PERSECUTION RELIEF
PRAYER CALENDAR
MARCH 2020
It is a truly exhilarating experience when we witness God giving us the answers to genuine prayers! Not only does it fill our hearts with gratitude, but it also spurs us to put our trust in Him and the power of Prayer! The past couple of months have been challenging for the Persecuted Church in India, however, ‘Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.’ Romans 12:12.

This month let us prayerfully focus on ‘Persecution & the Church’ As we go through each prayer point daily, may our hearts be exposed to the beautiful and unbreakable relationship that the Church and Persecution have shared ever since the dawn of Christianity!

1st March

What does ‘Church’ mean to you? Is it something that is confined to a building, institutional structure, house, programs, events or leaders? The Bible consistently uses the word ‘Church' to refer to an assembly of baptized people who believe in Jesus Christ. They are the very people who comprise the army of the Living God.

PRAY:

*Christians across India would belong to a local Church. Every Christian in India- from the youngest to the oldest would understand the great responsibility of being know as The Church of God. Thank God for blessing you with a good Church.*

2nd March

One of God’s divine design for a Church is for it to ‘grow’ and many should be added daily to it. The Biblical act of evangelism is key to this concept, however many Christians of the day believe that only a few have this calling.

PRAY:

*Every Christian in India would courageously proclaim the name of Jesus Christ without the fear of persecution, so that the Church of God may abundantly grow and flourish. We would not be ashamed of the Gospel and believe that it is the power of God at work in us.*
3rd March
The early followers of Jesus went from place to place. Even Jesus ‘SENT’ his disciples two by two. They shared the gospel, and led many to faith in Jesus. What prevents the Churches of today from being mission-minded? Why are only a few sent?

PRAY:
Christians across India would be willing to honour the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Churches would make it a priority to encourage, send and support as many Christians who are willing to reach the unreached.

4th March
'Sound Doctrine' is the back bone of every Christian. How we live in this world is a direct fruit of what is taught to us in our Churches. The Bible, when taught with passion and compassion, can propel it’s listeners to make life changing decisions that can change the course of history!

PRAY:
God may raise up men and women who will not compromise on His word but teach the Church with a sense of responsibility and urgency, with heavenly wisdom. Every Church in the country would fervently and faithfully proclaim Christ, and him crucified. So when persecution comes, each one would stand faithfully, as an expression of our genuine love for Jesus Christ.

5th March
As we go through the Bible, God’s determination to gather a people for Himself becomes clear and evident. This merciful commitment towards us should give us a passion to be instrumental in ‘Church Planting’. It is a need of the hour, that a geographically vast nation such as India with one of the largest populations in the world and a growing trend of Christian Persecution, must have scores of Churches.

PRAY:
Churches would train and encourage Christians who feel called to plant Churches. Christians from all parts of India would willingly and courageously be part of Church Planting teams. The most remote places in India would be reached.

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6th March
Apart from ‘water baptism’ being a public confession of our faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ it also connects us to the “Body of Christ” – his people on earth, the Church.

PRAY:
For all those in India who believe in Jesus Christ but are apprehensive about being Water Baptized from fear of social ridicule. That we would not be fearful of being accused of religious conversions when we get an opportunity to lead people to Water baptism.

7th March
Assembling, gathering, and having fellowship with each other is a vital part of the Church. This brings much needed encouragement and restoration to the body of Christ. In many parts of India, Churches are being shut down by religious enthusiasts who are hand in glove with local authorities. The plight of the Pastors and the Church members remains painful as they scatter without direction.

PRAY:
Where one Church is shut down, a hundred more would rise. Every scattered Christian would grow stronger in his faith and run harder after God and His purposes. Christians across the country would have a renewed appreciation and commitment towards the institution of Church.

8th March
A Church will experience great health when the leadership of the Pastor is more like a shepherd, labouring to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. These are the Churches that are able to withstand the most difficult challenges, including Persecution.

PRAY:
Every pastor in India would know the Father heart of God for himself and God’s people. They would have clear vision and direction from God for their Churches. They would be Spirit filled and Spirit lead.
9th March
Pastors with spiritually healthy, sound and loving families prove to be a great encouragement and influence to the Church at large, fostering sturdy families within the Church as well. Churches made up of Christ-centred and strong families are pivotal in strengthening the Church for the future uncertainties that India is facing.

**PRAY:**
Every Pastor and their respective families would persevere in their calling and be a great example and influence within their Church. God’s protection and provision would rest upon them. They would be bound together in love, understanding and fear of the Lord.

10th March
‘Worship’ is an act of obedience to God. Churches come together to exalt God, sing songs of praise, share testimonies of God’s grace, encourage one another on toward Christ and His Word, and send those who are willing to go out and serve the kingdom of God. However, a countless number of Sunday Worship services have been intruded and disrupted by religious fanatics, causing Christians to fearfully withdraw from Church activities.

