

Hymns for the Persecuted Church
Father, in the name of Jesus

Father, in the name of Jesus,
hear our prayer for those in pain:
Scattered through the hostile nations
many suffer for Your name.

You have promised to Your people
opposition from the world.
Now sustain them, yes, protect them
by the truth found in Your Word.

Satan uses persecution
to instil a frightening fear,
threatening to destroy the body,
telling them that death is near.

Give them courage, noble courage,
never to deny Your name.
In the footsteps of the martyrs
may they spread abroad Your fame.

Be with those in Muslim nations
where to choose You is to die.
May the motives of fanatics
be exposed as Satan's lie.

Where the Hindu is intolerant
of the faithful Christian few,
may their loving witness conquer,
showing Christian attitude.

Raise up leaders in Your Church, Lord,
people of integrity,
who will lead by their example
as You, Lord, want us to be.

May Your people in each nation
work in loving harmony.
Change the hearts of the oppressors,
break the yoke of tyranny.

*Words: Hugh G Wetmore (c) 1999 (written for the annual
International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church)*

Metre: 8787D Tune: Austria ("Glorious things of thee are spoken")

The suffering song

Father, lead our meditation
as we worship at Your throne,
and we think of Jesus' courage
in His sufferings all alone.

He could well have chosen affluence
and a life of royal ease,
for He was Your royal offspring ~
could have anything He pleased.

But He chose a humble stable
to be born on this His earth;
and He chose to spend His labours
serving folk of lowly birth.

We admire His deep commitment
to obey You unto death,
drinking all the cup You gave Him,
suffering till His final breath.

How we praise You for the vict'ry
and the glory He was given
in that might resurrection
and ascension into heaven!

Through His suffering came the glory ~
could not come another way ~
for the dark, dark night must come be
for the glorious dawn of day.

Father, give us Jesus' courage
which His own apostles knew
after Jesus' Holy Spirit
filled their lives with courage too.

So, rejoicing, counted worthy,
they endured such suffering;
for there is no other channel
that revival glory brings.

Father, please repeat the hist'ry
of Your Church in other lands,
where the blessing has come painf'ly
as Your sovereign will has planned.

May we too endure the suffering,
sacrificing our desires
ready too to enter glory
through the persecution fires.

Words: Hugh G Wetmore (c) 1993 based on 1 Peter 1:11 and Romans 8:17

Metre: 87867D Tune: Austria. (After studying Korean Church History in Seoul)

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In the modern church calendar, the first two Sundays of November is set apart to remember and pray for the persecuted church, through the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP).

Organised by the Religious Liberty Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance, the IDOP is a time set apart for us to remember thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who suffer persecution, simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord.