Since the church began, there have been some who want to stop the Gospel from spreading. They will harm and sometimes even kill Christians. This treatment of Christians is called religious persecution.

In many places around the world, religious persecution still happens. In some countries, the governments have made it against the law to be a Christian. In these places, Christians may suffer for sharing the Gospel or preaching in public. Churches must meet secretly.

How do we help the persecuted church throughout the world? The best way is to pray for them. On November 8, churches all over the world participated in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. This annual day of prayer is a great day to pray with your family and your church for Christians who are persecuted around the world. If you, your family, or your church missed this special time of prayer, you can always plan your own time of prayer for the persecuted church and encourage your friends and church to join you in prayer.

Here is a prayer guide to use with your family or children’s mission education class to help you pray for persecuted Christians all year long. You can use it to pray throughout the week.

**Sunday**—Pray for pastors of persecuted churches.

**Monday**—Pray for church members who are persecuted.

**Tuesday**—Pray for Christian children who may be persecuted for their faith.

**Wednesday**—Pray for Missionaries who help those who are persecuted or may be persecuted themselves.

**Thursday**—Pray for those in your own country who help the persecuted.

**Friday**—Pray for those persecuting Christians, that they may eventually come to Christ.

**Saturday**—Pray for all persecuted Christians around the world.

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