



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
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*"It is enough that Christ is, that He reigns,
conquers, and triumphs. Christ is the pot of
manna, the cruse of oil, a bottomless ocean
of all comfort, content and satisfaction."*

~ John Flavel

SUDAN: Apostasy Accusations Against Christians

Sources: Middle East Concern, Mission Network News, Sudan Tribune

Sudanese Christians are asking for prayer after a group of 12 believers were arrested on October 13th in Nyala, South Darfur. As the Christians were gathered together, officers from the National Intelligence and Security Services entered and asked if they were Christians. After confirming their faith, all the confessing believers were detained. Upon further interrogation, the three from a Christian background were released but not those who had converted from Islam.

For the next week, the nine converts faced severe pressure and torture. They were assured that, if they chose to recant and express their return to Islam, they would be freed. Finally, all but one gave in and recanted rather than face a possible death penalty for apostasy. They were released on October 21st. The one remaining, a church leader named Tajadin Idris Yousef, was charged with apostasy and released on bail the next day. Reports do not give a specific date for his court appearance.

Pray for these Christian converts and others facing uncertainty and threats from government officials. May they know the peace, strength and grace that comes from God, who embraces all who rest in Him. Pray that Tajadin will be able to stand confidently in the face of these charges and the threat of a death penalty, knowing Christ's presence is with him (Daniel 3) and that the Holy Spirit will be his advocate.

NIGER: Church Ransacked and Burned

Source: Barnabas Fund

For years, the small Christian minority in the west African nation of Niger has lived peacefully alongside the Muslim majority. In recent years, however, the rise of jihadist groups such as Boko Haram has led to an escalation in tension, including the destruction of church buildings and violent attacks on Christians.

In an October 11th incident, unknown assailants looted and burned a church building in Niger's capital, Niamey. All that was left was a charred shell of the building with debris and broken musical instruments scattered across the floor. A local church leader, Pastor Eduard, has asked: "Please pray that the Lord supports them and safeguards the churches of Niger."

Remember the Christians throughout Niger as they face pressure from militant groups seeking to divide and destroy. Pray that the members of the recently attacked church will find the resources necessary to rebuild and replace all that was lost. May each believer be given the courage needed to reach out to their neighbours with the love of Christ and the proclamation of the Gospel.

PRAISE REPORT

UGANDA: Abducted 12-Year-Old Survives Strangulation

Source: Morning Star News

While out on an errand for his grandmother on October 25th, 12-year-old Emmanuel Nyaiti encountered four men from his village. Knowing he was a Christian, the men tried to convince the boy that he should convert to Islam.

When Emmanuel refused, one of the men named Ali Lukuman slapped him. After the child started screaming, the men attempted to strangle him. There are also indications that he was given chloroform. By the time searching neighbours located him, the assailants had fled and the boy was found unconscious.

This incident is not the first encounter between the perpetrator and the victim's Christian family. Emmanuel's father, Kauta Yokosofat had previously received text messages, as well as face-to-face confrontations. Kauta was repeatedly told he must become a Muslim or leave the village.

This latest incident has been reported to the police who are investigating. At last report, the attackers had not been found.

Praise God that the location of the abducted boy had been discovered before it was too late, and that he miraculously survived the strangulation. Continue to remember Emmanuel as he recovers both physically and emotionally from the trauma. Pray for his family's safety, and that the Lord will give them wisdom and guidance as they navigate how to best deal with this hostile situation.

If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit VOMC's prayer wall at www.vomcanada.com/prayerwall.htm.

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If you would like to encourage someone to read or receive this weekly prayer alert, please use our online form at www.vomcanada.com/pnpforward.htm and help spread the message of the persecuted church around the world.

For information on additional ways to support members of the persecuted church overseas, review the list of options at www.vomcanada.com/take-action.htm.