

2025 PRAYER FOCUS: HIS STORY

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:10).

The story of many believers around the world includes accounts of various kinds of persecution. Some have been harassed and threatened because of their faith, while others have lost homes, family members, and even their lives. Many have been beaten and imprisoned simply because of their faith in Jesus. Children who express faith in Jesus are often kicked out of their home and beaten. Churches are burned and ministers are jailed.

The story of these believers doesn’t end with the persecution. Most of them rejoice to be counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. The persecution doesn’t stop them from believing or stop them from sharing the Gospel. Their stories are stories of God’s amazing grace. We celebrate these brave followers of Jesus.

NOVEMBER PRAYER FOCUS — PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

The church in North America is relatively untouched by any form of persecution. There are stories of periodic break-ins and even shootings, but nothing on the scale of what takes place globally. It is easy for the American Church to go about its ministry with little or no consideration for what is taking place in other parts of the world.

We praise the Lord for those the Lord has called to go into those “closed” parts of the world. We praise the Lord for the way He is using some of our people to relieve the suffering in other parts of the world.

One of the best ways to support persecuted Christians is to pray for them. God alone can relieve the suffering. He may use members of the body of Christ, but He is the One who touches these lives. This month as you read the texts and pray, take time to consider the plight of those in “closed” countries.

PRAY FOR THESE KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH:

- NOVEMBER THANKSGIVING OFFERING — pray our people will be generous.
- November 1 — West Michigan District Conference
- November 7 — International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- November 9 -11 — Connect Region — Ignite Retreat

Saturday, November 1

GOD’S COMFORT AND PROTECTION: “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler” (Psalm 91:4).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the grace of your comfort. We praise you that as a hen gathers her chicks, you gather us under your wings. We praise you that you are our Defender. We pray for those believers who seem to be always in danger, that they will know the comfort of your wings. We pray they will see your hand of protection over their families and ministries. These are your children. Comfort them and protect them, we pray.

Sunday, November 2

JUST ASK: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for this assurance from your Word. We praise you for your faithfulness. We know that these words are especially comforting to those whose lives are in danger because of their faith. We praise you for the many times you have answered in ways none of us could have anticipated. Forgive us for not asking. Forgive us for failing to continue knocking. Teach us to be persistent in prayer, especially for those whose lives are regularly threatened because of their faith. Today, we ask that you will renew their hope and their resolve to follow you.

Monday, November 3

NOTHING SEPARATES US: “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we are so thankful for the truth of these verses. We praise you for the assurance that nothing can separate us from your love. We praise you that even in times that are uncertain, the one thing that is certain is your love. We pray for those who are facing persecution today, that you will wrap your arms around them and assure them of your love. We pray they will know the warmth of your embrace, and that your love will overshadow anything else they may be facing.

Tuesday, November 4

HOPE: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for the reminder that your thoughts toward us are of peace and not of evil. We confess that when we go through difficult times, there is a temptation to blame you and to wonder why you aren’t relieving the suffering. Remind us that the evil in this world is not of you. We pray for those being persecuted today, that you will remind them that the source of the evil around them is not of you. Remind them of the future and hope they have through faith in Jesus. We praise you that our greatest hope is not in this world, but in a future you have planned for your people.

Wednesday, November 5

TRIBULATIONS: “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the

disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God’” (Acts 14:21-22).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for those who walk with us during the dark times—who urge us to continue in the faith, especially in times of trial, temptation, and tribulation. We confess that we don’t like the idea of tribulations, and yet we know they are a part of life in this world. We pray especially for those who are facing extreme tribulation today, that they will know that you are refining them and that you are with them and that the Kingdom is near.

Thursday, November 6

KEEP THESE WORDS: “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth” (Deuteronomy 11:18-21).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the power of your Word to keep us walking with you. We confess that we have not always been faithful students of the Scriptures, and we have not always obeyed them. Forgive us for neglecting them. We pray for believers around the world—that we will embrace your Word and that we will study it, so that we can give a reason for the hope we have; so that we can lead others to faith in you; and so that your kingdom will expand on the earth.

Friday, November 7

NO FEAR: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23: 4).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for the stories of people who have lived this verse. They have faced death, and you brought them such peace and comfort. We praise you for the reminder that you are with us in the good times and the bad times. We praise you for the comfort of your presence. Today, we pray for those who are facing death at the hands of persecutors and terrorists. We pray you will comfort them. We pray they will know your presence.

Saturday, November 8

BLESSED: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:3-4).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for your comfort in times of sorrow. We praise you for the promise of your kingdom. We pray today for those who are suffering because they have lost their homes and are now living in unhealthy and dangerous places. Comfort them. Provide for them. Remind them that this is not their home. This is all temporary.

Sunday, November 9

EXAMPLES: “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:2-3).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you have given and called shepherds to be examples to the body of Christ, so that the church might honor you in all circumstances. We pray you will protect the persecuted church from charlatans who would take advantage of them during times of trial. We pray you will provide good shepherds who will model how to face persecution with faith and confidence in you.

Monday, November 10

HE LOVES US: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you have loved the world, including me, so much that you gave your son so that we might have everlasting life. We praise you that by simple faith in what Jesus did, we can have life. Forgive us for complicating the message. We pray for those who are threatened with persecution, that you will remind them of your love and the price that was paid for their salvation. Help us spread the word globally of the truth of these few words.

Tuesday, November 11

WITNESSES: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for the power you have given to men and women in some of the most difficult parts of the world to share their faith and walk faithfully with you. We praise you for the work of the Holy Spirit. We praise you that the Gospel is spreading, despite persecution, to the ends of the earth. We pray you will continue to empower your global Church to be a witness to those who do not know you.

Wednesday, November 12

MAKE HASTE: “LORD, I cry out to You; make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice” (Psalm 141:1-2).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you hear and answer prayer. The prayer of the Psalmist is cry of desperation—the cry of a heart desperate for you. We echo this prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters. Please, Lord, make haste to go to them. Relieve their suffering. Give them peace.

Thursday, November 13

REST: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for this invitation and the promise that is given to all of us. Forgive us for treating this invitation as a last resort. We pray especially for the persecuted

church, that they will find rest in you today. We pray they will know the peace and strength that comes from walking with you.

Friday, November 14

BOAST IN CHRIST: “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that for those who follow you, there is nothing in this world in which to boast. We are in the world but not of the world. We pray for the persecuted church who have lost so much, that you would remind them that they still possess the greatest treasure of all in You.

Saturday, November 15

GOD’S LOVE: “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples” (Deut. 7:6-7).

PRAYER: Lord, we know these words were given to Israel, and yet they apply to all who have put their faith in you. You have called us to be holy people, and you did not set your love on us because we were so great, but simply because you are a great God. We pray the persecuted church will know your love for them and that they will seek to be holy people.

Sunday, November 16

PREACHERS: “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).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that you alone are our strength. There is none besides you. We praise you for the reminder that you are our light and our salvation. When we are afraid, remind us whose we are. We pray for the persecuted believers around the world, that they will cling to you as the strength of their lives and that you will dispel their fears.

Monday, November 17

OUR SHEPHERD: “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake” (Psalm 23:1-3).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you shepherd your people to good places where we can be renewed and refreshed. We praise you that when we feel beat up, wounded, or when we have strayed, you restore our souls. We praise you that you lead us in paths of righteousness. Forgive us for the times we have been dumb sheep and refused to follow. We pray for the persecuted church today, that you will lead them to green pastures and still waters so they can be renewed.

Tuesday, November 18

HE IS GREATER: “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand” (John 10:29).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that, because of Jesus, we belong to you. We praise you for the reminder that you are greater than any enemy, greater than any political power, and greater than the one who tempts us. We praise you that while the world can beat us, marginalize us, and find all kinds of ways to persecute us, we are still safe in you. We pray you will bless our brothers who live in harm’s way, that you will remind them that you have them in your hand.

