

***"God's love doesn't negate suffering, and
suffering doesn't negate God's love."***

~ Barnabas Mam

Taking place across Canada on November 1st, 2020 is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). This year's theme is "Hope in Isolation." We encourage churches, prayer groups, families, and individual believers to take some time that day to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. For more information and access to helpful resources, visit IDOP.ca.

CHINA: Arrested for "Illegal Business Practices"

Sources: ChinaAid, AsiaNews, South China Morning Post, Radio Free Asia

A well-known Chinese businesswoman has been arrested and charged with "illegal business practices," an accusation frequently used to stifle the criticism of political dissidents. Geng Xiaonan was detained on September 9th, along with her husband Qin Zhen. According to Geng's lawyer, the charges relate to her involvement in 8,000 illegal publications; a number which has since grown to approximately 200,000 and even includes cooking magazines.

Geng and Qin are founders of a privately operated publishing company, Ruiya Books. Geng has also worked as an independent television and film producer, owning various companies together with her husband. In recent years, she has become known for publicly condemning abuses by the Chinese Communist Party. This includes her past support for an outspoken academic, Xu Zhangrun, who has been very critical of President Xi Jinping and his handling of the pandemic. Xu was arrested earlier this year but has since been released.



Geng Xiaonan
Photo: ChinaAid

Since the arrest of Geng, Xu has now reciprocated support. Speaking to *Radio Free Asia*, he stated: "Geng Xiaonan spoke for justice. She cried for the political dissidents who lost their lives.... We cannot just sit back and let it be. We shall make our voices heard and call for her release." For more on the persecution of Christians in China, and to review previously published reports, go to our [country report](#).

While prayerfully upholding Geng, please also include her husband Qin whose current situation is unknown. Pray that during this season of accusations, God will grant this couple the fortitude to withstand the slingshots of the enemy. May He encourage and embolden Geng and Qin, fill them with His love, and provide them wisdom, guidance and protection as they raise their voices for justice. Intercede for the many other Christians in China currently being detained for their faith, or experiencing other forms of persecution, asking the Lord to fill them with His perfect peace through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

LAOS: Christians Forced to Flee Their Homes

Sources: Christian Post, Vatican News



Local authorities in the Laotian province of Salavan chased seven Christians from their homes, forcing them to live within makeshift huts in the woods, all because these believers refused to renounce their faith. The Christians were members of two families from the village of Pasing-Kang. Since their eviction on October 10th, relatives have attempted to take them food and clothing, but village leaders have forbidden the provision of any assistance. The family members are concerned that they may also be thrown out of their homes if they provide help.

Christians represent about two percent of this primarily Buddhist country. Christianity has commonly been viewed by the Communist government as a North American religion and a tool to undermine the regime. To learn more about the suffering of our Christian brothers and sisters in Laos, visit our [country report](#).

Remember these ostracized believers in your prayers as they courageously stand firm in their faith despite this difficult situation. Ask God to shield them with protection, provide them new places in which to peacefully reside, and supply them with the daily bread needed for both spiritual and physical sustenance. May they find comfort in the assurance that our Sovereign Lord is a true shelter for their souls. Pray that their willingness to suffer for Christ will ultimately serve as a testimony so unsaved relatives and other villagers of their former community will come to faith in Christ.

SUDAN: Three Young Christians Assaulted

Source: Morning Star News

Three young Christians were assaulted in a suburb north of Khartoum on October 6th because of their faith in Christ. Levi Hakim, 17, had entered a shop when a Muslim man grabbed him and dragged him behind a mosque. There, two others joined in the attack, declaring their disdain for the presence of Christians in the area.



The city of Khartoum.

When Levi failed to return, his 16-year-old cousin Jal John Paul went searching for him. The assailants identified Jal as "another one of them," meaning "a Christian," and then proceeded to assault him as well. Concerned when the young men did not return, Jal's aunt, 20-year-old Nyawal Paul, went to the shop where she was likewise beaten.

All three were members of the Khartoum National Presbyterian Church, a congregation led by Jal's father who is the pastor. Unfortunately, none of the victims were able to identify the assailants. Although the incident has been reported to police, no action has been taken at this point. In the meantime, Levi's mother has been threatened by the perpetrators and given a warning to drop the case or face consequences. For more information on the various difficulties encountered by Christians in Sudan, go to our [country report](#).

Please pray for the protection of this family, as well as other Christians in Sudan. Ask God to

guard their hearts, keep them safe, and give them the inner peace that comes from knowing their lives and eternal destiny rest in His capable hands. Pray that those responsible for the assault crimes will be identified and brought to justice. May God soften the hearts of the opposers, unclenching their angry fists of hatred and violence, so that they will instead be agents of His love, unity and peace. Finally, may Sudan's transitional government, which has indicated a promise of added religious freedoms, continue to encourage equality and liberty for all its citizens.