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NATHALIE
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BURKINA FASO

When Nathalie's village was attacked, she went to the church, knelt down, and started to pray. The terrorists ordered her out of the church.

"One terrorist asked me, 'So you were praying to your God?'" she says. "I replied, 'Yes.' And he asked, 'Did your God answer your prayer?' I said, 'Yes, I think he will.' And they laughed."

Sadly, Nathalie's husband Thomas (pictured) was killed in the attack, and her house was burnt to the ground. Her children, though, were safe in the neighbouring village.

"It was very difficult to bear. How could I take care of my children? There were moments when I used to cry."

Nathalie was helped with trauma support from Open Doors partners.

"When something bad happens to you, and you keep it inside you, in your heart, it will eventually end up in suffering," she says. "You should share your pains with other people, that will be helpful to you. By the end of the training our hearts were freed."



PRAYER

Lord, we ask You to comfort those who are grieving and struggling to cope with loss. Some have lost their homes, some have lost their jobs, some have lost loved ones. Protect them, Lord, we pray. Bring people alongside them who can help them with their trauma and their pain.

And may they know that we, too, are with them, part of their family across the world. Bind up the broken-hearted, Lord, and lead them through Your love to a place of peace and hope.

AMEN

ALL-AGE PRAYER

Dear Lord, please help all the mothers and children in Burkina Faso. Keep them safe from harm and help them find food to eat and somewhere to live.

AMEN

PRAYER POINTS

- That Islamist extremists would encounter the truth of Jesus
- For comfort for Christians who have been displaced or lost loved ones
- For God's blessing on local partners as they care for displaced believers.



/// **PASTOR HAMZA** ///

CAMEROON

Thousands of Christians in Far North Cameroon are displaced due to attacks from Islamist extremist groups.

They need physical care – food, medicine, hygiene. But they also need spiritual care.

“They don’t have any hope”, says Pastor Hamza*. “I can’t leave them in their despair.”

Helping their brothers and sisters in times of grief and loss is physically, emotionally and spiritually demanding.

“We frequently travel to our persecuted brothers and sisters,” says Pastor Moustafa*, “just to be there and to spend time with them and pray with them. You cry with orphans. You cry with widows. You sit down with them on their mat or even in the dirt on the ground.

“The faith of many has weakened. Pray that they will persevere and that we will have the strength to bear the suffering. Also pray for protection and the amount of suffering will decrease. Pray that our people can find food to eat.”



PRAYER

Lord, we ask You to be with Your church in Cameroon. We pray especially for church leaders like Hamza and Moustafa. Help them to strengthen the faith of those who have lost so much.

Thank you for the example of the many church leaders in sub-Saharan Africa who sacrificially serve their flock. Give them strength for the task and courage to continue speaking out for You. May they travel under Your protection and always carry with them Your love and hope.

AMEN

ALL-AGE PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for the people who look after our churches. Please be with the church leaders in Cameroon. Help them not to be tired and keep them safe.

AMEN

PRAYER POINTS

- For the provision of physical and spiritual needs
- That believers will have strength to bear the suffering
- That church leaders will bring strength and hope to persecuted believers in the region.

*Names changed for security reasons



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MARIAM
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, many Christians have been driven out of their communities by violence.

Mariam* (pictured right) has spent nearly ten years on the move. In 2017, she had to leave her home and her job as a cocoa farmer when extremists attacked and killed her neighbours. Since then, she and her seven children have repeatedly had to flee. Their latest journey saw them travelling over 280km before they eventually found safety in the grounds of a church.

Mariam became ill through the trauma, so the church helped her with medical care. Mariam and her family were also among the 3,000 families who Open Doors was able to help with food and wrappers (material which is used for clothing). She is also being helped to start up a small business, selling fish, tomatoes and onions.

“Today, Christians far from us have made us happy”, she said. “I know that there are Christians like us who pray for us and who have just wiped away our tears during this difficult time.”



PRAYER

Father God, we pray for all those who are hungry and far from home. May they have food to eat and a safe place to stay. May they be helped to find ways to provide for their families. Show them that they are not forgotten, and wipe away their tears.

We thank You for all the churches and agencies who work so hard to look after people who have been exiled from their homes. And help us to help others, Lord, both here in our community and elsewhere in the world.

AMEN

ALL-AGE PRAYER

Lord God, it's very sad that lots of people don't have enough to eat, or a safe place to live. Please help them to find food and to look after their families.

