

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PACKET

PARTNER WITH THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH

WE STAND WITH THEM OPENLY SO
THEY CAN WORSHIP IN SECRET



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN



“ THE APOSTLES LEFT THE SANHEDRIN,
REJOICING BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN COUNTED
WORTHY OF SUFFERING DISGRACE FOR THE NAME.
DAY AFTER DAY, IN THE TEMPLE COURTS AND
FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, THEY NEVER STOPPED
TEACHING AND PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS
THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH.”

—ACTS 5:42



The early church gathered in homes, faced persecution, and yet, they kept rejoicing and sharing Christ. The persecuted Church today is the closest model we have to the early church.



Millions of believers cannot publicly gather, own Christian materials, or openly share their faith. But because God has blessed many of us with freedom, we can strengthen those who have none.

Together, the visible church can support the hidden church, united in our freedom in Christ.

STREETWORK

Letter from the President

Partnering with the Underground Church

Letter from an Underground Believer

Prayer Guide

Church Challenge

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, approximately one million Christians will attend church service, and most without fear. They will sing worship songs openly. They will carry their Bibles in public. They will pray, fellowship, and hear God's Word without wondering whether someone is watching.

For many of us, these freedoms feel ordinary. But for almost 388 million believers around the world, they are unimaginable. Yet the Gospel continues to advance.

At International Christian Concern (ICC), we believe God has called us to an audacious goal: to holistically serve 10 million persecuted Christians over the next decade on our way to serving every persecuted believer who needs help. We pray they not only survive persecution but thrive as a bold witness for Christ. That vision begins with strengthening the underground church.

Across Southeast Asia, China, the Middle East, Africa, and beyond, secret followers of Jesus are courageously advancing the Gospel in places where faith comes at a tremendous cost. They are planting churches, discipling new believers, and sharing Christ despite threats, surveillance, imprisonment, violence, and even death.

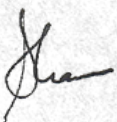
Your gift can make a difference:

- **\$45** provides essential discipleship materials for believers gathering in secret
- **\$100** equips evangelists, pastors, and church leaders with Bibles to share the Gospel
- **\$350** provides emergency assistance for believers facing persecution
- **\$900** supports one Muslim-background believer who often becomes one of the most effective evangelists and church leaders in the underground church
- **\$2,000** relocates an endangered Christian family and provides emergency support

Many underground believers feel forgotten by or completely disconnected from the outside world. When we talk with persecuted believers, the number one thing they ask for is your prayers. And through your prayers and support, you remind them that they are not alone.

Will you help us become the above-ground church for the underground church? Thank you for standing with the persecuted church as God writes His story through them.

In Him,



Shawn P. Wright

President, International Christian Concern



THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

STRENGTHEN HIDDEN BELIEVERS WHO ARE ADVANCING
THE GOSPEL WHERE FAITH COMES AT A COST

Partner With the Underground Church

In some of the world's most restrictive environments, following Jesus requires extraordinary courage.

Believers meet in living rooms, remote villages, and discreet gathering places, knowing that discovery could bring harassment, imprisonment, loss of livelihood, or violent retaliation. Together, these faithful Christians form what is known as the underground church.

Yet, even in the face of relentless pressure, God continues to build His Church and draw people to Himself.

International Christian Concern is partnering with underground churches across Southeast Asia and beyond, helping pastors, evangelists, church leaders, and believers remain steadfast in their faith while advancing the Kingdom of God in some of the world's most difficult mission fields.

We invite your church to stand with them.

Why the Underground Church Matters

While many churches in the West wonder what the future of Christianity will look like, some of the fastest-growing expressions of faith are taking place underground.

These believers face tremendous obstacles:

- Churches are denied permits or forcibly closed
- Christian converts are threatened by family and community members
- Pastors are harassed, imprisoned, or attacked
- House churches operate under constant surveillance
- Believers risk everything simply to gather in Jesus' name

Yet, they continue to worship, disciple, evangelize, and plant churches. They don't ask for comfort. They ask not to be forgotten.



