



GPS: Grow, Pray, Study Guide 3.1.15

Rachel Held Evans, edited from her God article blog.



Prayer for Christians Facing Persecution, Church of England

“O Lord God, your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his resurrection he restores life and peace in all creation. Comfort, we pray, all victims of intolerance and those oppressed by their fellow humans. Remember in your kingdom those who have died. Lead the oppressors towards compassion and give hope to the suffering. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Recent news has brought the plight of persecuted Christians from around the world back into our collective consciousness. Consider devoting a few minutes each day, for 40 days, to learning about and praying for our brothers and sisters suffering for their faith. For ideas, check out [Open Doors](#) and [Voice of the Martyrs](#). You may want to begin by praying specifically for the families of the 21 Coptic Christians recently executed in Egypt. Here are the names of those killed:

Milad Makin Zaki
Abanub Ayyad Atiyah
Majid Sulayman Shihatah
Yusuf Shukri Yunan
Carlos Bushra Fawzi
Bishoy Astafnus Kamil
(brother) Suma'ili Astafnus Kamil
Malak Ibrahim Sanyut
Tawadaros Yusuf Tawadaros
Jirjis Milad Sanyut

Mina Sayyid Aziz
Hani Abd-al-Masih Salib
Bishoy Adil Khalaf
Samuel Alham Wilson
Izzat Bushra Nasif
Luqa Najati Wanis
Isam Bidar Samir
Malak Farraj Abram
Samih Salah Faruq
Jabir Munir Adli

Confession of Sin

(Presbyterian Mission Agency, Resources on Cultural Diversity and Racism)

*Gracious God,
in Jesus Christ you teach us to love our neighbors,
but we build dividing walls of hostility.
You show us how to love one another as sisters and brothers
but we hide ourselves from our own human family.
You ask us to seek out the stranger and welcome the guest,
but we lock ourselves up inside our own fear.
You want us to share your abundant gifts with the poor,
but we cling tightly to our possessions and our privilege.
You call us to proclaim good news to all people,
but we waste our words and hide our light.
Have mercy on us, loving God.
Forgive our sin, open our hearts, and change our lives.
By your Spirit, make us holy and whole—
one people, united in faith, hope, and love;
through Jesus Christ, our reconciler and redeemer.*

