

Light in the Darkness OHP script

This script is for use with the *Light in the Darkness* OHP presentation, produced by Release International. This is adapted from the PowerPoint presentation on the *Light in the Darkness* DVD. Both resources can be downloaded from:

www.releaseinternational.org/resources

ADOBE ACROBAT READER

If you do not have it installed on your computer, you will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. The installation file for Acrobat Reader 7.0 for Windows XP is included on the DVD in the AcrobatReader folder of the Docs directory. You may also download the latest version of the Reader software from www.adobe.com.

PRINTING THE PRESENTATION ON OHP ACETATE

You will need to obtain your own blank A4 OHP acetate sheets, suitable for printing from your computer printer.

When printing from Acrobat Reader 7.0, you may need to select 'Reduce to printer margins' in Page Scaling of the Print box.

PRAYER TIMES

The Prayer times are the central feature of the Prayer Concert or prayer event. We suggest focusing on the three countries: **Iran, Vietnam** and **Sri Lanka**. Of course you may choose only one or two countries if you wish, or you may have other locations you wish to include.

Brief prayer points are included in both this guide, and in the PowerPoint presentation. If you are using PowerPoint, we suggest leaving these points on screen during the prayer times, as a visual reminder for the people who are praying.

There are different ways of organising these times. We suggest different ways in the script of the presentation, but again you are free to adapt as you wish. It is helpful to have different ways of praying during your event.

During the prayer times it is important that clear guidance is given, as well as an indication of how long people have to pray. We suggest allowing at least ten minutes on each occasion – but you may wish to allocate more time than this. Someone will need to lead these prayer times – especially by indicating when the prayer time has finished. You may find it helpful to use the three written prayers on page 16 of the accompanying guide as a way of concluding each prayer section. These prayers are included in the script (slides 13, 27 and 33).

There are different ways of structuring these prayer times:

Small groups. Ask people to get into small groups of five or six, standing or sitting. Guide them to pray using the prayer points displayed on the screen (from the presentation), or in the guide. If you have used the video materials, there will also be specific individuals or situations to pray for as well.

Pairs. Ask people to pray in pairs, using the prayer points as a reminder.

Silent prayer on your own. Ask people to pray on their own, in silence. Encourage them to reflect first on some of the information/testimonies they have seen and heard.

CORPORATE PRAYER

At the end of the Prayer Concert, we include the words of a short corporate prayer of commitment, inviting everyone to commit themselves to pray and act on behalf of persecuted Christians.

The words for this prayer are given as slide 34, and are also in the guide (page 17).

RESPONSE CARDS

If you are using the DVD, this will come with a number of *Light in the Darkness* response cards. These enable people at your prayer event to continue to support persecuted Christians around the world:

- Sign and post the card to the Sri Lankan embassy – asking the Sri Lankan government to respect religious liberties.
- Make a pledge to pray regularly for persecuted Christians
- Get informed by signing up to receive our free magazine *Witness*, as well as our free 7x7 prayer alert and/or Prisoner of Faith alert (both available by email)

If you do not have these cards, or need to order more, please telephone RI on 01689 823491.

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Words in **bold** indicate when to move forward to the next slide.

Slide No	Description	Script
1.	Title	
2.	Up to 250,000,000 Christians are persecuted for their faith each year	It may be hard to believe, but up to 250 million Christians are persecuted for their faith each year .
3.	Map (persecuted church around the world)	From Colombia to China, and Nigeria to North Korea, Christians face persecution simply for following Jesus Christ .
4.	Persecution zones: Islamic, Communist, Hindu & Buddhist.	The countries where Christians face persecution fall into four 'zones' or worldviews: the Islamic world, Communist world, Hindu world and Buddhist world .
5.	Islamic world: burning church	In the Islamic world, Christians increasingly face persecution at the hands of Islamist militants, who see Christians and other non-Muslims as 'infidels' who must be driven from their Islamic lands .
6.	Islamic world: funeral procession	Islamist militants are the greatest cause of the persecution of Christians worldwide – with churches in Muslim countries often seen as 'soft targets '.
7.	Islamic world: Pakistan flag	In Islamic nations, any Muslim who converts to Christianity, or any other religion, is considered an apostate. Under Islamic or <i>Sharia</i> law, the potential punishment is execution .
8.	Iran map & introduction	In Iran, for example, Christians make up less than half a per cent of the population. Churches must meet in secret, and are under constant surveillance .