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Equip Rural House Church Pastors

KINGDOM INVESTMENT: \$10,000

In Laos, a restrictive Communist nation, rural pastors often lead village house churches under constant pressure from authorities and hostile groups. Through trusted local partners, International Christian Concern conducts discreet leadership training focused on religious freedom, constitutional rights, apologetics, and pastoral ministry.

Your church can help equip dozens of pastors who will return home to strengthen hundreds of believers throughout their communities.

Dignity in Worship

KINGDOM INVESTMENT: \$2,000

A small house church of 26 believers in Indonesia is no longer permitted to worship in a permanent location. Instead, members rotate worship services between their homes each week.

A communion and portable keyboard set would allow this congregation to continue to gather with dignity and encouragement.

“The church is not a building, but the church is a group of believers.”

MBB Leadership Training

**KINGDOM INVESTMENT:
\$900 PER LEADER**

Muslim-background believers often become some of the most effective evangelists and church leaders in the underground church.

ICC recently helped support Bible college training for key leaders serving house church networks throughout Southeast Asia. These trained leaders strengthen countless small groups through biblical teaching, discipleship, and pastoral care.

Strengthening China's House Churches

KINGDOM INVESTMENT: \$10,000

China is home to millions of underground Christians who face surveillance, harassment, arrest, and intimidation because of their faith.

Through trusted local partners, ICC helps provide theological training, discipleship resources, and emergency relief assistance for imprisoned believers and their families.

To support persecuted believers around the world, please visit www.persecution.org/give

If you have any questions, please email icc@persecution.org

A stack of old, thick books tied with a dark string, with a handwritten letter resting on top. The books are aged and the paper is yellowed. The string is dark and appears to be made of a natural material. The handwritten letter is on a piece of paper with cursive writing, which is slightly out of focus compared to the title text.

A LETTER FROM A PERSECUTED BELIEVER

"THE PLACE WHERE
HOPE LIVES"

The Place Where Hope Lives

My name is Hoàng, and I never imagined that at my age, I would become the one my younger brothers and sisters look to for guidance.

My father is a Christian leader and we were forced to flee our homeland after severe persecution made it impossible for our family to remain there safely.

When we arrived in [country redacted for security] as refugees, we hoped to find peace and a chance to rebuild our lives. Instead, the challenges have continued.

Our family rents a small house that has become much more than a home. It is where believers gather to worship, pray, and encourage one another. It is where my father teaches and serves our refugee community. Every week, dozens of Christians come through our doors for fellowship, Bible study, worship services, and community activities. For many refugees, this house is the closest thing they have to a church family.

I teach basic English to adults every morning and to children in the evenings. In addition to teaching, our home has become a place of worship. Twice a week, nearly 100 refugees gather at our home for worship services, prayer, and fellowship.

For years, my parents and sisters worked whatever jobs they could find to support both our family and the ministry. They worked construction jobs, performed manual labor, and assisted at private schools. Life was difficult, but together we managed to survive.

Then everything changed.

My parents were arrested while going to work. They were sentenced in court for illegal entry into our refugee country, and they are now being held in immigration detention. The police have come to our home and warned us that if we are caught working, we will be detained as well.

Now, only my siblings and I remain at home. Without income, we are struggling to survive. Sometimes we go to local markets to collect leftover food from the trash, but even that has become dangerous. Security guards have threatened to call the police on us for simply trying to find something to eat.

Every day, my younger brothers and sisters ask when our parents will come home. I do not know what to tell them. I try to stay strong for them, but the truth is that I am afraid. We miss our parents terribly, and the responsibility of caring for my family feels overwhelming.

