

# START HERE

# Your Advocate Quick Start Guide

GLOBAL  
CHRISTIAN  
RELIEF

## Welcome to the Advocate Family: Your Vital Role

**Purpose:** Connect U.S. Christians with our persecuted family to pray, share their stories, and mobilize support. Fuel the Great Commission by strengthening believers where following Jesus is costly.

**Your impact:** Be a catalyst—awaken awareness, inspire prayer, and spark action in your church, among friends/family, and in your community. Share credible stories and simple next steps that move people from compassion to action and commitment. Create a ripple effect: small, faithful actions multiply into prayer and support across your church, friend, and community networks.

### Biblical Foundation

*Great verses to highlight in your Bible and memorize.*

- One Church, One Family—when one part suffers, we all respond (1 Corinthians 12:26).
- Remember those in prison and mistreated as if alongside them (Hebrews 13:3).
- What we do for “the least of these,” we do for Jesus (Matthew 25:40).
- God uses hardship to refine faith and advance the gospel; our unity and prayers strengthen the Church under pressure (James 1:2–4).



### Understanding Persecution: The Reality of Our Suffering Family

- What it is: Hostility, mistreatment, or oppression because of faith in Jesus Christ; a current global crisis affecting millions.
- Where it's most severe: Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa; Central & East Asia (e.g., North Korea, China); India & Southeast Asia; parts of the Middle East; Latin America.
- What it looks like: Violence and torture; imprisonment; loss of homes and property; ostracism; discrimination in education and employment; sexual violence; death threats; murder.
- Stories of courageous faith: Despite opposition, believers worship, share Christ, and serve their communities with remarkable resilience. Explore video/text stories at [gcrelief.org/stories](https://gcrelief.org/stories).
- Quick handout: Download and review the “What Is Christian Persecution?” 1-Pager for a concise summary and daily prayer points.

### Your Essential Toolkit: Plug-and-Play Resources for Impact

*Latest versions live on the Advocate site: [gcrelief.org/advocate](https://gcrelief.org/advocate). More resources updated regularly.*

**Quick Start Guide (this doc)** — Read first; revisit for scripts, links, and next steps.

**“What Is Christian Persecution?” 1-Pager** — Quick explainer + daily prayer points; print 10; keep a copy on your phone.

**“The Ripple Effect” (4-week study)** — Full-color printed copy in your mailed Welcome Packet; downloadable color and black-and-white versions online to print for participants; plug-and-play small-group curriculum—lead it or equip a leader.

**“Standing with the Persecuted Church: One Church, One Family” (single-session study)**

One-session intro; perfect “taster” for small groups/Sunday School classes/youth.

**Slide Deck (presentations)** — Ready-to-use slides; pair with the 1-Pager and Prayer Guide.

**Night of Prayer Quick Start Guide** — Step-by-step plan with sample schedule; host a church/home prayer night.

**Prayer Guide & Slide Deck** — 10 prayer requests + stories with companion slides; lead a 2–10-minute prayer moment or a full prayer meeting.

**Bulletin Insert** — Printable awareness + simple ways to help; give to church staff or hand out at events.

## 5 Simple Actions You Can Take This Week to Get Started

*Note: Every resource mentioned here is in your Digital Toolkit ([gcrelief.org/advocate](http://gcrelief.org/advocate)).*

### Equip yourself

1

- Download and review: The Ripple Effect (4-week study), the “What Is Christian Persecution?” 1-Pager, Prayer Guide & Slide Deck, and the Slide Deck (presentations).
- Save key PDFs to your phone/cloud; print 10 copies of the 1-Pager.
- Review 4-5 videos at [gcrelief.org/videos](http://gcrelief.org/videos).

### Learn and use the elevator speech—make it your own

2

- Find the short elevator speech in your Digital Toolkit.
- Read it aloud twice; put it into your own words (swap in a region/story that moved you; keep details general in public settings).
- Share it with one person this week and end with a simple invitation (“Would you pray with me?” or “Want to see a 2-minute story?”).

### Share a story

3

- Choose one story (video or text) from [gcrelief.org/stories](http://gcrelief.org/stories).
- Suggested text message: “Meet a courageous believer standing firm in Jesus under pressure. Will you pray with me for the persecuted Church? Take a next step: [gcrelief.org/act](http://gcrelief.org/act)”
- Group option: Share the story in your small group and close with a 60-second prayer using the Prayer Guide.

## Pray for the persecuted church yourself, then share one need

# 4

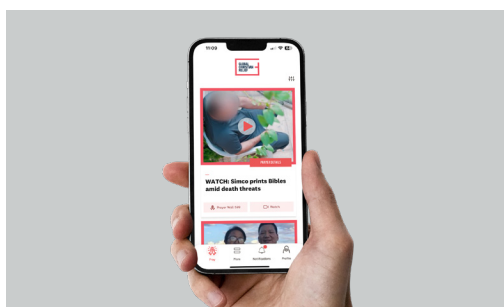
- **Today:** Open the Prayer Guide and personally pray through 2–3 of the 10 requests using the “Prayer Starter” lines.
- **This week:** Work through all 10 (Option A: one per day; Option B: three short sessions—1–3, 4–7, 8–10).
- **After you pray:** Share one prayer need with someone God brings to mind.  
Text a friend: “I’m praying for persecuted pastors’ protection this week. Will you take 30 seconds to pray with me today?”
- **Family:** “Let’s pray for Christian kids in hostile places to stay strong in Jesus.”
- **Quick call/coffee:** “I’ve been praying for believers who lost homes and need food and medical care in Nigeria. Will you pray about this with me now?”
- **Social:** “Today I’m praying ‘Basic Provisions’—food, shelter, medical care for persecuted believers. Join me in a 30-second prayer.”

## Invite and plan your next move

# 5

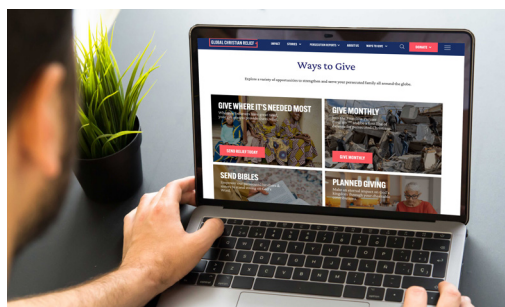
- Engage with a church/community leader: “Could we take 2–3 minutes this month to pray for persecuted Christians? I can provide a story and lead the prayer using GCR’s resources.”
- Choose one simple next step and put it on your calendar:
  - Lead a short prayer moment in a service or small group.
  - Host a Night of Prayer (use the Quick Start).
  - Run the single-session study or start “The Ripple Effect.”

## STAY CONNECTED & SUPPORTED



MONTHLY ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER

Your monthly source for fresh stories, timely prayer requests, and ready-to-share posts/slides. Includes upcoming campaigns, new resources, and practical tips. Watch your inbox and share highlights.



GCR SUPPORT

Need help or resources? Email [advocate@gcrelief.org](mailto:advocate@gcrelief.org) with any questions.