

Courage to Rise Above

LEARN

What Is Persecution?

Persecution happens when someone is hurt or punished because of their religious beliefs.

More than **360 million Christians** around the world are suffering because they love Jesus.

On this International Day of Prayer, we pray for persecuted Christians in three countries: **Nigeria**, **India**, and **Nicaragua**. Other countries where Christians face persecution are **Syria**, **Egypt**, and **Iraq**.

MARY'S STORY



Mary and her family love Jesus. They live in Nigeria where it's dangerous to be a Christian.

One Sunday morning, they were in church when some mean people broke in and chased all the worshippers away. Mary and her family couldn't go back to their home or their church.

Now Mary lives with her parents and brothers and sister in a new place where she gets to worship Jesus and go to school.

But mean people are still persecuting Christians in Nigeria—just because they love Jesus!

Pray for God's peace and protection for the people of Nigeria and for Christians all over the world.

Pray for the *Persecuted* Church

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

—John 16:33

WORD SEARCH

M	T	N	I	G	E	R	I	A	S	A	M	G
O	Y	A	E	E	G	Y	P	T	H	E	C	R
P	E	R	S	E	C	U	T	I	O	N	H	A
H	S	H	W	G	N	S	D	A	W	E	R	N
P	P	R	K	T	M	U	U	I	O	N	I	D
R	E	R	D	A	L	G	U	R	I	U	S	I
A	G	R	E	I	A	Y	G	A	S	E	T	N
Y	O	N	K	R	V	F	H	Q	T	R	I	D
E	Y	M	A	Y	J	E	S	U	S	E	A	I
R	U	C	T	S	V	E	E	E	R	P	N	A
K	I	N	C	O	E	A	R	K	Y	A	S	R
N	R	A	L	D	F	A	T	H	O	P	E	H

- NIGERIA
- NICARAGUA
- INDIA
- PERSECUTION
- JESUS
- PRAYER
- HOPE
- SYRIA
- EGYPT
- IRAQ
- CHRISTIANS

COLOR BY NUMBER



- 1 = yellow or gold
- 2 = black
- 3 = blue
- 4 = red
- 5 = grey or brown

PRAY

God Is *Always* With Us

Even in times of trouble, God is always with us and our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Now is the time to pray for all of the Christians around the world, especially those who are suffering because they love Jesus.

Read aloud Deuteronomy 31:6 (on the front of this booklet).

Circle the words, **strong**, **courageous**, and **God goes with you**.

Using each of these words, write a prayer for persecuted Christian families. Save this paper and put it in your Bible to remind you to pray for these brothers and sisters on a regular basis.

I pray ...

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



take  heart

IDOP

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
for the PERSECUTED CHURCH



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you. ..."

— Deuteronomy 31:6