing fear, isolation and the desire to flee, with dozens of informal fellowships no longer able to meet. A coordinated media campaign has additionally targeted Christian leaders, fuelling anti-Christian rhetoric and heightening threats, repression and risks to believers' lives.



**Testimony**

## Choosing to stay

**Yemeni Christians are very vulnerable in the chaos of war and a humanitarian crisis.**



Zaid grew up in Yemen, terrified that one wrong step could cost him eternity. His search for truth led him through addiction and grief, until a vivid dream of Jesus changed everything. Baptised in secret and disowned by his own family, he chose to stay and become a light in one of the world's darkest places. READ MORE>

**Name changed for security reasons.*

**Please pray**

- That peace will finally come to Yemen.
- For courage and hope for the Yemenis who risk their lives to follow Jesus.
- That secret churches will be able to meet and leaders will find the strength to keep serving.

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# DYING DAILY

**24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH**

**Monday, 2 November 2026**

*Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content…* (Philippians 4:11).



# Eritrea

As the fifth most dangerous place to be a Christian, Eritrea is one of the world's most repressive states for Christians. The government recognises only four religious groups, excluding most evangelical and Pentecostal communities, which are treated as illegal. Christians outside state-sanctioned churches face intense surveillance, violent raids and indefinite imprisonment – often in shipping containers or underground cells, with no trial, medical care, or basic rights. Converts from Islam or the Eritrean Orthodox Church risk familial rejection and social exclusion in addition to state persecution.

**Testimony**

## Faith and fear

**In Eritrea, following Jesus comes with a constant risk of being thrown into a brutal prison – perhaps forever.**



Paulos is a church elder in Eritrea, a country that imprisons Christians in shipping containers and underground cells simply because of their faith. He lives under constant threat of arrest, yet refuses to leave. "Who will preach the Gospel?" he asks. Even surrounded by fear, he sees the Church growing under pressure. READ MORE>

**Name changed for security reasons.*

**Please pray**

- For hope and freedom for the many imprisoned Christians.
- That God will provide for the daily needs of Christians arrested or detained.
- That President Afwerki's heart would be turned away from oppression and toward the love of Jesus.

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# DYING DAILY

**24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH**

**Tuesday, 3 November 2026**

*We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair…*
(2 Corinthians 4:8).



# Syria

In Syria, the sixth most dangerous place for Christians, the situation for Christians has grown more dire in the last year. Amid widespread disorder and weak governance, Christians report unprecedented levels of persecution since ISIS's control, including a sharp rise in deaths and attacks on churches. The new interim constitution, proclaimed in March 2025, centralises power in the presidency and stipulates that Islamic jurisprudence is the primary source of legislation, lacking sufficient protections for minorities.

**Testimony**

## Fear came, but faith stayed

**Syrian Christians have faced an uncertain future since the fall of the Assad regime in 2024.**



When a suicide bomber attacked Saint Elias Church in Damascus, 22 Christians were killed – seven of them from Elias and Hanan's family. They are still in Syria, still attending the same church. "We experienced faith and fear here," says Elias, "but we know the Lord will not forsake us."
READ MORE>

**Please pray**

- For the shocked and frightened survivors of the Damascus church attack.
- That Christians living with constant uncertainty will know God is their rock.
- That new believers rejected by Muslim families will find love and fellowship.

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# DYING DAILY

**24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH**

**Wednesday, 4 November 2026**

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live…*
(Galatians 2:20).



# Afghanistan

The dangers facing Christians can't be overstated: Afghanistan remains a place of extreme persecution for anyone who dares to follow Jesus under the brutally oppressive rule of the Taliban. Christians in Afghanistan have gone underground since the Taliban regained power in August 2021, as the Taliban do not acknowledge the possibility that any Afghan could be a Christian. Almost all Christians are converts from Islam, which is considered a shameful apostasy, punishable by death under Islamic law.

**Testimony**

## The God who sees

**Afghanistan is a place of extreme persecution for anyone who dares to follow Jesus under the oppressive rule of the Taliban.**



Zakie spent her life in fear of a God who kept score and living as a woman in Afghanistan, where every part of her existence was controlled. When her husband encountered Jesus and was transformed, she followed. Reported to the Taliban, shot at and forced to flee, she now disciples refugee women, sharing the love of the God who truly sees her. READ MORE>

**Name changed for security reasons.*

**Please pray**

- For the Christians still enduring Taliban rule; may God give them a spirit of hope and peace.
- For the safety of any Christian refugees sent back to Afghanistan by neighbouring countries.
- That God would miraculously change the hearts of the Taliban leaders.

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# DYING DAILY

**24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH**

**Thursday, 5 November 2026**

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."* (John 12:24).



# Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso has experienced a broad collapse in state authority. This insecurity has led to Islamic extremists being able to dominate areas of the country and freely commit violence. Armed groups such as Jama'at Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) exploit the country's fragile political order, undermined by repeated military coups and retreating governance, to impose extremist ideologies and expand territorial control. Religion is weaponised: churches are burned, Christian institutions are forced to close and converts, especially from Islam, are pressured or punished.

**Testimony**

## They finished their race well

**Burkina Faso rose four spots on this year's World Watch List due to increasing violence towards Christians.**



On 20 May 2025, jihadists attacked the village of Binadéni during an all-day prayer session. Two young men, Hamadou, a deacon and youth leader, and Jeremiah, were killed. Pastor Bandiba, who had known them since childhood, lay down next to their bodies in the church and wished for death. Through trauma counselling from Open Doors' partners, he found healing and now helps others heal too. "They finished their race well," he says of the two young men. "Let us finish our race well, like them." READ MORE>

**Name changed for security reasons.*

**Please pray**

- That Islamist extremists would encounter the truth of Jesus.
- For comfort for Christians who have been displaced or lost loved ones.
- For God's blessing on local partners as they care for displaced believers.

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# DYING DAILY

**24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH**

**Friday, 6 November 2026**

*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.* (Galatians 6:9).



# Laos

Christians in Laos face intense persecution against the backdrop of authoritarian Communist rule and strongly held ethnic traditions. The government recognises three churches: The Lao Evangelical Church (LEC), Catholic Church and Seventh-day Adventist Church. Other Christian groups must operate unofficially. Even within the approved LEC, an estimated 75% of congregations lack permanent buildings, conducting worship in homes. Since gatherings require reporting to authorities, house churches operate secretly as “illegal gatherings”.

**Testimony**

## Five faithful years of prayer

**Christians in Laos face intense persecution from both an authoritarian state and strongly held ethnic traditions.**



When Kanya refused to deny her faith, her husband Phonesay chose not to fight for their marriage and she was expelled from their village while pregnant. For five years she prayed without giving up. By God’s grace, Phonesay came to faith; his second wife divorced him, and the couple remarried, reunited at last in their pursuit of Jesus.READ MORE>

**Name changed for security reasons.*

**Please pray**

- For God’s protection on the underground house churches of Laos.
- That Christians expelled from their homes will find shelter and comfort in Jesus.
- That the Lao authorities would soften and allow people the freedom to follow Jesus.

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# DYING DAILY

## 24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH

**Saturday, 7 November 2026**

*"... not My will, but Yours, be done."*
(Luke 22:42).



# Mexico

The widespread presence of criminal groups in Mexico puts many Christians in danger, particularly those who bravely seek to oppose criminality. Efforts by authorities to address the issue have been largely ineffective, leaving vulnerable believers unprotected and without justice. In many places, cartels operate with near impunity, even infiltrating or replacing local authorities. Christians and church leaders are particularly vulnerable, especially when they are perceived as obstructing criminal interests or refusing to comply with cartel demands.

**Testimony**

## Soccer field to mission field

**The pervasive presence of criminal groups in Mexico puts many Christians in danger. In many places, law and order has broken down and cartels operate with almost no consequences.**



In a region controlled by cartels, Juan Manuel felt called to reach young people through soccer. Despite death threats and having to flee his home, he has seen more than 120 teens hear the Gospel, violence in local schools drop, and even two boys who once tried to kill him become his friends. His prayer: "Lord, help us reach one more person." READ MORE>

**Please pray**

- That Christians sharing Jesus despite persecution will remain courageous and steadfast.
- That God thwarts the plans of the cartels who bring violence and crime to communities.
- For Open Doors' local partners as they walk alongside Mexican believers.

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# DYING DAILY

## 24-7 PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING CHURCH

**Sunday, 8 November 2026**

*""If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."* (Luke 9:23).



# Nicaragua

Christians in Nicaragua are increasingly being silenced under the dictatorial rule of the co-presidents Daniel Ortega and his wife, Rosario Murillo. Churches and Christians who express disagreement with the government are viewed as destabilising agents and they are subjected to intimidation, harassment, surveillance, legal prosecution and the closure or expropriation of Christian institutions, including churches, universities and charities. These measures have intensified since the 2018 protests, as many religious leaders continue to denounce human rights violations.

**Testimony**

## From militant atheist to pastor

**Christians in Nicaragua are increasingly being silenced under dictatorial rule.**



Pastor Dario once recruited young people for the Sandinista revolution and declared himself a militant atheist. Then Jesus met him in a dream. The movement he once supported now targets his home and monitors his church. He still pastors, still evangelises and still chooses faithfulness over safety every day. READ MORE>

**Please pray**

- For pastors in Nicaragua who face arbitrary arrest and detention.
- For God's protection for Open Doors' partners as they seek to strengthen the Nicaraguan Church.
- That churches under surveillance would have courage and wisdom.

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