

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 David & LeighAnn Pruiksmas Family Men's Bible Study 7am	2 Christine Rape Ladies' Bible Study 9:30-11:30am	3 Ray & Marti Williams TEAM - Australia BBI, REFORM 6:45pm	4 Jeff & Joan Rape	5 Joshua Rape	6 Ray Rosano
7 Vance & Patty Woodyard Pioneers - USA Communion Connect Lunch 12:30pm Deacon's Meeting 4:45 pm Awana 6pm	8 Hal & Carol Rudy Men's Bible Study 7am	9 Brandon Schaubroeck Ladies' Bible Study 9:30-11:30am	10 Patrick & Avery Work - CrossWorld USA LIFE Comm. Mtg 9:30am BBI, REFORM 6:45pm	11 Bob & Virginia Scruton Family	12 Ed & Jackie Sherwood	13 Bill & Kim Shimer Family
14 John & Jackie Bell Global Outreach - Australia Azalea Estates 10am BBI 11:30am Elders Mtg 3:00pm Awana 6pm	15 Art & Nancy Smith Men's Bible Study 7am	16 Bob & Margaret Smith Family Ladies' Bible Study 9:30-11:30am	17 Paul & Emily Bell CrossWorld - Bosnia BBI, REFORM 6:45pm	18 Paul Smith	19 Gene & Becki Stacks	20 Al & Doris Stanley  Spring Begins
21 Chuck & Jan Bennett Costa Rica BBI 11:30am Missions Team Mtg 1pm Awana 6pm	22 Chuck & Anne Marie Swinson Family Men's Bible Study 7am	23 Herman & Tami Teachout Family Ladies' Bible Study 9:30-11:30am	24 Jody & Barbara Crain - New Tribes USA BBI, REFORM 6:45pm	25 Bill & Patty Thorn	26 Nelson & Jody Wallace	27 Rob & Stacy Wallace Family 2010 Walk for Life Pregnancy Care Center 8:30am
28 Emmanuel & Sucheta Endigeri - World Team Trinidad Palm Sunday BBI 11:30am Mt. Calvary at Berachah 6pm No Awana	29 Jane Warlick Men's Bible Study 7am	30 Joshua Warlick Ladies' Bible Study 9:30-11:30am	31 Eric & Amanda Flintoff CrossWorld - Senegal Carry-In Dinner 6pm Church Bible Study, REFORM - 6:45pm	Pray for our missionaries Sundays & Wednesdays; pray for our congregation the rest of the week. Pray for one persecuted church item daily.		

Pray for the Persecuted Church

1. Morocco: Christians Arrested

On Feb. 4, Moroccan military authorities raided a Christian meeting and arrested 18 people. The authorities also confiscated Bibles and personal belongings, according to The Voice of the Martyrs contacts. "We were surprised by more than 60 Moroccan Gendarmes attacking the house [where we had just started our Bible study]," a VOM contact said. "Eleven believers (including an American), two non-believers and five children... were [held] by the Moroccan government for 14 hours."

After 14 hours in detention, the American was deported and the others were released. Authorities kept the American's laptop computer, along with Bibles, books, a laptop, a digital photo camera and a cell phone that belonged to the others arrested. "It's the first time in our current Moroccan church history that the Moroccan government used this size of a legion to attack a small Christian meeting," VOM contacts added. "All the time they kept repeating that this was ordered personally by the new Moroccan Justice Minister [Mohamed Naciri] and by the highest level General of the Gendarmerie [Housni Benslimane]."

The Voice of the Martyrs encourages you to pray for believers in Morocco. Pray that God will protect these believers and grant them peace as they face these new challenges. Also pray that the authorities will return their confiscated belongings. Ask God to draw the persecutors into fellowship with him.

2. Iraq: Christians Martyred

Three Christians have been killed in Mosul recently, and community leaders warn that violence will increase leading to the March 7 parliamentary election. On Feb. 16, unidentified gunmen shot two Christian students with an automatic weapon. Zia Toma, a 21-year-old engineering student, was killed in the shooting and Ramsin Shmael, a 22-year-old pharmacy student, was wounded. Both men were Assyrian Christians, according to police.