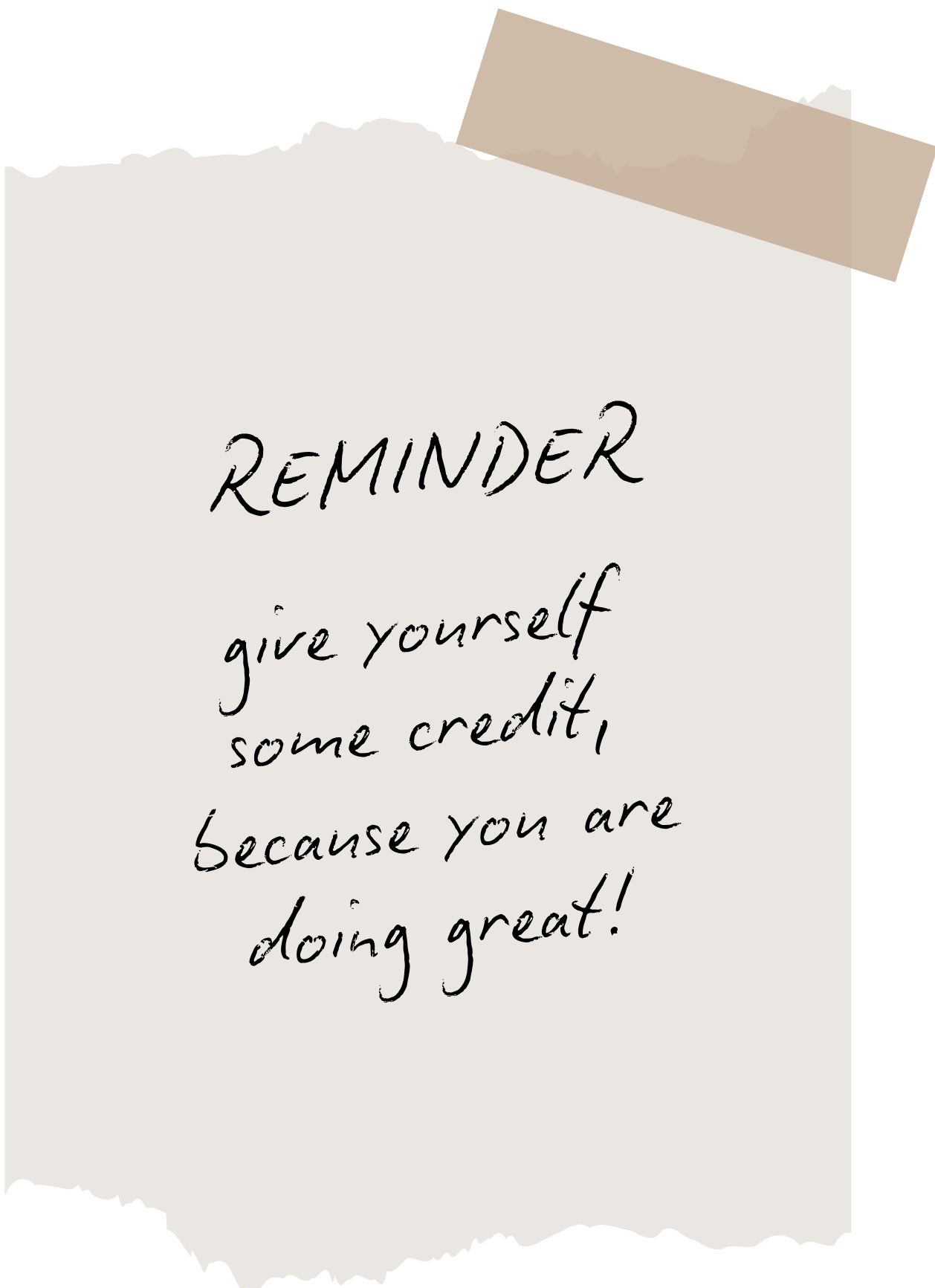
The rent on our home has gone unpaid for months. Our landlord regularly visits asking for payment, and we fear that eviction could come at any time. If we lose this house, we will lose more than a roof over our heads. We will lose the place where our refugee Christian community gathers to worship. We will lose the place where believers find encouragement, friendship, and hope. We will lose the church that has become a lifeline for so many families who have already lost so much.

Please pray for my parents as they remain in detention. Pray for my younger siblings as they struggle without them. And pray that God will provide a way for us to keep our home so that this ministry can continue serving the many believers who depend on it.

ICC is currently assisting Hoàng and his family by providing rent and other emergency assistance for the family. During our communication with him, Hoàng was also arrested and imprisoned alongside his parents.

His father is now in danger of being extradited to his home country, where he will likely face torture, imprisonment, and maybe death.

