

"...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

~ Romans 5:3-5 ESV

UGANDA: Christian Radio Preacher Murdered

Source: Morning Star News

David Omara was the pastor of Christian Church Center and a well-known radio preacher in northern Uganda. During his radio broadcast on October 31st, he contrasted Christianity to Islam. After finishing the broadcast at about 9 p.m., Pastor David received a phone call from a listener who expressed appreciation for his message and invited him to meet with some friends. Unaware of the danger that awaited him, Pastor David went to the meeting location, along with his son Simon Okut.



Mourners at Pastor David Omara's burial.

Photo: Morning Star News

Upon arrival, the two were ambushed by six people. Simon managed to escape but Pastor David was strangled and beaten to death. When his wife received the shattering news, she immediately passed out and, even after receiving treatment, was unable to recognize people. Speaking of the incident, a colleague said of the slain pastor: "He worked tirelessly for the Kingdom of God to the day he breathed his last breath."

The pastor is survived by his wife and their eight children who range in age between 10 and 30. The church is calling for prayer and support on behalf of this grieving family, and specifically for the recovery of his emotionally distraught widow.

Despite having a reputation for being one of the most Christianized nations in Africa, a strong militant Islamic stance has created problems in recent years. For more information on the rising levels of Christian persecution in Uganda, please visit our [country report](#).

Please remember Pastor David's wife and children during this time of great sorrow. Ask the Lord to wrap His arms of unfailing love and peace around them, providing each one needed comfort, strength, and hope for the future. May the militants responsible for the murder of their loved one not only be brought to justice but also delivered from the evil one. Like the radical transformation of 'Saul to the Apostle Paul' in the New Testament, may they find their lives' purpose through the mercy and redemption of Jesus Christ. On a broader scale, pray that the faithful work and witness of Pastor David will continue to resonate in the hearts of all who have heard the Gospel message through his ministry, bringing them to a saving faith in Christ as well.

ALGERIA: Churches Closed by Pandemic Remain Unopened

Source: Middle East Concern



Photo: Middle East Concern

As the COVID-19 pandemic has swept the world, places of worship in many nations have been closed to prevent the spread of the virus. While all places of worship and entertainment were initially closed in Algeria since March, governing officials decided to gradually reopen various religious centres as of August, beginning with large mosques consisting of over a thousand worshippers.

On October 27th, authorities in Tizi Ouzou province, where most Algerian Christians reside, released a list of 183 mosques that have been granted permission to reopen. Some of these mosques hold fewer than the originally mandated thousand worshippers. In addition, there has been no mention of any churches being reopened, including the 25 affiliated with the Eglise Protestante d'Algérie (EPA), an umbrella organization of Protestant churches.

For the past three years, authorities in Algeria have been waging a campaign against the EPA churches, resulting in 13 being forcibly closed, with others receiving orders to cease all religious activities. There are concerns that the pandemic closures may be used as part of this campaign, keeping all the churches in the country closed indefinitely. Additional reports on the recent church closures in Algeria are available at our [country report](#).

Please remember our Christian family in Algeria who are continuing to persevere and bear witness to God's love in the midst of intensifying persecution. Pray that Algeria's governing authorities will treat all citizens equally, and thus allow the closed churches to reopen soon. May the country's Christian leaders be filled with the wisdom and peace of God as they confront this difficult situation, having the assurance that ultimately nothing can stop the advancement of His Kingdom. Furthermore, may the officials responsible for the church closures respond positively to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, so that they too may experience the forgiveness and new life offered to them through Jesus Christ.

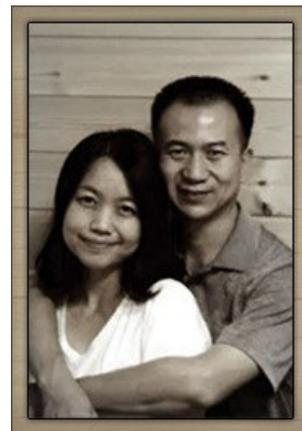
REPORT UPDATE

CHINA: Early Rain Covenant Church Further Targeted

Source: ChinaAid

In December 2018, security forces raided the Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, Sichuan. More than a hundred members were arrested, including Pastor Wang Yi, who has since been sentenced to nine years in prison. The location where the congregation met has been demolished and authorities have officially banned all future gatherings. Despite these measures, members of the church have sought alternate ways to continue meeting for worship and share the message of the Gospel. In response, security forces have continued to intimidate church members.

On October 11th, Xuewei Jia was taken for interrogation because he had participated in a retreat service. According to his social media account, he was forced into a van, verbally abused, and interrogated



Li Yingqiang and his wife.
Photo: WeChat via ChinaAid

for eight hours. To avoid reacting in anger, Xuwei chose to respond with silence, despite the relentless physical and verbal abuse he encountered. He was eventually allowed to return home.

Li Yingqiang, an elder of Early Rain Covenant Church, was often responsible for releasing updates on the situation since the initial arrests in 2018. On the morning of October 25th, police entered his home, as well as the home of a fellow church member, Xiao Luobiao, and his family. At the time of the raids, these Christians were participating in online worship. Both Li and Xiao were detained until that afternoon. Li was forced to delete all tweets from his Twitter account and ordered to remove the listed names of all his followers.

In an effort to intimidate Li and his family, police also forced them to leave their home in Chengdu, escorting them to the city of Leshan which is about 180 kilometres away. Before arriving to the city, Li signed a lease in hopes of avoiding expulsion. Nevertheless, the harassment of officials resumed a week later.

On November 3rd, police arrived at Li's new location, demanding "demographic information." The next day, they called him several times, asking for details about the lease. Despite Li's refusal to provide the names of his new landlords, police made contact with them and ordered that the lease be rescinded. Having been forced again to leave their home, Li is requesting prayer for him and his family: "May the Lord provide us a place...(helping) us lean on His grace and guidance as we take each step...so we can bear witness to His justice and mercy." To learn more about the ongoing persecution experienced by the members of the Early Rain Covenant Church, visit our [list of reports](#).

Please join us in praying for Li and his family, asking the Lord to provide them protection and a safe new home. As they wait on God leading, may they be filled with renewed strength and encouragement moment by moment. Also remember to intercede for the other members of the Early Rain Covenant Church during this season of heightened persecution, including the imprisoned Pastor Wang. While praising God for their unwavering faith in the midst of difficulty, continue to prayerfully uphold them so that they will have the courage and resolve to remain obedient to our King. Finally, ask God, in His mercy, to touch the hearts of His opposers, in hopes that they too will walk in the love and salvation of Christ.

