



Current Issues in Prayer

March 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.



Getting started:

I choose a comfortable place. I try to recollect myself in the presence of God and thank Him for being able to practise my religious belief without fear or persecution.



Short story:

Thirty-year old, Mojtaba Hosseini was one of the leaders of a quickly growing house church movement in Iran. After his church was raided, he was arrested and imprisoned for three years in an Iranian prison. While he was in prison, he turned to prayer looking for God's help. In an interview after his release, he said that while he was in prison, he was not alone – God was with him. He added, "God spoke again to me, saying, 'It is time that you share Me with them. They need Me.'" So, he began to share the gospel of Jesus Christ among his fellow prisoners. Some responded to the gospel's call. Some didn't but were comforted in prayer. Mojtaba also wanted a Bible and repeatedly asked the guards for one. Then God intervened—through one of the most unlikely sources - the prison Imam, who came every day to pray with the Muslim inmates. Mojtaba recalled, "He was impressed by our commitment to our God. I think it was God who filled his heart with kindness for us". So, the Imam offered to help by providing printouts of the Bible disguised as an English lesson in the prison. One of Mojtaba's prison friends was good at English and translated the scriptures into Farsi. It wasn't long until all of the prisoners knew that Bible verses were circulating. Mojtaba learnt that he could work in God's Kingdom wherever God placed him.



Time to reflect:

Mojtaba's story is an important reminder that God may (and often does) use the suffering of persecuted believers to bring others to Him. What is my perception towards suffering in the light of this story?

I try to imagine myself in the Imam's place. What strikes me most in Mojtaba's story?



Let us pray:

Lord God, you always work through "unlikely sources" to reveal your love to persecuted Christians who are suffering in silence. May I also feel your presence, and may I also recognise your ways and respond to them with an open heart.



Inspiration:

In order to have faith in his own path, he does not need to prove that someone else's path is wrong.

Paulo Coelho (Warrior of The Light)



Hands on:

I try not to be afraid to go public and share my Christian views on social media or other means of communication. Like Mojtaba I show commitment towards God while showing respect to others' different beliefs.