

IDOP

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

For immediate release from the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
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November 16, 2003

Churches across Canada will join Christians around the world on November 16, 2003 in praying for those who are persecuted for their faith. Every day in over 60 countries more than 200 million men, women and children face discrimination, persecution and even death for loving Jesus Christ. What, above all else, do they ask of us? *Please pray for us!*

Canada will join the international community in observing the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) on Sunday, November 16. Other countries, such as the United States, will be observing IDOP on Sunday, November 9. All across the world, churches will set aside November 16 or November 9 to remember their persecuted brothers and sisters.

IDOP Canada urges the entire Christian community to set aside November 16 for a special service to stand with our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. Prayer for the persecuted is the least we can do – it is also the most we can do. While it is important to pray for those who are persecuted throughout the year, IDOP Sunday is a special day to have a special focus.

This year's theme for IDOP Canada is "Pray for us..." from 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3. Today, thousands of Christians persecuted around the world join Paul in this simple request: "pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly...and pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men." In Nepal, Christians trying to share the gospel with neighbouring villages have been jailed because they were mistaken for terrorists fighting in Nepal's brutal civil war. In Iran, Christians who share the gospel with Muslims continue to face torture and death for their faith. IDOP Canada is asking Canadian churches to pray especially for the four focus countries of Iran, Ethiopia, China and Nepal. IDOP Canada is preparing a resource kit to assist congregations, groups or friends to pray effectively for the persecuted church.

IDOP Canada is a partnership between the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's (EFC) Religious Liberty Commission, Open Doors with Brother Andrew (Canada), The Voice of the Martyrs (Canada), The Bible League and Partners International (Canada).

For more information and to order IDOP 2003 kits, go to www.idop.ca. Resource kits include a short video, a PowerPoint presentation, suggested songs, a speaker list, a sermon outline, a 10--week Bible study on persecution in the book of Acts, children's materials and country prayer profiles. Kits ordered before September 1 are \$20, tax included (\$25 after September 1).

If your publication has an events page, please add IDOP on November 16.

For additional information or an interview, please contact:

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THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

Bringing Christians together for greater impact in mission, ministry and witness

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) is an association of denominations, ministry organizations, educational institutions and local church congregations that collaborate for Christian mission. Since 1964 the EFC has gathered evangelical Christians together to uphold and promote biblical principles in all areas of life, and to encourage partnerships for more effective ministry. The affiliates of the EFC cherish the historic Christian gospel and unite around [a common statement of faith](#).

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