9.	Iran: Mehdi Dibaj	Several Iranian Christian leaders have been sentenced to death or assassinated. These include Rev Mehdi Dibaj, who was imprisoned for nine years for converting from Islam. He was released in 1994, but was then abducted and murdered .
10.	Iran: Hamid Pourmand	Today we are going to pray for the Iranian lay pastor Hamid Pourmand, who has been detained since September 2004 .
11.	Iran: Hamid Pourmand (b/w)	An army colonel at the time of his arrest, in February 2005 he was found guilty of ‘deceiving’ the Iranian armed forces about his Christian faith, even though he produced evidence to the contrary, and was sentenced to three years in prison .
12.	Iran: Hamid Pourmand and family (b/w)	His wife Arlet and children David and Immanuel have been dispossessed of their home, and have had to relocate. Hamid himself has been subjected to extreme pressure to recant his faith .
13.	Pray for Iran Early release of Pastor Pourmand Protection for the underground church For Christian leaders That persecution will not intensify under new hard-line President Ahmadinejad For the witness of the church to bring many to Christ	[Facilitator leads first prayer section, praying for Pastor Pourmand and Iran. We suggest you ask people to pray in groups of 5-6 people] [After 10 mins, bring the prayers to a close, perhaps by using this prayer for Iran] Thank you Lord God for the small, martyr church you have raised up in Iran. We ask that by your grace each believer would know you as their strength and shield, strong tower and safe place. We pray especially for Pastor Pourmand and his family, and ask that you would bring comfort and provision. Grant Hamid favour in the eyes of the authorities, that he would soon be released. And through the faithful witness of your people, please bring many to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Amen.

14.	Communist world: Ho Chi Minh poster	The second 'zone of persecution' or worldview is the Communist world .
15.	Map	Although communism collapsed dramatically in Europe in 1990-91, several communist governments continue to persecute Christians and churches today. These include: China, Cuba, North Korea, Laos and Vietnam .
16.	Map of Vietnam	The communist government of Vietnam, for example, is pursuing a systematic policy 'to wipe out the Christian religion '.
17.	'Strong measures' against the church	Secret papers describe the so-called ' <i>strong administrative measures</i> ' being taken by the Vietnamese authorities to counter the growth of the church, which include ' <i>using force to make people renounce their religion, fining people, arresting and confining missionaries to prevent their activities</i> '.
18.	Mennonite Six (six photos)	A recent case has been the plight of the so-called Mennonite Six Christian workers, who were arrested on spurious charges in 2004 and then given sentences ranging from nine months to three years in prison .
19.	Mennonite Six: Pham Ngoc Thach	Today, following an international campaign, five of the six workers have been released, with just evangelist Pham Ngoc Thach remaining in prison. A number of the workers report how they had been abused while detained .
20.	Release of Pastor Quang (b/w)	Prayer, and the international campaign, helped secure the release of the Mennonite workers. But many other Vietnamese Christians have also been tortured and remain in detention .
21.	Than Van Truong (b/w)	Pastor Than Van Truong of the Baptist General Conference house church was arrested in June 2004 .
22.	Than Van Truong (b/w)	He was not charged with any crime, but instead was held in a psychiatric hospital and forcibly injected with drugs .

