

Praying for the Persecuted Church

YOU WILL NEED

- Have a copy of the quotations on the following pages printed out.
- You will also need a list of the 50 countries where Christians are most persecuted. Cut them out so each one is separate, ready for your display. The list is available from www.opendoorsuk.org



INSTRUCTIONS

- You are invited to read the two documents
- To wait, asking God to guide you on which countries you should be praying for.
- After praying, take the slip with that country on home with you to remind you to pray for the brothers and sisters in the Christian church there.



From: *Tortured for Christ* by Richard Wurmbrand speaking of the persecuted church.

Christianity has become dramatic with us. When you 'free' Christians win someone for Christ, you win a member of a quietly living church.

When we win a person, we know that they may well have to go to prison, that their children may become orphans. The joy of having brought someone to Christ is always mixed with this feeling that there is a price that must be paid.

How do we know if a church is being persecuted?

- Private life. What freedom does a Christian have to worship and own religious material? Is conversion to Christianity allowed? Is freedom of thought permitted?
- Family life. How free are Christians to express their faith within their family? Is it possible to hold Christian family milestones, such as Christian marriages and funerals?
- Community life. Can Christians live without harassment and discrimination in their local communities? How does their faith affect their education or employment?
- National life. Does the government allow Christians to express their faith? Can converts call themselves Christians on official documents? Do the police target Christians?
- Church life. Are Christians allowed to meet together? Can they build churches? And if they can, are they heavily monitored? Are Bibles freely available?
- *Violence*. Are Christians attacked mentally or physically? Do they face sexual harassment? Are they arrested, abducted, tortured, imprisoned or even killed?