

## WORLD CHURCH PRAYER POD

# NIGHT

# DAY

20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2010

### POD for the World Church

Persecuted but not forsaken.....

Each year millions of Christians face persecution because of their faith in Christ. Some face physical violence and death; others contend with unjust imprisonment, denial of religious liberties such as rights to worship and share one's faith, and discrimination in employment and education.

Christians facing persecution are strengthened by knowing that they have not been forsaken, that the family of God is ready to walk with them.

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed"

2 Corinthians 4 vs. 8-9

"I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail" Matthew 16 v18

### DISPLAY AREA

Maps of the world, globe, geography books, and flags of the top 50 persecuted countries.

Persecuted areas can be marked on world map with red dots. Top 50 countries could be printed on a list as part of prayer pod.

### Resources available from "Open Doors"

[www.opendoorsuk.org/countries](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/countries)

A map and prayer booklet & highlight the top 50 persecuted countries.

Prepare small coloured flags of some of the persecuted countries on the list. Prayers may be written on reverse of flag and then pegged to a washing line.

Small sticky dots could be provided to enable "prayers" to locate the countries on the world map, while they are praying.

Newspaper cuttings of other recent world disasters (e.g. Haiti, Chile) could also be a part of the display.

Print out stories from "Open Doors" web site for people to read.



Iran is number two on the Open Doors World Watch List of countries where persecution of Christians is most severe. For many believers in this country, choosing to follow Jesus can mean discrimination, isolation and even imprisonment. We believe it's time to share with our churches and small groups the reality of being a Christian in Iran.

Muslim-background believers (MBBs)

**Change in religion:**

According to Islamic law (Sharia), apostasy from Islam is punishable by death. Many Muslim-background believers (MBBs) receive threatening phone calls and death threats, and have their homes raided to pressure them into returning to Islam.

Pray for perseverance for MBBs, many of whom pay a high price for their discipleship. Ask God to comfort and strengthen new believers who have been ostracised from their families and communities because of their faith in Jesus.

Pray that those who have been imprisoned for their faith would have strength to stand firm in Christ.

**Christians who have fled:**

Mohsen Namvar, 40, left Iran with his family after being tortured in prison. He says, "I do not doubt that they wanted to kill me. They interrogated me very hard as I did not want to give them the names of former Muslims or information about house churches." Many Christians who flee leave everything behind, sometimes even their whole family. Pray for those who have emigrated and feel pushed out of their homeland. Pray that victims of torture and trauma will know emotional, spiritual and physical healing.





## Equipping the Church

### Bibles

Bible translation and distribution is challenging and risky, but it is vital for the fledgling and fast-growing house churches especially.

Pray for more workers to translate, produce and distribute Bibles and training materials in the Farsi language.

### Discipleship courses

Open Doors co-worker Sandra\* says, "Many are in great need of discipleship courses. For example, one man came to faith through a dream about Jesus. For one year he did not know any other Christians and did not have a Bible. He just prayed to the man he had seen in his dream."

Praise God for the great number of participants in discipleship courses and for the trainers who come mostly from abroad. Pray that the courses may encourage them and help them grow in faith.

### Evangelism

Farah, a believer from a Muslim background, was able to show the Jesus film to her family and has even been able to invite interested Muslims to an Alpha course in her house church.

Thank God that the church in Iran is growing rapidly

Pray that Iranians would become increasingly open to the gospel

Pray for boldness for MBBs whose families are open to hearing about their faith.

Christian media

Zary used to earn her living by selling handwritten prayer leaflets with verses from the Quran to people who want to be blessed. Then she became a Christian through watching a preacher on satellite TV. When she received a Bible two years later, she began to sell verses from the Bible.

Pray for wisdom for those involved in Christian satellite TV and radio programmes being transmitted across Iran

Pray that many Iranians would be exposed to the message of the gospel and would respond to the love of God.

Pray for evangelical church leaders who are targeted by the authorities because of their evangelistic activities

Pray for more trained leaders, discipleship courses and training materials in Farsi for the growing house churches

Pray for unity between unregistered house churches and the recognised Armenian, Assyrian and Chaldean churches

Pray for courage and protection for Christians who share the gospel with Muslims.

\*name changed for security reasons

2 Timothy 2

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

## Colossians 1

“3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel 6 that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our [c] behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”