

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2014

Information for leading prayers



OUTLINE FOR 5 MINUTES

PREPARATION Download PowerPoint from www.churchinchains.ie and familiarise yourself with its content. Read the Bookmark with Prayer Points.

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER Distribute Bookmarks to people as they arrive or place on seats/pews.

INTRODUCTION Introduce the subject (Today is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church) and mention that churches all over Ireland and Britain will be taking some time in their worship services today to pray together for the persecuted church. Explain that today's prayers will focus on Nigeria, where Christians face ongoing attack from Boko Haram militants.

PRESENTATION and PRAYER Run the PowerPoint show – 21 slides (approximately 2 minutes long, or 4 minutes if using commentary overleaf). The PowerPoint is self-explanatory and may be shown without spoken commentary but a suggested commentary is printed overleaf.

PAUSE at SLIDE 20 (text of prayer) and read the prayer aloud or encourage everyone to join you in reading prayer in unison. Encourage people to take their bookmarks home and show final slide.

OUTLINE FOR MORE THAN 5 MINUTES

PREPARATION – as above but also read through suggested Bible Reading (Psalm 10 v 1-18).

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER Distribute Bookmarks to people as they arrive or place on seats/pews.

INTRODUCTION – as above

BIBLE READING: Psalm 10 v 1-18 It may be helpful to explain that this is a psalm of David written when he's in deep trouble – the wicked are victorious and he feels utterly helpless (feelings with which many Christians in northern Nigeria are familiar). David calls for God to act and is certain that He sees and hears all that is happening. He finds rest in the truth that the Lord is King for ever and ever (v 16).

PRESENTATION and PRAYER The PowerPoint is self-explanatory and may be shown without spoken commentary but a suggested commentary is printed overleaf. Run the PowerPoint show and pause as follows (you may wish to invite at least one other person to participate in prayer):

PAUSE at SLIDE 10 (Village in ruins) – Pray using Prayer Points 1 and 2 on the Bookmark

PAUSE at SLIDE 18 (Mother holding photo) – Pray using Prayer Points 3, 4 and 5 on the Bookmark

PAUSE at SLIDE 20 (Text of prayer) – Read the prayer aloud or encourage everyone to join you in reading prayer in unison. Encourage people to take their bookmarks home and show final slide.



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	SUGGESTED COMMENTARY
1	Today is IDOP	Churches all over Ireland and Britain will be giving time today in worship services to pray for persecuted Christians.
2	World Map	Christians face varying degrees of persecution in 60 countries, ranging from Severe (Red) through Significant (Orange) to Limited (Green).
3	Nigeria Map	Our focus today is on northern and central Nigeria where Christians face severe persecution.
4	Boko Haram fighters	Boko Haram is an extreme Islamist terrorist group that has been carrying out attacks for the past six years.
5	Boko Haram campaign	Boko Haram has been waging a ruthless campaign to establish an Islamic state under Sharia law.
6	Boko Haram flag	The Arabic words mean "Western education is forbidden"
7	Bomb damaged church	At least 45 people were killed and 73 injured in a suicide car bombing at a Christmas Day service in this church.
8	Bodies in grave	Victims of such attacks are frequently buried together in hastily-dug graves.
9	Pastor in ruined church	This pastor lost everything he had when his house was also set on fire during this attack.
10	Village in ruins	Over 300 people died when Boko Haram destroyed this village earlier this year.
11	Refugees in building	300,000 people have fled their homes since January 2013.
12	Rebecca & Samuel Dali	This couple's church is one of 36 churches in the Gwoza area in Borno that have been attacked by Boko Haram.
13	Goodluck Jonathan	Nigeria's President is a Christian from the south of Nigeria. He has been criticised for not caring enough about the situation in northern Nigeria.
14	Kidnapped schoolgirls	This picture from a Boko Haram video shows 100 girls dressed in Muslim-style clothing including head coverings.
15	Boko Haram leader	In the video, Abubaker Shekau said "These girls have become Muslims... we will never release them until after you release our imprisoned brethren."
16	Montage of girls' photos	The vast majority of the girls are Christian, many with Biblical names such as Dorcas, Esther, Rhoda and Tabitha.
17	"Bring Back Our Girls"	A campaign calling for the kidnapped girls to be freed was supported by celebrities and politicians worldwide.
18	Mother with daughter's photo	Martha Mark is one of many parents who continue to hope and pray for their daughters' safe return.
19	Archbishop Ben Kwashi	Archbishop Ben, who has survived two attempts on his life, has written a prayer for his country.
20	Prayer	Read text on screen aloud or in unison.
21	Sign up for mag	Encourage people to bring bookmarks home and sign up for magazine.