This is a recent message he sent us, "Praise God for His faithfulness. Even though everything is so difficult, I still trust in Him. May His will be done. I hope you and your family are doing well. I pray for you all. Even when everything seems blocked, it only draws me to trust Him more and to place my faith in Christ alone."



REMINDER

give yourself
some credit,
because you are
doing great!

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a book. The hand is dark-skinned and has a textured, leather-like appearance. The book is held in a way that its spine and edges are visible. In the background, the person's face is blurred, showing dark skin and short, curly hair. The lighting is warm and focused on the hand and book.

THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH PRAYER PACKET

PRAY FOR THE
UNDERGROUND CHURCH

PRAYING FOR THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH

Across the globe, countless Christians are unable to freely worship, share the Gospel, or build a church building. Doing so would put the lives of everyone involved at risk.

As a result, believers gather quietly in homes, share the gospel in creative and anonymous ways, and, in some places, whisper their praise to avoid detection.

Yet the underground church is not a defeated church. Throughout history, God has often used persecution to strengthen His people and advance the Gospel. Today, millions of believers continue to follow Christ despite surveillance, imprisonment, torture, discrimination, and even death.

As you pray, remember that these are not distant strangers. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ with whom we will share our inheritance.



*“IF ONE MEMBER SUFFERS,
ALL SUFFER TOGETHER; IF
ONE MEMBER IS HONORED,
ALL REJOICE TOGETHER.”*

—1 CORINTHIANS 12:26



AFGHANISTAN

The Situation

Under Taliban rule, Christians face extreme danger. The Taliban considers Christianity incompatible with its vision for Afghanistan, making public worship impossible. Believers risk kidnapping, torture, imprisonment, and death if discovered.

Pray for...

- Protection for underground believers and their families
- Safe fellowship among isolated Christians
- Strength for converts who face intense pressure
- Wisdom for Christians seeking to share the gospel discreetly
- God's comfort for those grieving persecution and loss

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

—ISAIAH 43:2



The Taliban have cracked down on women who fail to observe the strict dress code. Dozens of women have been arrested in the streets of Kabul and taken to unknown locations.



Being known as a Christian in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan brings lethal danger. Not long after the Taliban retook control of Afghanistan in August 2021, they declared that no Christians were remaining in the country.

CHINA

The Situation

An estimated 130 million Christians live in China. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) views unregistered churches as a threat to its authority and uses extensive surveillance systems, coercion, and intimidation to monitor believers. Many house churches have been shut down, and Christians have been arrested for worshipping outside state-approved churches.

Pray for...

- Courage for pastors and house leaders
- Protection from government surveillance and harassment
- Wisdom as believers find creative ways to gather and disciple others
- Endurance for Christians who have been arrested or imprisoned
- Spiritual revival throughout China

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." —JOHN 1:5



China's underground church actually did gather in caves and other hideouts during Mao's Cultural Revolution and even afterwards. (Photo: billionbibles.com)



Xu Yonghai leading prayer at one of the hundreds of "home" churches in Beijing. (Photo: bbc.com)



People pray at a small Protestant underground church that operates in a storefront in Beijing. (Photo: Wayne Mcallister / abc.net)

ERITREA

The Situation

Although Eritrea has a Christian majority, the government strictly controls religious practice. Christians worshipping outside state-approved churches often face imprisonment, torture, and severe mistreatment. Many evangelical believers must meet in secret.

Pray for...

- Christians imprisoned because of their faith
- Pastors and church leaders serving under intense pressure
- Endurance for believers suffering in prison
- Greater religious freedom throughout Eritrea
- Unity among the different expressions of Christ's church

"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." —REVELATION 2:10



Eritrea is often called "Africa's North Korea" because of its severe restrictions on religious freedom. While the government officially recognizes only a handful of Christian denominations, many evangelical believers are forced to worship in secret. Hundreds of Christians have been imprisoned for their faith, some for years without trial, simply for gathering to worship outside state-approved churches.

IRAN

The Situation

Despite intense persecution, Iran's underground church has grown rapidly. Christians often meet in hidden house churches because public evangelism is forbidden. Believers are frequently arrested, imprisoned, and falsely accused of crimes for sharing their faith.

Pray for...