**PRAY:**
Worship to God would be a vital part of every Christian’s life in India. Genuine efforts would be made by Churches to continue worshipping together in spirit and in truth, even in the face of persecution. The Church would trust in God’s protection as they proclaim his name.

11th March
In the New Testament, we find that the direct result of the early Church praying together was the advancement of the Gospel. Keeping in mind the current situation of religious intolerance in India, every Church must devote themselves to pray together.

**PRAY:**
God would plant in every Church, a deep and urgent need for dedicated and fervent prayer for the persecuted Christians in India. This should be a regular practice within every Church our country.
12th March
The Children of God are not intended to live the Christian life in isolation. Christians left by themselves are likely to wither and die in loneliness, which may also cause them to stumble into disobedience. Many Christians in India are chased out of their own homes and are forced to live in hiding, leaving family, jobs and inheritance behind.

PRAY:
Every persecuted and forsaken Christian in our land would have access to a local Church. The Church should be a place of healing and restoration for the persecuted. Christians would not be prejudiced or biased towards the lesser fortunate.

13th March
We serve a just and righteous God. How do we react to acts of hate crimes committed against Christians in India? Do we shy away from them? Or do we advocate justice? Considering Christians to be in minority, do we fall back or stand for righteousness and justice?

PRAY:
The Church should be full of Christians who stand with integrity and boldness. We would be people who stand and walk hand in hand with the persecuted without shame or fear. A people whose heart breaks for what breaks God’s heart and who become the voice for the voiceless.

14th March
Christian persecution has increased to such a great extent that you may not be too far away from a scene where a hate crime was committed against a Christian, hence, the Church in India must be characterized by their deep and genuine desire to be a source of relief and blessing to all those who are afflicted around us.

PRAY:
The Church would proactively get informed about Christian persecution in their surroundings and would generously bless the persecuted with their time, supplies, finances and services etc. The Church would make an effort to regularly encourage and uplift the persecuted by providing reasonable and sensible support to them.

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15th March
Most of us have our own role models and heroes, but do we draw the right inspiration from them? How many Churches share testimonies about those who have stood the test of Christian persecution? Or about Christian Martyrs and their great love for Jesus Christ? Does the Church promote awareness about Christian persecution in India?

PRAY:
Churches must share the stories of Christian heroes and their courage and faith. This should deeply move and inspire us to renew our love and commitment towards God, The Great Commission and his Church. Their morals and legacies should empower our generation and the ones to follow to live courageously for Christ.

16th March
Unfortunately, many Christians today, operate under the assumption that persecution is a part of the Church’s past. The truth is that there are members of the body of Christ that currently face severe persecution and restrictions because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

PRAY:
Every Christian across the country would be alert, aware and ready. We may never take life for granted so that when persecution comes, we would be prepared to stand firm in our faith in Jesus Christ.

17th March
Because of our fallen human nature, we can often nurture resentment towards our persecutors. Churches must emphasize the importance of forgiving those who persecute us. As the Lord’s prayer goes: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Hence, receiving forgiveness is directly dependant on showing forgiveness—an important characteristic of a Christian.

PRAY:
Instead of cursing our persecutors or instigating hate towards them, the Church would forgive them, following Stephen’s biblical example in asking that the Lord forgive his persecutors.
18th March
Loving and praying for those who inflict pain is not an easy task, yet Jesus asks it of his followers and the Church.'But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you'-Matt 5:44.

PRAY:
Churches across the country would genuinely react to persecutors with love and mercy. Praying for the persecutors would be top priority of the Christian Church in India. This should be advocated and followed as a regular practice within every Church.

19th March
Social Media is a convenient catalyst to facilitate and promote prayer, events, worship, gospel literature etc, especially for Churches. However, we can also be guilty as Christians for not making the right use of the liberty that we possess to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and also various information, stories and reports about Christian persecution on Social Media for fear of being ridiculed.

PRAY:
That Christians across India would advocate and propagate the need to support the Persecuted Church using the Social Media platform, which in turn would even educate the ignorant masses about the rise of Christian Persecution in India and internationally as well. More importantly, we must be responsible to discern and make sure that what we share on social media would not hurt the sentiments of another or project Christianity in an unacceptable way.

20th March
Sunday School is an important part of every Church, every child looks forward to attending Sunday School with eagerness. It is also a good time to talk to our children about persecution and encourage healthy conversations about it. Building up a child’s faith is absolutely pivotal during times like these. They are a vital part of the army of God.
**PRAY:**

Churches in India would educate our children about what persecution is. Our children would be trained as warriors of a living God from a tender age. They would grow in strength and wisdom, getting prepared for the uncertain days that may lie ahead.

### 21\(^{th}\) March

Most Churches in India lead cell groups, small groups or prayer groups during the course of the week. With these groups being smaller, a more concentrated, intentional, personal and focused agenda is possible. These are great times to address the plight and the needs of the persecuted Church in India.

