

November 20 & 21, 2021

The persecuted church:

- Over 340 million Christians live in places where they may experience high levels of persecution and discrimination.
- 4761 Christians were killed for their faith.
- 4488 churches and other Christian buildings were attacked.
- 4277 believers were detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned.

The Sender: HE knows what HE is doing (16a)

- I am sending...
- You...
- As sheep among wolves

The sent ones: we will know what to do (16b – 20)

- As “serpents” discern the opponents: beware of men.
- As “doves” remain innocent before our opponents.

Always expect to bear the cross (21-25)

- “you will be hated by all for my name’s sake.”
- Responses to persecution: face it or flee!

The gospel principle: death is the way to life**Questions for Reflection - Pray for the Persecuted Church:**

- God, sustain the faith of our persecuted brothers and sisters so that they might faithfully endure trials and suffering for Christ’s sake.
- God, we ask that the gospel will continue to spread through the persecuted, in prisons and in secret places, and that you will use both their words and faithfulness to bear witness to the gospel.
- God, we ask that believers in persecuted areas might be able to experience the blessing of gathering with other believers for worship, as well as the regular fellowship and equipping of the church.
- God, give to pastors in the persecuted church courage, wisdom, and joy as they proclaim the gospel and exhort their people to hold fast to Christ.
- God, in your mercy, put an end to violence, intimidation, and other forms of persecution aimed at silencing persecuted believers and stopping the spread of the gospel.
- God, we ask that you will provide access to Bibles and other resources for our brothers and sisters who live in places that are hostile to your Word.
- God, provide for the physical needs of our brothers and sisters, those who have lost jobs or are in prison for the sake of the gospel.

WILLINGDON CHURCH ELDERS

Phil Balzer	Ray Harms-Wiebe	Ken Redekopp	Ed Thiessen
John Best	Ruben Heyn	Mark Reimer	Wayne Wiebe
Roman Bondartchouk	Danny Lee	Rick Reimer	Rick Wilson
Ken Dyck	Paul Lee	Vince Reimer	
Jim Eisenhauer	Mark Loewen	Willy Reimer	
Alfred Gomez	Dave Marshall	Norm Schmidt	

*Please continue to pray for the elders.**If you wish to contact an elder, please email elders@willingdon.org.*