



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"...suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom He is pleased!'"*

~ Luke 2:13-14 ESV

CHINA: Church Closure in Shanghai

Sources: ChinaAid, VOM Korea

Government agents raided the Wheat Church in Shanghai during their Sunday worship service on December 1st. They accused those present of conducting religious activities in an illegal place and banned any future activities. In response to the government ban, church members gathered on the street outside their building the following week. While asking not to be identified, they have released a short video of them in worship (www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqCsfquhyZE).

According to Eric Foley, CEO of VOM Korea, Christians in China are responding to the increased persecution by seeking alternative ways to gather for worship. Rather than adhering to the modern "megachurch" model, they are returning to former ways of worshipping God -- a time when believers would meet wherever they could -- in homes, parks, even while walking. Eric Foley points to the need for resources to equip the leadership of these smaller group gatherings. For more information on the persecution facing Christians in China, and to review previously posted reports, go to www.vomcanada.com/china.htm.

Please prayerfully remember the members of this congregation, and those of other churches, who have been forced to stop gathering together. May the Lord grant these believers wisdom and creativity as they seek ways to continue meeting for encouragement, training and worship. Praise God for His ongoing work within China in the midst of increasing persecution. Pray for His blessing on the efforts initiated by ministries like VOM Korea to get discipleship materials into the hands of Christians. Through these efforts, may the next generation of church leaders be effectively trained and equipped to proclaim the Gospel.

COLOMBIA: Law Proposed to Ban Evangelization

Sources: VOM Canada sources, Crossroads, Colombia Para Cristo

Sources in Colombia are calling for urgent prayer, as organizations endeavour to ban Christian evangelization among Indigenous communities. Within the Colombian constitution, Indigenous communities are granted special rights of self-governance. As a result, Christians have encountered significant persecution, with little or no recourse.

Currently, a group from within the Paez community of Huila are in the capital city of Bogota fighting for a law to ban evangelization and give the Paez people complete control over education. The proposed law would then prevent the operation of Christian schools in Indigenous communities.

A very informative video has been produced by Crossroads Christian Communications about a ministry collaboration with The Voice of the Martyrs Canada and Colombia Para Cristo addressing the situation. The combined efforts of these Christian ministries are providing needed assistance to Christians who have been forced to flee. The video documentary can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEJ200Fy260. More information on Colombia, including other video reports, can be found at www.vomcanada.com/colombia.htm.

Pray for the ongoing work of organizations like Colombia Para Cristo as they reach out with the love of Christ among the various people groups residing in the country. Ask the Lord for His intervention in the current legal battle in Bogota, so that the resolution to ban evangelization will not be passed, and thus hinder the proclamation of the Gospel. Pray that all who seek to stop the spread of Christianity will instead be enlightened to the truth of God's saving grace in their own lives.

INDIA: Pastor Faces Charges After Being Beaten

Source: Morning Star News

A pastor and his family are facing police charges after Hindu militants beat them, leaving the pastor for dead. Eight assailants, including a police officer, entered the family home in Parihara, Jharkhand in the early morning of November 12th. Others joined in, beating members of the family with an axe, bamboo rods and wooden sticks. Pastor Basant Kumar Paul, who was left unconscious, sustained serious injuries all over his body. Both his mother and brother encountered head injuries, and his wife suffered internal injuries. In addition, the pastoring couple's 20-year-old son required a knee transplant.

After regaining consciousness from the beating, Pastor Paul managed to transport the injured members of his family to the police station by using his motorized three-wheeler. Police then sent them to the hospital. When the pastor returned to the station to file a complaint, he collapsed at the police station door. Despite the severity of their injuries, all family members were released from hospital the next day.

A few days later, Pastor Paul was summoned to the police station where he discovered a complaint had been filed against him and seven members of his family, 20 minutes before his own form was registered. The complaint filed against the Christian family includes unlawful assembly, insulting a religion, theft, wrongful restraint, and rioting with a deadly weapon. The pastor was forced to pay bail or face arrest.

Pastor Paul has led a small church in the community since 2010. This is not the first incident of violence he has encountered. He was nearly killed in a previous attack during 2015. For more information on the persecution of Christians in India, go to www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Pray for the complete healing of Pastor Paul's injured family and, due to the resulting trauma of this vicious attack, intercede for their emotional recovery as well. Ask that the truth be revealed concerning the contradictory statements made by their attackers. May the presence of our Almighty God -- the Righteous Judge -- be experienced by the police and judicial officials of the courts, so that true justice will be upheld on behalf of these victimized Christians.

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.

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
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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.