23.	Prison gates	<p>It is estimated that as many as 100 Vietnamese Christians believers and church leaders are being detained for their faith today.</p> <p>Sometimes all we have is a name on a list – but each one is precious to God.</p>
24.	List of Christian prisoners in Vietnam (1)	<p>As this list of prisoners is displayed, let us now pray silently, asking God to strengthen, protect and encourage each one. Please pray silently for each prisoner as their name is displayed.</p>
25.	List of Christian prisoners in Vietnam (2)	
26.	‘The light shines in the darkness ...’ John 1:5	
27.	<p>Pray for Vietnam</p> <p>Mennonite prisoner Pham Ngoc Thach</p> <p>Mennonite church in Ho Chi Minh City</p> <p>For other Christian prisoners of faith</p> <p>Ask God to strengthen Montagnard and Hmong believers and churches</p> <p>That the government will move towards respecting religious freedoms for all</p>	<p>[Facilitator leads second prayer section, praying for Vietnam. We suggest you could ask people to pray in pairs.]</p> <p>[After 10 mins, bring the prayers to a close, perhaps by using this prayer for Vietnam]</p> <p>Lord God, you are righteous and you love justice. Please bring both righteousness and justice to the people of Vietnam.</p> <p>Please strengthen the Mennonite prisoner who is still in jail, and encourage the believers who face persecution at the hands of the authorities. May they know today that many uphold them in prayer.</p> <p>We pray too for the communist government, that you would honour moderate officials, and grant favour to your people as they deal with the authorities.</p> <p>Please pour out your Holy Spirit in revival power, so that many will honour your name in Vietnam. For your glory, Amen.</p>
28.	Hindu world	<p>The third ‘zone of persecution’ or worldview is the Hindu world, with Christians facing persecution in both India and Nepal.</p>

29.	Map of India	In India, Hindu extremists have attacked local Christians, and there are fears that anti-conversion laws in some states may be misapplied against legitimate Christian activity .
30.	Buddhist world	The fourth ‘zone of persecution’ is the Buddhist world, which includes the countries of Bhutan, Burma and Sri Lanka .
31.	Sri Lanka: destroyed church and map of Sri Lanka.	Attacks and intimidation forced 140 Sri Lankan churches to close during 2003-2004 – and still Christians today are facing persecution .
32.	Pastor Lalani	For example, Pastor Lalani, who is planting a church in the south of the country, has faced intimidation, death threats and bomb attacks, incited by Buddhist monks alarmed at the growth of the church .
33.	<p>Pray for Sri Lanka</p> <p>That Buddhist militants will be restrained</p> <p>For vulnerable churches in rural areas</p> <p>For good government and peace</p> <p>For the Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka, as they act as the voice of the church</p> <p>That proposed anti-conversion legislation will not be introduced</p>	<p>[Facilitator leads third prayer section, praying for Sri Lanka. We suggest you ask people to pray on their own.]</p> <p>[After 10 mins, bring the prayers to a close, perhaps by using this prayer for Sri Lanka]</p> <p>Lord God Almighty, we pray for persecuted Christians in Sri Lanka: for pastors working for you in remote areas; for believers who face intimidation and harassment for their faith.</p> <p>We pray each will know your comfort in the face of suffering, and will be ‘lights in the darkness’ to those around them.</p> <p>We ask you to strengthen the staff of the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka, as they act as the voice of your people in Sri Lanka. Please give them wisdom and favour as they deal with the authorities. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.</p>

34.	<p>[Corporate prayer of commitment]</p> <p>Father God, we thank you for the faithful witness of your suffering church around the world. Please help them to shine as ‘lights in the darkness’, bringing glory to your name.</p> <p>By your Holy Spirit, open my heart so I can learn from their experience. Enable me to pray with insight for my brothers and sisters, and to live my life as a ‘light in the darkness’ also.</p> <p>In Jesus’ name, Amen.</p>	<p>Lastly, let us commit ourselves to remembering our persecuted brothers and sisters by saying together this short prayer of commitment. Please stand, and let us say together:</p> <p>Father God, we thank you for the faithful witness of your suffering church around the world. Please help them to shine as ‘lights in the darkness’, bringing glory to your name.</p> <p>By your Holy Spirit, open my heart so I can learn from their experience. Enable me to pray with insight for my brothers and sisters, and to live my life as a ‘light in the darkness’ also.</p> <p>In Jesus’ name, Amen.</p>
35.	Title	<p>Thank you for praying for persecuted Christians today. If you would like to keep on praying, there are a number of ways to stay informed about the needs of persecuted Christians.</p>
36.	7x7 logo	<p>Release International has a special ‘7x7’ prayer campaign, praying for seven years for seven nations where Christians have faced intense persecution.</p>
37.	Prisoners of Faith	<p>RI also provides monthly updates on individual Christians imprisoned for their faith. Both of these services are available free of charge by email. [Facilitator holds up <i>Light in the Darkness</i> response card] Please use one of these response cards if you would like to sign up.</p>
38.	RI closing slide	