- Protection for house church leaders and members
- Boldness for new believers who have left Islam to follow Christ
- Comfort for Christians suffering imprisonment and abuse
- Continued growth of the church throughout Iran
- Access to Scripture and discipleship resources

"The word of God is not bound."

—2 TIMOTHY 2:9



Members of the persecuted Church worship in secret. (Photo: godreports.com)



Secret believers in Iran gather for worship. Many are former Muslims, and their conversion from Islam could mean death if they are discovered. (Photo: Iran Alive Ministries)



Christians gather for worship in Iran. (Photo: Transform Iran)

LIBYA

The Situation

Libya remains deeply unstable, with various extremist groups operating throughout the country. Christians often face violence. Christians often face violence, imprisonment, and social rejection. Even possessing a Bible can place believers at risk.

Pray for...

- Protection for indigenous believers and missionaries
- Comfort for Christians who have lost family relationships because of their faith
- Strength for those imprisoned or facing violence
- Access to Scripture and Christian fellowship
- The advancement of the Gospel throughout Libya



More than 11 years ago, 21 Christians were slain by the Islamic State group in Libya on Feb. 15, 2015 because they refused to deny Christ as their Lord and Savior. Twenty of the 21 men were Egyptian Coptic Christians working in Libya, and one man was from Ghana. The men were abducted in the months leading up to their deaths and given multiple opportunities to deny Jesus and convert to Islam. They were subjected to torture, sleep deprivation, and beatings, yet none of them denied Christ. ISIS filmed the killings and released the video online.

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?”*

—PSALM 27:1

NORTH KOREA

The Situation

North Korea remains one of the most dangerous places in the world to follow Christ. Christians must practice their faith in complete secrecy. Those discovered praying, owning Christian materials, or sharing the Gospel risk imprisonment, torture, forced labor, or death.

Pray for...

- Strength for believers living under constant fear
- Protection for secret gatherings and underground fellowships
- Hope for Christians imprisoned in labor camps
- Opportunities for the Gospel to spread despite severe restrictions
- The salvation of North Korean leaders and authorities

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. —PSALM 46:1



Believers gathered in an underground church in North Korea are secretly reading the Bible under a dim flashlight. (Photo: Voice of the Martyrs)



North Korean Christians praying. (Photo: godreports.com)

SAUDI ARABIA

The Situation

Saudi Arabia is governed by a strict interpretation of Islamic law. Conversion from Islam to Christianity is considered apostasy and can carry severe consequences. Christians often face threats from both authorities and family members.

Pray for...

- Protection for Muslim-background believers
- Courage for Christians worshiping in secret
- Strength for those facing rejection from their families
- Opportunities for seekers to encounter Christ
- The spread of the Gospel despite severe restrictions

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

—MATTHEW 5:10



A close-up of the iconic shading umbrellas in Madinah, Saudi Arabia. For the underground church in Saudi Arabia, faith is often just like this picture: hidden in plain sight, framed by a landscape that doesn't recognize it yet. (Photo: Faris Purnawarman / Pexels)

SOMALIA

The Situation

Somalia is one of the most hostile places in the world for Christians. The extremist group al-Shabab actively seeks out believers, while conversion from Islam can lead to rejection or death at the hands of family members and community leaders.

Pray for...

- Safety for believers living in secrecy
- Courage for Christians isolated from other believers
- Protection from extremist violence
- Opportunities for Somalis to hear the Gospel
- Faithfulness for those facing intense pressure to abandon Christ

“The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent” —EXODUS 14:14



Every project ICC undertakes in Somalia is marked “Confidential — Do Not Publish,” and for good reason. In a nation where being known as a Christian can lead to death, ICC works covertly to equip underground believers, shelter persecuted families, and enable secret evangelism. This work advances the Gospel, encourages isolated believers, and saves lives.

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTORS

When we hear stories of persecution, it is natural to pray for protection, justice, and strength for those who suffer. But Jesus calls us to something more.

He tells us, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” in Matthew 5:44.

This command may seem impossible when we think about government officials who imprison Christians, extremist groups who commit violence, or family members who reject or abuse believers because of their faith.

Yet Scripture reminds us that one of the greatest apostles was once one of the Church’s greatest persecutors.

