

October 2014

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

Qatar- On September 1st, Krishna Upadhyaya and his colleague Ghimire Gundev disappeared in Qatar, and were detained for a week by security forces for their anti-slavery efforts. They work for the Global Network for Rights and Development and were investigating the poor, slave-like conditions of migrant workers in Qatar who were building facilities for the 2022 World Cup. Their interviews had been attracting the negative attention of undercover police and Qatari security forces. Praise God that both men are safe from harm and were released. Pray that their efforts to combat modern slavery would be even more effective as a result of this publicity and mistreatment. Pray especially for the protection of the migrant workers in Qatar. (Walk Free)

Iran- Pray for Pastor Abdolreza Haghnejad who recently spent a week in solitary confinement in a detention center and was pressured to falsely confess that his church is involved in anti-government political activity. Pray for his peace, strength, and encouragement. Please pray for boldness and courage for the persecuted church in Iran, and that the Gospel would spread widely. Pray also for the believers in Evin Prison, where authorities are instituting increasingly harsher treatment. (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

North Korea- The United Nations Commission of Inquiry on North Korea reported that the North Korean regime is responsible for "a wide array of unspeakable crimes against humanity" and suggests that "the gravity, scale and nature of these violations reveal a State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world". Recent reports show that the average citizen in North Korea is eating 250 to 300 grams of food per day, which is less than half of the minimum survival ration. Pray that discerning officials around the globe who are placed in positions of influence would know how to effectively respond to this unparalleled crisis. Pray for God's miraculous protection over our brothers and sisters who are suffering unspeakable tortures. (Huffington Post, Asia News)

India- Pray for protection in India as the Hindu nationalist movement seems to be gearing up to create a purely Hindu state by converting Muslims and Christians starting during the December holidays. Pray that any plans of violence would be thwarted and that the Christian believers there would stay united, be strengthened in their faith, love their enemies, and be a light that points to Christ to those around them. (Voice of the Martyrs)

Nigeria- Pray for John Yakubu and others like him who are suffering at the hands of Boko Haram. John and his family were forced to leave their village after it was attacked in northeastern Nigeria, and John was later tortured for refusing to convert to Islam. The terrorists have killed thousands of people, destroyed villages and churches, and kidnapped hundreds of women and girls. Please pray that these perpetrators would be

brought to justice. Thank God that John stood boldly for Christ, survived, and is now forgiving his enemies. Pray for his complete healing and peace. (Voice of the Martyrs)

Bhutan- Please pray for this former Buddhist country, where persecution tends to come from family members and the local community, rather than from the government. However, in September, 38-year-old pastor Tandin Wangyal was sentenced to nearly four years in prison for accepting funds for ministry activities from a Christian organization. Tandin and his wife have three young sons, and he asks for prayer for them as he is in prison. Please pray for his sentence to be reversed or for God to use this tribulation for the good of his kingdom. (Voice of the Martyrs)

Iraq- Please pray fervently for the Lord's intervention in Northern Iraq. Pray that the massacres, abductions, and other brutalities against religious minorities would stop and that those involved would be brought to justice. Pray for comfort and peace for the thousands of people that have been severely traumatized and have lost so much. Pray that Christians there would have the faith and strength to share their only hope of Heaven with those around them. (Amnesty International)

Mali- Praise God that Christians have been returning to Northern Mali after armed Islamists forced them to flee in 2012. The French military regained control and believers were able to return, but they now face the huge task of church and home reconstruction. Pray that they would have the resources and stamina to accomplish the rebuilding, particularly as foreign aid groups seem to be only helping to rebuild mausoleums. Pray particularly that the billion dollar water project in Timbuktu that was dismantled would be restored so that all its citizens would benefit. (Open Doors)

Egypt- Please pray for Mohammed Hegazy, who was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison for filming a demonstration without obtaining government permission. The long prison term (the penalty should have been six months) is likely due to his past Christian activity. He became a Christian fifteen years ago and tried to officially change his religious status, and was faced with death threats as a result. Years of hiding and persecution have spurred his interest in protecting the rights of Christian converts. He began documenting the persecution against Egyptian Christians to fight for fair treatment. In fact, he was arrested while filming and advocating for Christians under attack. Pray for his sentence to be shortened, that he would have opportunities to share the gospel while in prison, and that his efforts in advocating for other believers would be effective. (Voice of the Martyrs)

Pakistan- Sadly, pastor Zafar Bhatti was recently shot to death by a policeman in the Adiyala jail. Bhatti had been incarcerated, awaiting trial, for two years since being accused of blasphemy, and he had recently been getting death threats from other inmates and guards. His cellmate, Muhammad Asghar, who has a history of mental illness and is also accused of blasphemy, was wounded in the attack. Please pray for great comfort and help for Bhatti's family. Pray for Asghar's healing and protection, and pray for the Pakistani believers to stand firm and be greatly encouraged by the Holy Spirit. (International Christian Concern)