

# **Urgent Prayer Request for the Persecuted in Iraq**

**This prayer request is from Merel Frank--please pray earnestly for these matters.**

Sept 19, 2014. We recently received these two emails from missionary friends, one yesterday and one this morning. I pass it on so that people can pray specifically for our brothers and sisters.

This is so sad. A friend from Ohio just got a text message from her brother asking her to shower him and his parish in prayer. He is part of a mission team and ISIS has taken over the town they are in today. He said ISIS is systematically going house to house to all the Christians and asking the children to denounce Jesus. He said so far not one child has. And so far all have consequently been killed, but not the parents.

The UN has withdrawn, and the missionaries are on their own. They are determined to stick it out for the sake of the families - even if it means their own deaths. He is very afraid, has no idea how to even begin ministering to these families who have seen their children martyred. Yet he says he knows God has called him for some reason to be His voice and hands at this place at this time.

Even so, he is begging prayers for his courage to live out his vocation in such dire circumstances; and like the children, accept martyrdom if he is called to do so. She asked me to ask everyone we know to please pray for them. These brave parents instilled such a fervent faith in their children that they chose martyrdom. Please surround them in their loss with your prayers for hope and perseverance.

She was able to talk to her brother briefly by phone. She didn't say it but I believe she believes it will be their last conversation. Pray for her too. She said he just kept asking her to help him know what to do and then how to do it. She told him to tell the families we ARE praying for them and they are not alone or forgotten -- no matter what. Her e-mail broke my heart. Please keep all in your prayers. Thanks

This came this morning... Just a few minutes ago I received the following text message on my phone from Sean Malone who leads Crisis Response International (CRI). We then spoke briefly on the phone and I assured him that we would share this urgent prayer need with all of our contacts.

"We lost the city of Queragosh (Qaraqosh). It fell to ISIS and they are beheading children systematically. This is the city we have been smuggling food too. ISIS has pushed back Peshmerga (Kurdish forces) and is within 10 minutes of where our CRI team is working. Thousands more fled into the city of Erbil last night. The UN evacuated its staff in Erbil.

Our team is unmoved and will stay. Prayer cover needed!" Please pray sincerely for the deliverance of the people of Northern Iraq from the terrible advancement of ISIS and its extreme Islamic goals for mass conversion or death for Christians across this region.

May I plead with you not to ignore this email. Do not forward it before you have prayed through it. Then send it to as many people as possible. Send it to friends and Christians you may know. Send it to your prayer group. Send it to your pastor and phone him/her to pray on Sunday during the service - making a special time of prayer for this. We need to stand in the gap for our fellow Christians.

"And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercifully and to walk humbly with your God." -Micah 6:8

We Pray: Let the One Holy Christian Church cry out to God Almighty this prayer of the Saints and Martyrs from Revelation 6 "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

Lord, we find this Word from the Lord to be our strength and our salvation because it speaks of God's final word over and above all evil, hatred, suffering, persecution and death. The killing and murder of innocent Christians, whose blood is spilled for Christ's sake will not be spilled in vain. O Lord, You will indeed avenge the blood of those who are martyred for the sake of Your holy name. And so, indeed we do pray with the whole Church, come quickly Lord Jesus!