Wednesday, November 19

DENY SELF: “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me’” (Matthew 16:24).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for the millions of believers around the world who have accepted this invitation. They have denied themselves, and they take up their cross daily to follow you. We pray you will lead each of us to examine our walk with you and to ask if we have really denied self. We pray for our brothers and sisters—disciples—in closed countries, that you will bless them as they take up their crosses to follow you.

Thursday, November 20

SUFFER: “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the reminder that following you is costly from this world’s perspective. We confess we don’t like the prospect of persecution, and yet there are millions of believers who face some form of persecution daily. We pray for our persecuted brothers, that you will keep them strong. Remind them that their suffering is not from you, but from an enemy who seeks to kill and destroy. Keep your people faithful.

Friday, November 21

DON’T FEAR: “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for these words of assurance. We praise you that you are our God. We praise you for the strength you give and for the assurance of your help. We praise you that you uphold us with your righteous right hand. We pray for the persecuted church, that you will remind them of these promises. We pray they will know your presence.

Saturday, November 22

HIS GRACE: “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for your grace—for the grace that drew us to you and for the grace that saved us. We praise you that your grace is sufficient for us when we face trials

and feel so weak. We pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters, that right now you would overwhelm them with your amazing grace.

Sunday, November 23

BOLDNESS: “[praying] for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Ephesians 6:19-20).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the privilege of sharing the Gospel with those who do not know you. Forgive us for the times we allow fear to keep us from giving others the good news. We pray you will give us the boldness we need to make known the mystery of the Gospel. We pray especially for the persecuted church, that you will give them boldness even in the face of threats.

Monday, November 24

THE SECRET PLACE: “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust’” (Psalm 91:1-2).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that there is a place of quiet rest in you. We praise you that you are our refuge and fortress. We praise you that we can put our trust in you. We pray for those who are in danger because of their faith. We pray they will dwell in the secret place of the Most High. Be their refuge and fortress.

Tuesday, November 25

FLOURISH: “The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God” (Psalm 92:12-13).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that in you is life and vitality—that in you we can flourish. Forgive us for the times we have wandered from your house and have experienced spiritual drought. We pray you will continue to draw us to yourself. We pray for those living under the threat of persecution, that they will continue to pursue righteousness, so that they might flourish even when they are threatened and their possessions are destroyed.

Wednesday, November 26

HE IS WITH YOU: “And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31:8).

PRAISE: Father, we praise you for the assurance that you will go before us, that you will be with us, and that you will never leave us. We confess there are times when we are dismayed because we are focused more on the challenges than on you. We pray you will remind us of these promises. We claim these promises for the persecuted Church. Go before them. Be with them. Remind them that you will never forsake them.

Thursday, November 27

RENEWED: “Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a

moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, that you are renewing us day by day. Forgive us for not recognizing the work you are doing in us. We are so focused on outward comforts that we forget that this is all very temporary. We pray for those under the threat of persecution—that you will renew them and remind them that you are doing an amazing work in them, preparing them for something far greater.

Friday, November 28

COMFORT: “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work” (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, for your love and compassion toward us. We praise you for the hope we have because of your grace. We pray for those who are living in danger today because of their faith in you. We pray that you will comfort them when they experience loss or are threatened. We also pray that you will establish them in every good word and work. We pray their testimony will change the lives of their persecutors.

Saturday, November 29

BE CONTENT: “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’” (Hebrews 13:5).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you again for this reminder that you will not leave us nor forsake us. We confess that we are not always content with what we have. We sometimes covet the possessions of others. This is a hard verse for those who have lost everything because of their faith. Guard their hearts from covetousness. Remind all of us that our greatest possession is you.

Sunday, November 30

BOLDNESS: “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word” (Acts 4:29).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the example of Peter and the other apostles who faced threats with prayers for boldness to speak your word. Forgive us for shying away from those who are intimidating or threatening. We pray for all believers, that when we face those challengers that you will grant us boldness and clarity to speak your word. Give each one the right word at the right time so that your name is praised.