WHY SHOULD THE FREE CARE?
WEEPING WITH THOSE WHO WEEP
“Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them, and those ill-treated as though you too felt their torment.” Heb. 13:3 (NET)

TRIPLE THREAT AGAINST FREEDOM
Four countries appear on the lists of the top ten for the worst persecution, greatest corruption and least peace. Christians in these countries live with tremendous risks and uncertainties.

WORST PERSECUTION
1. NORTH KOREA
2. IRAQ
3. ERIITREA
4. AFGHANISTAN
5. SYRIA
6. PAKISTAN
7. SOMALIA
8. SUDAN
9. IRAN
10. LIBYA

GREATEST CORRUPTION
1. NORTH KOREA
2. SOMALIA
3. AFGHANISTAN
4. SOUTH SUDAN
5. ANGOLA
6. LIBYA
7. IRAQ
8. VENEZUELA
9. HAITI

LEAST PEACEFUL
1. SYRIA
2. SOUTH SUDAN
3. IRAQ
4. AFGHANISTAN
5. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
6. SUDAN
7. SOMALIA
8. PAKISTAN
9. CONGO (DEM. REP.)
10. RUSSIA

PERSECUTION ISN’T NECESSARILY OFFICIAL
“Social hostility” is another form of “persecution” many Christians face, and it does not always correlate to official persecution. China has very high official restriction on religion but less “social hostility” to religion than Britain, where legal restrictions are few. India also has high social hostility but low legal restriction. Indonesia is high on both scales, as are Russia and Egypt.

LEGAL SOCIAL
CHINA
8.6
3.3
BRITAIN
1.6
4.4
INDIA
4.5
7.9
INDONESIA
7.9
7.1

WE FORGET SO EASILY
The tragedy in Syria currently on the news is horrific, but will we forget it? How have we forgotten the other tragedies that were so much larger?

CHRISTIANS KILLED FOR POLITICAL REASONS (20th Century)
18 MILLION
1920s Stalin
Soviet Union
17 MILLION
1930s & 1940s
Soviet Union, China, and Nazi Germany
6 MILLION
All other 20th century decades

ALL DEATHS IN SYRIA
0.4 MILLION
Christians and Muslims, 2011-2016*

HOPELESS CASES?
A generation ago, three countries with the fiercest persecution of Christians were Nepal, Mongolia, and Albania. Drastic change and immense growth of the Church have come in those “hopeless cases.” There is no hopeless case when God moves—not Cuba, and not even North Korea.

Sources listed at www.missionographics.com/freedom-persecution

• WHenever you thank God for whatever freedom you enjoy, attach a prayer about that awful “Top Ten” list of persecution countries.
• Ask God if he has a personal assignment for you to write a letter, sign a petition, welcome a foreigner, join something, etc.
• Don’t forget. Set a reminder on your device. Visit websites such as www.opendoors.org or www.persecution.com
• If you are not free, pray for those who are. The refining fire of persecution does not touch them, and their impurities can get worse and worse.

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* Includes deaths attributed to “terrorism” from 2011-2016.