The violence is thought to be related to the upcoming parliamentary election, in which the vote of minority Christians could be a factor between Arab-Kurd rivals. "We don't want elections, we don't want representatives, we don't want our rights, we just want to be alive," said Baasil Abdul Noor, a priest at Mar Behnam church in Al-Arabi neighborhood, where the shooting occurred. The student's murder occurred one day after gunmen killed shop owner Fatukhi Munir, an Assyrian Catholic, in his business. On Feb. 14, another shop owner, Rayan Salem Elias, was shot to death outside his home; Elias was a Chaldean Christian.

These incidents are the latest in a series of attacks on Iraqi Christians in recent months. The Christian community in Iraq is estimated to be 3 percent of Iraq's population of 26 million, or about 780,000 people. Islamic extremists have targeted Christian leaders, churches and businesses in Iraq since 2003. As a result, many believers have fled.

Pray for those who mourn these murdered believers. Pray that the killers might come to know Christ as their savior. Ask God to embolden the Christian community in Mosul to proclaim the gospel even while being persecuted, and pray that they will be filled with Christ's peace during these difficult times.

3. Laos: Christians Evicted

In January, 48 Christians were forced from their homes by more than 100 officials and villagers in Katin village, Saravan province, Laos. After gathering for Sunday worship, the believers were expelled from their church at gunpoint and taken to an open field. Officials then confiscated personal belongings from 11 Christians' homes, and six of the homes were later destroyed. Officials also took a pig, worth the equivalent of six weeks' salary, from one of the believers. When believers refused to renounce their faith, they were forced to leave the village. Officials have posted police at the entrance to the village to prevent the Christians from returning home or retrieving their valuables. At last report, the believers were staying in the woods, with barely any food or survival supplies.

The Christian community in Katin village has endured repeated persecution in recent years. In July 2008, 17 Christian families were detained and ordered to deny their faith. Ten families signed the documents and were able to return to the village, while the other families were evicted. Eventually, the seven evicted families also signed the recantation forms and moved back into the village. At last report, some of these Christians had again begun to gather for prayer and worship.

The Voice of the Martyrs stands with these persecuted believers and encourages you to pray that they will grow stronger in their faith. Ask God to protect and provide for the 48 Christians who have been expelled. Pray that the Christians who renounced their faith will turn to Jesus for strength and boldness. Finally, please pray that officials and villagers will stop persecuting Christians in Katin village.

4. Laos: Christians Arrested

Two Hmong believers were arrested on Dec. 3 after a relative told authorities they were sharing the gospel. The men, who became Christians a few years ago, have led most of their relatives to Christ, with the exception of a father-in-law. When the men began to face persecution, they moved their families to another village. "On Dec. 3, [they returned] to their old village and very suddenly upon their arrival the two believers were surrounded by their relatives, who [are] believers," VOM contacts said. "They talked and encouraged each other passionately while his father-in-law looked at them resentfully. He then went to the policemen and accused them, saying, 'They did not come here to change their resident form, but they come here to proclaim and lead more people to Christ, and this is against the government and our country.'"

The believers have reportedly been beaten and tortured in prison. Pray that God will protect and encourage these believers in prison and enable their family members to continue serving the Lord. Pray that their testimony will draw their father-in-law to Christ.

5. Nigeria: Christians Killed



More than 100 Christians have been killed in Jos, Nigeria, since Jan. 17, when violent riots broke out between the Christian and Muslim communities, according to VOM contacts. The intent is to drive Christians out of this area down to the south," VOM contacts reported. Church leaders said Muslim youths also attacked buildings belonging to the Christ Apostolic Church, Assemblies of God Church, three branches of the Church of Christ in Nigeria and the Evangelical Church of West Africa. On Jan. 18, authorities imposed a curfew, and the city is under the close control of Nigerian troops.

Hundreds of believers have reportedly been wounded. "We have been witnessing sporadic shootings in the last two days," Rev. Chuwang Avou, secretary of the state chapter of the Christian

Association of Nigeria told Compass Direct News a few days after the attacks began. "We see some residents shooting sporadically into the air. We have also seen individuals with machine guns on parade in the state." Pray that VOM contacts will be able to provide the spiritual encouragement and resources that believers in Nigeria need. Pray for peace and for the protection of believers.