

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

- 1) What does and can persecution look like?
- 2) Why does God allow persecution and suffering to take place?
- 3) Based upon Hebrews 13:3 and its surrounding context, how can we remember those who are in prison?
- 4) What should our theology of persecution look like?

**Matthew 5:10-12** *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

- 5) If our church, faced persecution like believers do in North Korea:
  - a) How would that change how we meet?
  - b) How would our service be different?
  - c) What would that do for the 'casual Christian'?

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/the-secret-and-surprising-ways-christians-worship-in-north-korea/>

# 5 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH (BY MARK ALTROGGE)

- 1) Ask God to use His persecuted saints to spread the Gospel

**Philippians 1:12-13** *I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, [13] so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.*

- 2) Ask God to deliver many from imprisonment as he did Peter and Paul (Acts 4:23, 12:6-11, 16:39)

- 3) Ask Christ to strengthen them

**Colossians 1:11** *May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,*

- 4) Ask God to give them grace to love their enemies

**Matthew 5:44** *But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

- 5) Ask the Sovereign Lord to change evil governments to become favourable to the gospel

**1 Timothy 2:1-4** *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, [2] for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. [3] This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, [4] who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*