**PRAY:**

Churches would encourage small groups to have Bible studies that focus on Christian Persecution. These times would also be used to discuss and intercede about the same topic.

### 22\(^{th}\) March

Intentional efforts need to be made to create an awareness of the persecution that Christians face in India. Christians must gain a deeper understanding of the persecuted Church to be able to identify with them.

**PRAY:**

Churches would willingly consider organizing interactive seminars, workshops, or conferences, in which people who are well informed with the topic of persecution could be invited to share. Pastors and leaders would encourage the Church to promote and participate in such activities.

### 23\(^{th}\) March

Christians in India are members of different church denominations though some are also non-denominational. The two main denominations are the Roman Catholic and the protestant Christians. These break down into many more groups which are distinguished by their doctrine, rituals, practices, beliefs etc. However, Jesus Christ remains the common ground and link that connects them all.

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**PRAY:**

All Christian denominations across India would stand together in Unity without prejudice. As one Body of Christ, i.e. The Church of God- would move onward together and rise up against the prevailing injustice towards the Christians in India.

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**24th March**

85 incidents of Physical Violence were reported in 2019, which includes Women & Children. The country is experiencing a growing surge of attacks on women and Children. What is the role of the Church in these situations?

**PRAY:**

Churches would reach out to women and children who have and are still being persecuted for their faith by providing support in various ways like encouraging the Christian women within the Churches to regularly pray for them, visit and encourage them, help with medical expenses or any other financial needs. Most importantly, adopt them by committing to love them with the love of the Lord.

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**25th March**

104 incidents of Church attacks were recorded in 2019. Many Church buildings were burned, vandalized, broken etc. We may enjoy comfortable and safe meeting places to congregate in, while Christians in various place in India do not have that safety and luxury.

**PRAY:**

For the Christians who have experienced their Church buildings being destroyed, and are left dejected and without hope. Churches to support the restoration and rebuilding of Church buildings by volunteering to help with man power, donation of damaged equipment/materials and contributing towards financial and other needs.

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**26th March**

The number of House Churches in India is indefinite but numerous. House Churches prove to be convenient for Christians in villages, in remote places, for Churches with financial constraints etc. Sadly, 2019 witnessed the shutting down of hundreds of Churches across the country by religious fundamentalists.

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**PRAY:**

God’s protection and provision would rest upon every House Church in India. These churches would be a great influence in their communities and draw many to Jesus Christ. Those House Churches that have been closed would be reopened.

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27th March

The youth make up an important part of the Church. With good counsel and direction, many of our Christian youth can become future stalwarts of the Church of God. Is the Church making a conscious attempt to train and raise up a Spirit-filled and Christ-centred army to stand firm in battle?

**PRAY:**

Our Christian youth would have a pure passion to pursue Jesus. The empty pleasures of this world would not sway them away from Holy ambition. Churches would have regular programs for the youth that nurture them into fearless and courageous disciples of Christ who are even willing to lay down their lives for Him, if need be.

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28th March

There have been instances where Christians have conducted activities involving evangelism, social work, charity etc., and not been wise and sensitive about the surroundings. Many a times, these acts draw unnecessary attention from unbelievers, eventually leading to unwanted trouble. God’s word also shows us that the Holy Spirit protected many of God’s people from harm and danger by preventing them from approaching certain people and places.

**PRAY:**

Churches must sensitize Christians about being lead by the Holy Spirit, especially when it comes to approaching a person or place. We must use Godly wisdom and discernment while communicating with unbelievers. Pray that we may be obedient to the Holy Spirit.

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**29th March**
Thank you for faithfully standing in prayer with us for the persecuted. Has God been speaking to you to support the persecuted Church in other ways over the past month?

**PRAY:**
That God may lead you to serve the Persecuted Church in the best way possible. He would create ways for you to be a big blessing, a great influence and an advocate for the persecuted.

**30th March**
Most of us are blessed to belong to a local Church. We may belong to Churches that are light houses in dark places, Churches that are a blessing to the community. How can we stir up our Church to stand with the persecuted.

**PRAY:**
Thank the Lord and bless your Church. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for your Church today. May your Church be a channel of Gods love towards the persecuted and be a perfect example of Jesus to a broken world.

**31st March**
Persecution Relief has been serving the Persecuted Church in India since 2016. Our mission is to provide comprehensive support to the persecuted Church in India by linking it to the free Church of the world.

**PRAY:**
Persecution Relief would persevere towards the Goal for which Christ created us. That God would give us many opportunities to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to Churches across the country, preparing Gods people to stand strong in their Christian faith even in times of persecution.
PERSECUTION RELIEF is an inter-denominational initiative to provide comprehensive support, (Prayerfully, Financially, Politically, Judicially) to the persecuted Church in India.

OUR MISSION
To provide comprehensive support to the persecuted church in India by linking it to the free church of the world.

OUR GOAL
To ensure freedom to worship Jesus Christ in India.

OUR MOTTO
Serving Persecuted - Loving Persecutors

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