

Memory Verse

Philippians 1:9

**For it has been granted to you for the sake of Christ,
you should not only believe in Him, but also suffer for
His sake,**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH



**PERSEVERING
THROUGH

PERSECUTION**

What if it was us! The early church father Tertullian said, "*The blood of the martyrs, is the seed of the church.*" Today is the international day of prayer for the persecuted church.

YouTube page: *MissionaryMikeW* (all 1 word) and type "*Why we Pray.*" It is the first on the page. VOM provides for and supports *persecuted Christians* around the world.

A. The Probability of Persecution

We need a theology of suffering!

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Philippians 1:29. For it has been granted (*given* KJV) [Gk. *Excharisthe* from *Charizomai* from *charis* - grace, grant, freely give, etc.] to you (*plural*) for the sake of Christ, you should *not only* believe in Him, but *also* suffer for His sake,

A. The Probability of Persecution

It can come from *within families* and be minimal to severe.

There is *government persecution*. This can range from minimal to severe.

Persecution is *worldwide* and it depends on *where* one lives, *who* is in authority and, *how faithful* one is to Christ that *determines the type and level of persecution*.

B. Preparing for Persecution

1. Think about Persecution
2. Study and Memorize Scripture
Matthew 10:19-20
2 Timothy 3:12
1 Peter 2:20b-21
3. Study the Lives of Persecuted Believers
Life is not about us, but God, His plan, and His purpose. My life is not my own and I need a **greater view** than just my life...

C. Persevering Through the Coming Persecution

We often ask “why” in our pain. God is training us, drawing us close to Him and purging us to make us more like Jesus.

There IS meaning in suffering!

Life is God's training ground for righteousness.

C. Persevering Through the Coming Persecution

Be Armored: Ephesians 6:10-20

Be Bold: Matthew 10:28

Be Loving: Romans 12:20

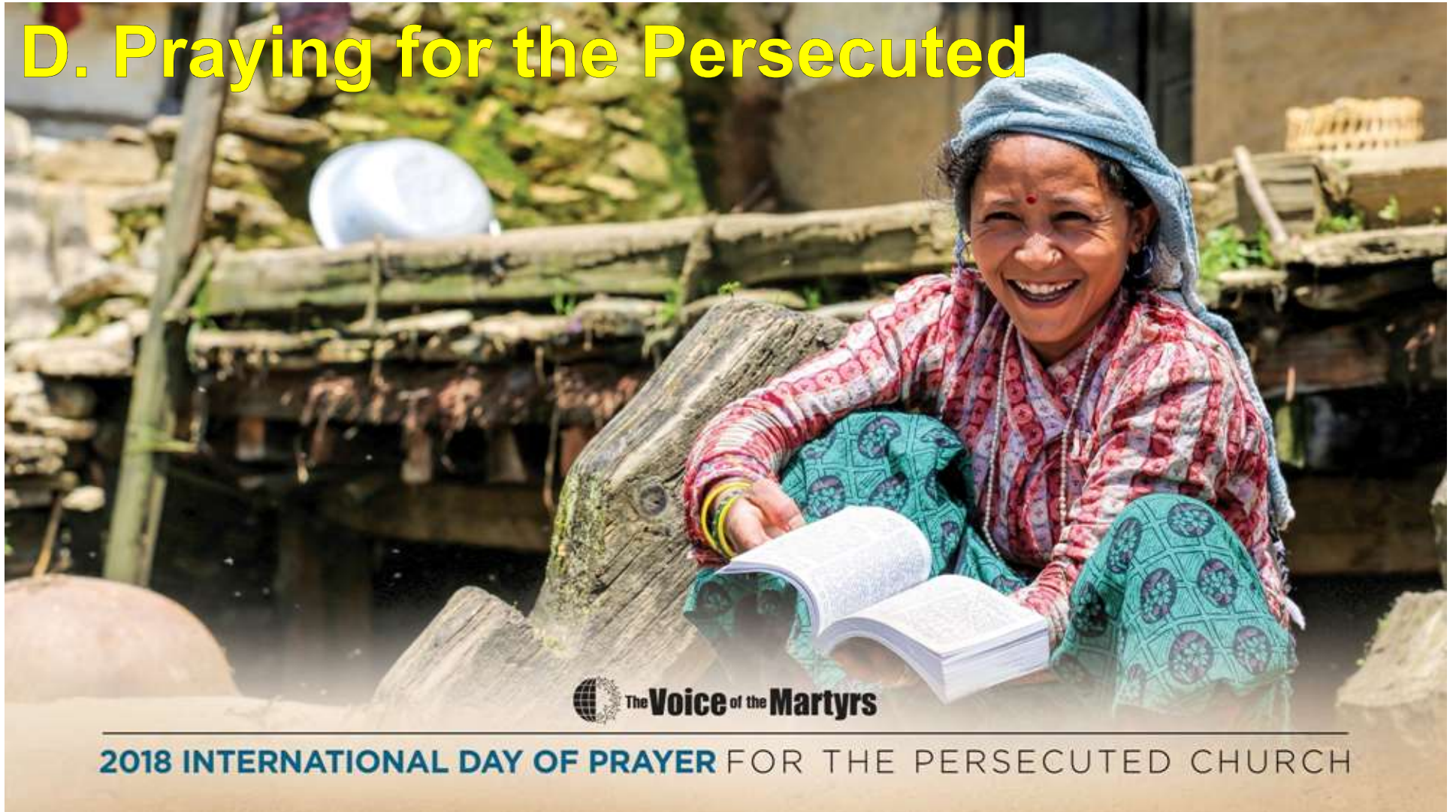
Be Prayerful: Matthew 5:44b

Be Hopeful: Romans 8:18, Titus 2:13-14

Be Thankful: Matthew 5:10-12, 1 Peter 4:13-14

Be Devoted: Philippians 3:8-11

D. Praying for the Persecuted



 **The Voice of the Martyrs**

2018 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



The first request of persecuted Christians is **“PRAY FOR US.”**



Pray for Christians around the world who are imprisoned for their faith.



