



Thank You for Praying

An important message from the IDOP Canada Partners 2008

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse...Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”
Romans 12:14, 19

Dear Pastor/ Worship Leader,

Every year in November, people around the world join together to pray specifically for persecuted Christians: for their safety and for freedom, that they might live out their faith publicly and without fear. This year, IDOP Canada has prepared a prayer kit on the theme of **Praying for the Persecutors**. Although our first reaction to persecution reports may often be one of anger, God has instructed us to pray for and bless those who persecute us.

As we remember our brothers and sisters who are suffering for their faith, let us also remember the redemptive thread woven throughout the Bible. When we ask the question, ‘How are Christians to respond to severe persecution?’ our answer should first and fundamentally be to pray. The Bible holds many examples of God’s faithfulness in delivering His people out of impossible, oppressive situations. Such stories form the basis upon which we may appeal for God’s deliverance in cases of persecution taking place today.

More than 200 million Christians around the world today face brutal opposition and persecution because of their beliefs. Many of these Christians live in the countries profiled in this year’s prayer kit: North Korea, the Maldives, Eritrea and India. Government leadership in each of these countries has made it extremely difficult for Christians to live out their faith in Jesus. Christians in these countries face discrimination, intimidation, attacks, fines, imprisonment and torture by the hands of government authorities. We are called to pray for these Christians, but also to pray for those who persecute them.

Together, our prayers help suffering believers to experience the faithfulness of God and see societies and unjust persecutors transformed by the Gospel. Our prayers help suffering Christians and their persecutors come to know the peace and victory of Jesus.

Whether you use this kit to organize an entire meeting, lead a small group, or highlight the needs of the persecuted church during a regular church service, we hope that you will be encouraged and strengthened.

Please visit the websites of our partners for more resources.

Thank you for joining with us in praying for the Persecuted Church!

Yours in shared service,

IDOP CANADA PARTNERS 2008