

# OSJ PRAYERS

**Friday, December 16, 2011**

## **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom**

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is at risk of shutting down if Congress does not approve \$4 million in annual spending for the independent bipartisan commission. USCIRF advocates for persecuted religious minorities around the world and advise the U.S. government on related policy positions. The Commission is an important part of advocacy for religious freedom around the world. Please pray for those suffering from religious persecution. Pray that world leaders will allow their citizens to freely practice and express their faith. Uplift the many organizations that advocate for religious freedom, that they will be a witness to God's love for all.

## **Canada to withdraw from Kyoto Protocol**

After recent talks in Durban failed to reach a consensus, Canada is formally withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, abandoning the world's only legally binding plan to tackle global warming. The Kyoto Protocol came into force in 2005, and Canada committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to 6 percent below 1990 levels during the period of 2008 to 2012. However, recent estimates indicate Canada's emissions are more than 30 percent above that target. And those most affected by decisions to abandon emissions standards are the poor. Please pray for those who already suffer from the effects of climate change. Uplift our world leaders, asking that they will hear the voices of the poor and will respond with dignity and compassion. Pray that the Church will lead the way in meeting the needs of those suffering from climate change.

## **Syria**

According to the UN Human Rights council, over 5,000 people have been killed in the government crackdown in Syria, 300 of those being children. And at least 12,400 have fled into neighboring countries since the anti-government protests erupted in March. Negotiations with the Arab League and other world leaders have failed to bring peace as the government continues to cling to power. Pray for peace. Pray that the Syrian government leaders will be receptive to their citizens and that they will respond with peace. Uplift those who have lost friends and family; may God's peace be a source of comfort to them.

## **End of Iraq mission**

Thursday marked the official end of the Iraq war. But while American troops leave, violent conflict continues. A few hundred military personnel and Pentagon civilians will remain, working within the American Embassy as part of an Office of Security Cooperation to assist in training Iraqi security forces. Praise God for the end of the war and return of U.S. troops. Yet also continue to pray for Iraq. Pray for those who have suffered under the violent conflict during the past eight years. Pray for God's peace to bring an end to conflict and healing to those who have lost loved ones.

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