Pray that God will strengthen, protect and encourage them.



Pray for God's protection of pastors and evangelists who share the gospel in restricted and hostile nations.





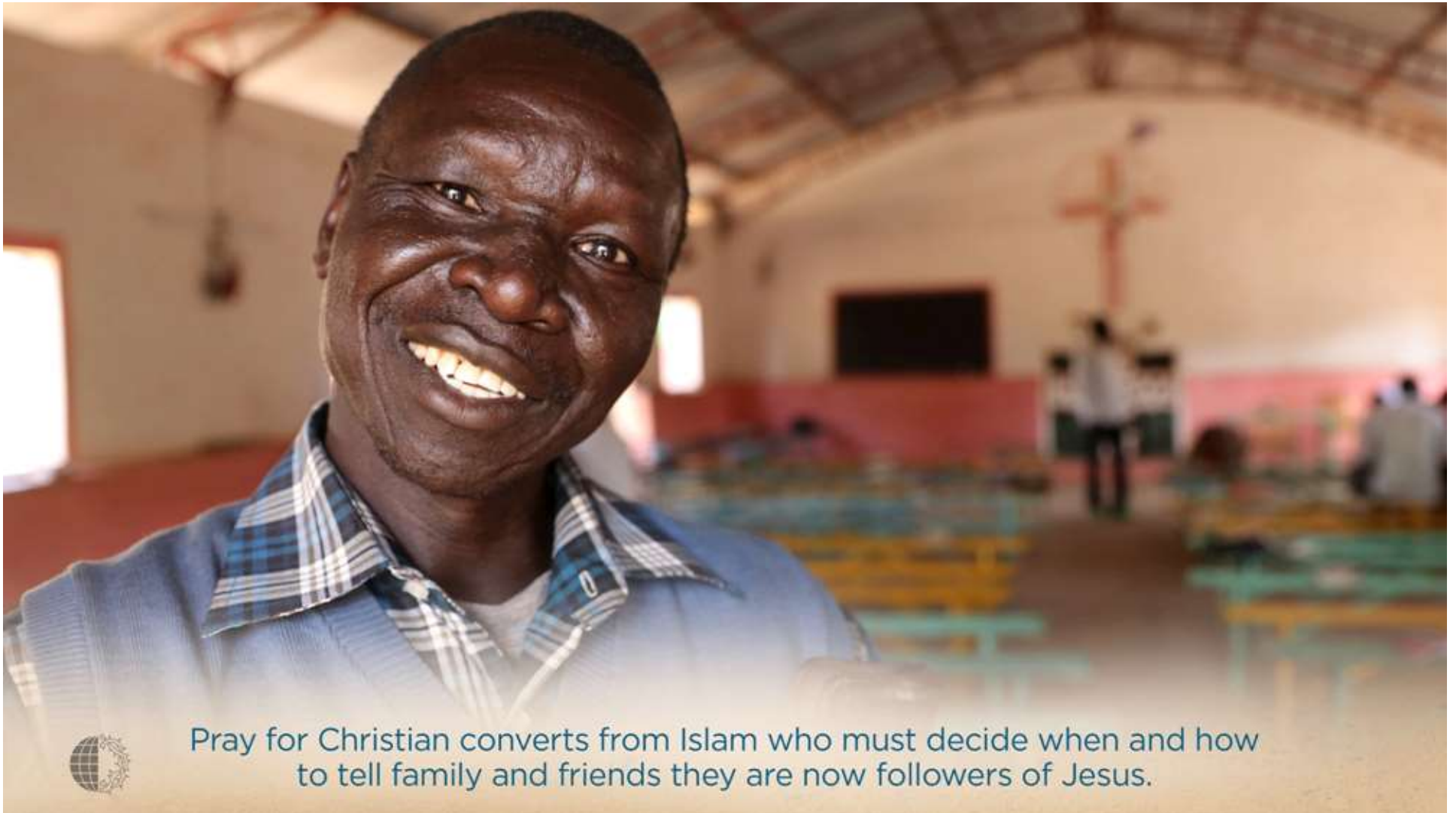
Pray for the provision and encouragement of Christians whose family members were killed for living out their faith in Christ.





Pray that government officials in hostile and restricted nations will come to know Jesus Christ and follow His will for their lives.





Pray for Christian converts from Islam who must decide when and how to tell family and friends they are now followers of Jesus.



Pray for radio, television and internet ministries that broadcast God's Word into restricted nations.





Pray for the provision and safe delivery of Bibles to believers
in hostile and restricted nations.





Pray that persecuted Christians will boldly witness
for Him, even to their persecutors.





Pray that Christians in free nations will choose to stand with our persecuted brothers and sisters.



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Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

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