AMEN

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for the relief aid supplied to these families
- Pray that Mariam and others will be healed from trauma
- Pray for stability and peace in DRC, and in other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

*Name changed for security reasons



ASABE AND JOANNA

NIGERIA

Asabe was badly injured when armed militants attacked her community and set fire to her home. She and her six-year-old daughter Joanna escaped, but sadly her husband and three other children died. They are among thousands of Nigerian Christians who have been targeted for their faith.

After the attack, Joanna helped her mother to see hope, reminding her that, one day, the family will be reunited.

“God used my daughter to help me,” Asabe says.

Asabe was helped by trauma counselling and through gifts of food and clothing. “I didn’t know people could love like this,” she says.

“There are many widows like me in Nigeria. Please pray that God will strengthen us, and that God will make these attacks stop, so that we can go back to our home.”

They have suffered so much, but they continue to trust in God. “God has left me for a purpose,” she says, “and I am asking Him to help me fulfil that purpose.”



PRAYER

Father God, we pray for all those who are struggling to see hope. So many people have lost so much, Lord. Help them to hold on to their future; help them to continue to trust in You.

We pray for the many thousands of widows who must raise families on their own. Thank You for their resilience and their self-sacrifice. May they find a new purpose in You. May they draw strength from those around them, and from the prayers being lifted up for them around the world.

AMEN

ALL-AGE PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for all the people who care for us. Thank You for our families. Please be with all the children who need looking after today.

AMEN

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that the many thousands of widows in sub-Saharan Africa will be able to provide for their families
- Pray for children who have lost parents or siblings
- Pray that displaced people will find new hope and purpose.



ARISE AFRICA

Millions of Christians face violent persecution in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2025, 4,491 Christians were killed for their faith in the region – an average of twelve a day.

Open Doors estimates that over 16 million Christians have been displaced, driven out of their homes and villages. Most of these people live in displacement camps, desperate for food, for security, for hope.

Thousands of Christian communities have been targeted – especially by Islamist militants targeting Christian communities. Churches have been burned, homes and businesses attacked.

“The attacks of Christians are on the increase,” says Pastor Josiah (picutred), from Nigeria. “They attack us because of our religion. They kill

Christians. I know many churches where they don’t worship there any longer, because the church buildings have been destroyed.”

In response, the African church has called on Christians around the world to join them in the *Arise Africa* campaign.

Arise Africa is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness, support, advocacy and prayer for Christians facing violent persecution in sub-Saharan Africa.

“Those who are praying: don’t think your prayers are not being felt – they are. Through them, I have understood the love of believers. Prayers reach anywhere. There is power in prayer. I am pleading and praying that you keep on supporting through your prayers and help.”



PRAYER

Lord God, today we pray for all Your people who face persecution around the world.

Especially today, we bring before You Your children in sub-Saharan Africa. Give courage to those who are afraid, hope to those in despair, and comfort and help to those in need.

Speak to us, we pray, as we listen to their stories and learn from their lives.

May we be a voice for those who have been silenced. May we be a support for those in need, and family for those who have lost their own. And may their faithful witness encourage us all in our daily walk with You.

AMEN



PRAY FOR THE PETITION

The *Arise Africa* petition calls for justice, protection and restoration for the millions of Christians facing violent persecution in sub-Saharan Africa.

The *Arise Africa* campaign began with an impassioned plea from Pastor Barnabas, a church leader in a displacement camp in Nigeria.

“Millions of Christians are displaced in Africa,” he said. “The news doesn’t care about it, politicians don’t talk about it, governments don’t talk about it... Nobody talks about it.”

That’s why the petition is so vital. By presenting the signatures of hundreds of thousands of Christians worldwide, we can draw attention to what is happening in sub-Saharan Africa, and urge governments to do all they can to address the issue.

The petition will be handed in to the UK government, the UN and EU, and to other governments worldwide, in November 2026.

Please pray for its impact.



PRAYER

We pray for the impact of the *Arise Africa* petition. Many people are affected by the violence in sub-Saharan Africa, but the toll on those who follow You is immense. Please may they draw strength from the fact that others are speaking up. May they know that their voices have been listened to and their suffering has not gone unobserved.

May the petition cause governments to act justly and positively to bring justice and peace. And may its message continue to reverberate around the world.

AMEN

ALL-AGE PRAYER

Lord God, a lot of people around the world are speaking out about what is happening to Christians in Africa. Please may those in power hear what they are saying and make things better.

AMEN

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the impact of the petition in the UK and Northern Ireland, and all around the world
- Pray that governments and decision makers would recognise the need to take action
- Pray for peace, justice and restoration for all those affected.