Before he became Paul, Saul hunted Christians, imprisoned them, and approved of their deaths. Reflecting on his past, Paul later wrote:

“Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst.” —1 Timothy 1:15.

God did not merely stop Saul from persecuting Christians, but he transformed him into a devoted follower of Christ.

The same Gospel that saves persecuted believers can save persecutors.

Today, many government officials, security agents, extremist leaders, prison guards, and even hostile family members oppose the Church. While we pray for God to restrain evil and protect His people, we should also pray that He would soften hearts, reveal Himself, and bring many persecutors to faith in Christ.

History is filled with stories of persecutors who became believers after witnessing the faith, forgiveness, and courage of Christians.

May God do it again.

Pray for:

- Government officials who enforce anti-Christian laws
- Police officers and security agents tasked with monitoring believers
- Prison guards overseeing Christian prisoners
- Extremist leaders who seek to silence the Gospel
- Family members who reject or mistreat Christian converts
- Community leaders who oppose churches and Christian outreach
- Those who have never truly heard the Gospel despite opposing it
- Divine encounters that lead persecutors to repentance and faith
- Revival among those who currently oppose Christ and His Church.

A Prayer for the Underground Church

Heavenly Father,

We lift up our brothers and sisters who worship You in secret. Strengthen those who gather quietly in homes, who whisper their prayers, and who risk everything to follow Christ.

Protect believers living under surveillance, imprisonment, threats, and violence. Give them courage when they are afraid, hope when they feel isolated, and joy that cannot be taken away.

Strengthen pastors, evangelists, and church leaders serving in difficult places. Open doors for the Gospel to spread where governments, extremists, and persecutors seek to stop it.

May Your church continue to grow in China, North Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Eritrea, and every nation where believers suffer for Your name.

Remind our persecuted family that they are not forgotten. And help us remain faithful in prayer until the day when believers from every nation, tribe, people, and language worship before Your throne.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH CHALLENGE



CHURCH CHALLENGE

Become the Above-Ground Church for the Underground Church

This July, we invite your church to take a bold step of partnership with believers who are faithfully serving Christ where the cost of following Jesus is high.

In many hostile areas, rural pastors lead underground churches under constant pressure from government authorities, extremist groups, and community opposition. Despite these challenges, they continue preaching the gospel, discipling believers, and planting churches in some of the world's most difficult mission fields.

Most of these pastors have little access to biblical training, ministry resources, or practical support. Yet they remain committed to strengthening the Church and reaching others with the hope of Christ.

Your church can help change that.



The Challenge

Raise \$10,000 during the month of July to help equip rural house church pastors.

Together, your church can help provide:

- ✓ Leadership training for rural house church pastors
- ✓ Bibles and discipleship resources
- ✓ Emergency assistance when persecution strikes
- ✓ Encouragement and support for isolated believers
- ✓ Tools to help underground churches grow and multiply

These trained pastors return to their villages and house churches equipped to strengthen hundreds of believers throughout their communities. Your church's investment will help equip dozens of underground church leaders who are advancing the gospel in places most Christians will never see.

At International Christian Concern, we believe God has called us to serve 10 million persecuted Christians over the next decade on our way to serving every persecuted believer who needs help.

That vision becomes reality when churches like yours choose to stand with churches that cannot stand openly.

Will your congregation become the above-ground church for an underground church this July?

Your Goal: \$10,000 to Support an Underground House Church

Ready to accept the challenge? Email icc@persecution.org for more information.

WE'RE
GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR PRAYERS
AND FINANCIAL
SUPPORT



*SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR
MOBILE DEVICE TO GIVE TODAY!*

OR VISIT: www.persecution.org/give

OUR MISSION: Since 1995, ICC has served the global persecuted church through a three-pronged approach of advocacy, awareness, and assistance. ICC exists to bandage the wounds of persecuted Christians and to build the church in the toughest parts of the world.

DONATIONS: International Christian Concern (ICC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) (all donations tax-deductible). ICC makes every effort to honor donor wishes in regards to their gifts. Occasionally, a situation will arise where a project is no longer viable. ICC will redirect those donated funds to one of our other funds that is most similar to the donor's original wishes.



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