



## WEA Religious Liberty Prayer News\*

*September 15, 2009*

*“Let my prayer be set forth before You as  
incense;  
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening  
sacrifice”*

Psalm 141:2

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\* World Evangelical Alliance is a global ministry working with local churches around the world to join in common concern to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus in their communities. God is glorified and the nations of the earth are forever transformed.

The purpose of the WEA Religious Liberty Prayer Release is to keep you informed and mobilized in prayer and intercession for the needs of justice and religious liberty in the Church around the globe, so that we can stand together for the work of the Kingdom and the healing of the Nations. The Prayer Release is comprised on the basis of different credible Christian based resources.

## Raid against a registered church in UZBEKISTAN<sup>1</sup>

*The latest report of Forum 18 News Service shows that oppression against both registered and non-registered religious communities in the form of fines, imprisonment and confiscation of religious literature is still an ongoing reality in Uzbekistan. On 23 August in the capital Tashkent seven church members of the legally registered Donam Protestant church were arrested by Anti-Terror Police officers, who raided the regular Sunday afternoon worship service. Three of them were released, but four, including pastor Vladimir Tyo, were sentenced to 15-day prison terms for "violation of the procedure for organising and conducting meetings". The rest three of the detained were released. Christian literature was also confiscated and destroyed without giving any reasons.*

### *Prayer points:*

- ❖ *Pray for God's peace and restoration over Pastor Vladimir Tyo and Donam Protestant church.*
- ❖ *Pray for God's protection over Christians in Uzbekistan.*
- ❖ *Pray for true religious freedom in the country.*

## New governmental threats against the New Life church in BELARUS<sup>2</sup>

*The government of Belarus continues to threaten with confiscation of the building one of the largest protestant churches in the country - the New Life Church in Minsk. The church has been in a long-running struggle with the government to register in compliance with Belarusian law, but have been refused every time. The community continues to resist government efforts to force them to sell their church building, despite an official notice ordering them to turn it over to the city government. CSW reports that "according to New Life Church representatives, EU officials from 15 member states and from the European Commission Delegation met with Pastor Slava Goncharenko in the French Embassy" on August 25<sup>th</sup>. At the New Life Church website<sup>3</sup> we read that on September, 9<sup>th</sup> the church directed the reference to the Committee on Human Rights at the United Nations, presenting an official report on infringement of the rights and freedom of the believers. Belarusian Christians, struggling for their religious freedom, hope for efficient international intervention in the case.*

### *Prayer points:*

- ❖ *Pray for strength, wisdom and perseverance in Pastor Slava Goncharenko and the believers in New Life Church.*
- ❖ *Pray for efficient international intervention on behalf of New Life Church Community.*
- ❖ *Pray for the Belarusian authorities to respect the religious liberty of all Belarusians throughout the country.*

## Prayer for persecuted Christians in Laos<sup>4</sup>

*According to the Compass Direct News release from September 11, the recent arrest of Thao Oun, an elder at Boukham Church in Savannakhet Province, in Laos, again reminds us the state of oppression and persecution against Christians in this small communist country in Southeast Asia, with 1.5 percent Christian and 67 percent Buddhist population. The Church leader Thao Oun was jailed for the sole reason of embracing Christianity. The authorities threatened to expel him unless he renounces his faith, and kill him if his arrest is made public, according to Human Rights Watch for Lao Religious Freedom (HRWLRF). HRWLRF additionally report that "Oun was charged with bringing destruction to the Lao nation and government by embracing Christianity, which the officials consider a "foreign religion to be abhorred"". As an additional measure of punishment against Boukham Church members, Lao officials have denied schooling to 10 of their children, cut off access to water at village wells, and threatened to deny public medical care for Christians who get sick or injured.*

### *Prayer Points:*

- ❖ Pray for the persecuted believers in Laos to be strengthened and encouraged to continue to serve and honour God in spite of the raised persecution and oppression.*
- ❖ Pray in particular for God's protection over the Boukham Church members and the release of the church elder Thao Oun.*
- ❖ Pray for the authorities in Laos to have fear in front of God and to keep the laws of the country and the Constitution, granting religious and individual rights of all Lao people.*

## International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 2009

*As shared previously, the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) – an initiative of the Religious Liberty Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance, takes place every November around the world. At the IDOP-international website ([www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org)) are listed several prayer focuses, which we will follow through in our several coming newsletters. The first prayer focus is on the Islamic world, where Christians may face persecution from Muslim militants, and discrimination in employment and the legal system.*

### *Prayer points:*

- ❖ Pray that God will intervene by frustrating the ways of the Taliban in countries where it seeks to maintain control, such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pray for God to continue moving powerfully amongst the people in Islamic countries so that just*

*and upright political leaders might be raised up and prepared to serve the nation.*

- ❖ *Pray for God to bless converts to Christianity in nations such as Iran and Saudi Arabia. Ask God to enable them to be instruments of blessing (salt), transformation (yeast), and truth (light) in their communities (Matthew 5:13-16)..*
- ❖ *Pray for nations where Al-Qaeda terrorism is intense, such as Iraq and Algeria, and for where Muslim militants instigate violence against Christians, such as Nigeria, Egypt and Somalia. Pray for protection, wisdom, provision and perseverance for the victims of attacks and for those who have lost loved ones due to violent persecution.*

- ✓ Additional prayer items are available at the WEA website, <http://www.worldevangelicals.org/pray/> .
- ✓ Keep in your prayer also the upcoming events and activities of the WEA globally, regionally and nationally, posted at [http://www.worldevangelicals.org/newsletter/july31\\_09.htm](http://www.worldevangelicals.org/newsletter/july31_09.htm)

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<sup>1</sup> Source: *Forum 18 News Service*, 26 August, 2009 releases

<sup>2</sup> Source: *Christian Solidarity Worldwide*, at <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=901&search=>

<sup>3</sup> See at <http://www.newlife.by/eng/index.php>

<sup>4</sup> Source: *Compass Direct News*, September 11, 2009, at <http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/laos/9254/>