

PRAYERS FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

2007

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews 13: 3

Pray for Muslim-background believers (mbbs) who are persecuted and oppressed for their Christian faith. —

Pray for women

1. **Mature faith** and understanding so that they can wear the **full armor** of God.
2. **Discernment** concerning when and how to **share their faith** with their children, spouse, and friends. They run the risk of divorce, rejection from their homes, loss of their children, physical abuse, death....
3. Guidance and **strength to survive** economically, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually if their husband divorces or abandons them.
4. **Wisdom** and guidance to respond to their **mbb children** when they are mistreated in school and by peers and when they are confused in handling the Islam they are taught in school versus the Christianity they are taught at home.
5. **Courage** to stand by their **mbb husbands** who choose to be public with their faith, and entrustment of their children to God when this happens, even though it could cost them and their children greatly.
6. “Safe” **fellowship** with other mbb women.
7. **Empowerment** to have an impact for **justice** when mbbs are mistreated.
8. **Grace to forgive** their oppressors and to not become bitter.

Pray for children

1. **Mature faith** and understanding so that they can wear the **full armor** of God.
2. **Guidance** to handle ridicule, ostracism, and abuse at school and by **peers**.
3. **Understanding** of God’s Truth when they are confused by **Islamic teaching in school**, and guidance to respond to the authority and ridicule of **teachers**.
4. **Protection** from **kidnapping, rape, or honor killing**. Honor killing is murder by close relatives, usually a father, brother, or uncle, supposedly to restore the honor of the family when it is shamed by one of its members becoming a Christian (or other “shameful” behaviors).
5. Guidance and **help to survive** economically, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually if they are **rejected by their family**. Pray also that they would not be left as **street children** or taken to be trafficked (sold for slavery or sex) or otherwise abused.
6. Trust and understanding of their **heavenly Father** regardless of the way they are treated by their **earthly fathers**.
7. Provision of a **Christian spouse** for them, and protection from forced marriages to unbelievers.
8. “Safe” **fellowship** with other mbb children... and adults.... and family.

Pray for men..... and sometimes women too

1. **Mature faith** and understanding so that they can wear the **full armor** of God.
2. Provision of a good way of **economic survival**, especially if they are fired/denied jobs because of their faith.
3. Exposure of any **false “legal” charges** that might be made against them, and the proper application of justice for them, without harassment, abuse, etc.
4. Acceptance and integration into **non-mbb churches**. Often these churches hesitate to welcome mbb for fear of government or other retribution.
5. **“Safe” fellowship** with other mbb men. If their family members are all mbb, as often happens when the father/husband becomes a Christian, pray that God would bring the whole families into “safe” fellowship with other mbb families, perhaps in **house churches**, if not accepted into non-mbb churches.
6. **Guidance** to provide and care for their **families** despite persecution.
7. **Discernment** to know who and when to **trust**.
8. **Courage to remain** in their countries as Godly **witnesses** rather than to leave, if at all feasible.

The prayer requests above have largely focused on societal oppression. The ones below will focus on more “institutionalized” and/or government/law oppression.

Pray concerning laws and procedures

1. **Religious freedom**. Elimination of the system in which one’s religion is officially established at birth. In most Arab countries, all citizens are officially considered to be Muslims. In some Arab countries, a baby is officially given the religion of his/her father at birth. There is no freedom to officially leave Islam (though one can freely convert to Islam), and people’s official religious status impacts many of their legal rights, such as their religious education in school, marriage rights, inheritance, etc.
2. Effective **government action** against its citizens and groups that persecute Christians. Often the governments simply ignore their activities. And some governments are themselves complicit in the activities.
3. Removal of vague and potentially discriminating, unjust, and **misused laws**. For example, recent charges were brought against some Turkish Christians for “insulting Turkishness,” a vague law that is on the books.
4. **Just application** of laws, without undue harassment, threats, unjustified court delays, lack of witnesses and evidence, bribes, physical abuse, etc.
5. Effectiveness of the **United Nations** in holding member countries accountable to the standards of the UN Human (and religious) Rights document to which they’ve all agreed.
6. Wise and effective use of **international pressure** when appropriate. This pressure sometimes comes from governments, the UN, advocacy groups, public opinion, media, etc.

Pray concerning **mbbs who suffer more severe oppression, imprisonment, torture, the death of a loved one, etc. because of their faith**

1. **Strength to go on**—to bear witness for God, to heal, to forgive and love their oppressors, to know that God’s justice will prevail one day, to perhaps see good fruit come from their ordeal.
2. **Reassurance** that, if they’ve “denied” their faith or disclosed information about other mbbs under pressure, they are **forgiven**, even as Jesus forgave Peter. Pray also that other mbbs would indeed forgive them.
3. **God’s presence** with them in ways they can deeply sense, even through dreams, visions, angels, etc. Bringing also to their minds and hearts **scripture** to guide and encourage them.
4. Upon release from prison, **renewed fellowship** with other mbbs who will help them heal and find ways to go forward economically, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically.
5. God’s guidance for the **Christian advocacy agencies** and others who are seeking to help them.

Pray concerning the **persecutors**

1. The Holy Spirit’s convicting them of sin, righteousness and judgment, and their acceptance of **the Lord as their Savior**.
2. Sometimes, God’s **direct intervention** to stop the persecution.
3. The defeat/collapse of the **Taliban, Al Qaeda, and other similar groups**.
4. The effective use of **international pressure** when appropriate to bring constructive change to governments that choose to oppress their citizens.
5. The effective **prayer and love of believers** for those who persecute them.

Pray concerning the **unmindful, those of us who are unaware or doing little**

1. Our choosing to be more **informed**, to **pray** regularly, to **tell** others.
2. **Growth in our understanding of God** so that our prayers would be more aligned with His purposes and not just general prayers for blessings or relief from sufferings.
3. **Growth** in our willingness to go **towards pain** for the sake of others, as our Lord did for us.
4. Growth in our understanding and engagement in **spiritual warfare**, knowing that the true enemy is not flesh and blood, but the powers and principalities of darkness. Pray that we would wear the full armor of God and enter the battle wherever we are, and that God would win the victories in the heavenly realms as well as on earth.

*“Evil triumphs when good men do nothing.” **

**Quote from Edmund Burke*