

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024

INFORMATION FOR LEADING PRAYERS

PRAY FOR NIGERIA

International Day
of Prayer for the
Persecuted Church
2024



Displaced Christian receives aid



Thank you for taking part in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church – you and your church will be joining many churches in Ireland, Britain, USA, Canada and other countries in devoting time to praying for the persecuted. This information sheet offers suggestions as to how your prayers for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria can be incorporated into your time of worship. Please discuss with your church leader what would work best in your church.

PREPARATION

1. View IDOP video at www.churchinchains.ie and familiarise yourself with it (even if you don't plan to use the video, it would be helpful in your preparations to view it). It features Mark Lipdo of Stefanos Foundation (a Church in Chains partner organisation serving persecuted Nigerian Christians) speaking about the situation of Christians in Nigeria and ends with three prayer points, also included on the bookmark. **PLEASE NOTE: The video deals with the reality of violent attacks and while it does not contain explicit images, you may wish to consider showing it when children are not present.**
2. Arrange in advance with the person responsible for projection in your church to download the video.
3. On Sunday 3 November, give bookmarks to people as they arrive or place on seats/pews (ask your church leader first).

PRESENTATION

The estimated time involved (introduction + video + prayer) is around 7 minutes. Introduce the subject: "Today is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church". Explain that this year our prayers focus on Nigeria where Christians living in the northeast and Middle Belt regions are under attack from Muslim militants. Christian villages are being attacked and people killed, wounded and forced to flee their homes. Show the video (**approximately 3 minutes long**).

If not using video, give a basic introduction to Nigeria – the following may be a helpful summary: Islamist militants have killed at least 16,000 Christians in the past four years in the north and Middle Belt regions and have injured, raped or kidnapped thousands more. They also attack government institutions and moderate Muslims who do not share their jihadist agenda. Church in Chains' partner organisation Stefanos Foundation supports Christians in the north and Middle Belt who have been bereaved, injured or lost crops, homes and church buildings in Islamist attacks. Working with local churches, Stefanos identifies those in greatest need and provides emergency food, shelter and trauma counselling workshops.

PRAYER

Use the following three prayer points, which are printed on the back of the bookmark. Alternatively, you may wish to use the prayer that is also printed on the bookmark.

1. **Pray for peace in Nigeria and an end to the attacks.**
2. **Pray that those who have lost loved ones and homes and farms will be cared for and that God will give them the power to love their persecutors.**
3. **Pray that Christians living in freedom in southern Nigeria will show concern and generosity to those who are persecuted.**

Finish by encouraging people to find out more by visiting our website www.churchinchains.ie



CHURCH IN CHAINS

PO Box 10447, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland

T 01-282 5393 E info@churchinchains.ie W www.churchinchains.ie Registered Charity: CHY23070