



Church Resource Guide

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



Thank you for choosing to stand with our brothers and sisters who faithfully follow Jesus under persecution.

Your willingness to remember, pray, and help your congregation understand the global Church matters. Whether your church gives a few minutes during a Sunday service or builds a larger emphasis around the International Day of Prayer, we are grateful for your care for the persecuted Church.

These resources are here to serve you.

You do not need to use everything in this folder. Choose the materials that best fit your church, congregation, schedule, and leadership.

Our goal is simple: make it easy for your church to remember and pray.

THE EMPTY CHAIR

ONE CHAIR. ONE POWERFUL REMINDER.

At the center of IDOP 2026 is one simple visual: an **Empty Chair**.

On November 1, we are inviting churches to place an empty chair somewhere visible during their worship service.

The chair represents our brothers and sisters around the world who cannot freely gather and worship as we do. Some meet secretly in homes. Some have been displaced from their communities. Some are imprisoned. Others live with the threat of violence, surveillance, or rejection because they follow Jesus.

The Empty Chair gives your congregation something visible to connect with those realities.

But the chair represents something more than absence.

Scripture reminds us:

“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.” — 1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)

The persecuted Church is not a distant group of people we simply feel compassion for. **They are part of the same Body of Christ. They are our family.**

That is why we save them a seat.

The Empty Chair helps us stop, remember, hear their stories, and pray for them as brothers and sisters.

The chair is empty. The family is not forgotten.

HOW TO USE THE EMPTY CHAIR

Keep it simple.

Place one empty chair somewhere your congregation can see it—on the platform, near the front of the room, or wherever makes sense in your church.

Then explain what it represents.

You might share a country fact, tell the story of a persecuted believer, read Scripture, or simply lead your congregation in prayer.

The chair does not need an elaborate presentation around it. Its power is in its simplicity.

Leave it visible throughout the service as a reminder that while we gather freely, members of our Church family around the world gather at great cost.

HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN PARTICIPATE

There is no single right way to participate.

Some churches may have only a few minutes available. Others may devote an entire service or spend several weeks helping their congregation understand and pray for the persecuted Church.

We have organized the campaign around three simple approaches.

These are guidelines, not requirements. Use what fits your church. Leave what doesn't.

REMEMBER

Keep It Simple.

A meaningful IDOP moment can take just a few minutes.

You might:

- Place the Empty Chair somewhere visible.
- Briefly explain what it represents.
- Share a Scripture, story, or a few facts.
- Lead your congregation in prayer for the persecuted Church.

This could be five meaningful minutes in your Sunday service.

RESPOND

Go a Little Deeper.

Help your congregation understand more about the people represented by the Empty Chair.

You might:

- Promote IDOP through social media and church communications.
- Choose one featured country to highlight.
- Share a believer's story and country facts.
- Use the provided presentation slides.
- Show a video or use additional prayer resources.
- Place the Empty Chair prominently during the service.
- Spend dedicated time praying together.

This gives your congregation an opportunity not only to remember, but to understand and respond.

MOBILIZE

Make It a Larger Emphasis.

Use the Empty Chair and IDOP to engage your church over several weeks or through multiple ministries.

You might:

- Begin introducing the Empty Chair several weeks before November 1.
- Highlight multiple countries and believer stories.
- Use social media, videos, slides, and prayer resources throughout the campaign.
- Include small groups, students, children, families, and prayer ministries.
- Build toward a dedicated IDOP service or extended time of prayer.
- Encourage your congregation to continue praying for the persecuted Church beyond IDOP.

There is no required level of participation. Every act of remembrance matters.

USING THE RESOURCES

Everything has been organized into simple folders so you can quickly find what you need.

COUNTRY RESOURCES

You will find individual folders for:

- China
- Iran
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Yemen

Each country folder contains resources designed to help your congregation understand the reality facing believers in that region.

Country Information

Additional background, facts, prayer points, and a detailed believer story for pastors, speakers, or volunteers who want more context.

The presentation slides are intentionally simple. These notes provide additional information if the person presenting would like to go deeper.

Presentation Slides

Simple slides that can be used during a worship service, prayer gathering, class, small group, or other church setting.

They include country context, key facts, a believer story, prayer, and practical ways Christians are being supported.

Social Media

Graphics created for your church's social media channels to help introduce the country, share stories and facts, encourage prayer, and promote IDOP.

Caption copy is also provided so your communications team can easily pair meaningful text with each graphic.

Social Media Stories

Story-sized graphics designed for Instagram and Facebook Stories.

You can focus on one country or use several. Choose what best serves your congregation.

ICR RESOURCES

The ICR Resources folder contains additional materials that can be used as they are helpful.

These are supplemental resources. You do not need to use them in order to participate in IDOP.

Resources may include:

About ICR

Materials that introduce International Christian Response and the work being done alongside persecuted believers around the world.

Prayer Resources

Prayer maps, devotionals, inserts, posters, bookmarks, and other tools designed to help individuals, families, and churches pray for the persecuted Church.

Additional Resources

Materials that provide more information about persecution, the global Church, and ways believers can stand with their brothers and sisters around the world.

Many of these resources can be used digitally or in print, depending on what works best for your church.

IDOP PROMOTIONS

The IDOP Promotions folder contains materials to help your church communicate the International Day of Prayer before November 1.

IDOP PROMO

Generic IDOP graphics, social media posts, Stories, and other promotional materials centered around the Empty Chair and the invitation to pray for the persecuted Church.

These are designed to help your congregation understand what is coming and why your church is participating.

COUNTRY PROMO

Country-specific promotional materials for China, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Yemen.

These resources can help introduce the countries your congregation will hear about and begin preparing people to pray before IDOP.

ONE FINAL REMINDER

You do not have to use every resource.

You do not have to create a large event.

You do not have to become an expert on persecution.

Choose what fits your church and help your people remember our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Whether your church gives five minutes, an entire Sunday, or several weeks to IDOP, your prayers matter.

One chair. One church. One family in Christ.

Thank you for standing with the persecuted Church.

The chair is empty. The family is not forgotten.

