



“Cross and Sun Rays: Epiphany”¹

WHY PRAY? Because prayer is the hidden way for providing spiritual help to others who are under stress, in danger, or those who are suffering illness or delusion: “Pray for one another that you may be healed” James 5:16.² Since prayer is a means of helping others, it must be characterized by compassion and self-sacrifice.³

When Saul asked “Who are you, Lord?” And He said, “I am Jesus, ... I have appeared to you for this purpose ... to make you a witness ... to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.” Acts 26:18

“ ... If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.” 2 Corinthians 4:3

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.” 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

CLICK HERE TO PRAY FOR PERSECUTED BELIEVERS

Persecuted Voice of the Martyrs⁴

It is our duty to pray for our enemies who oppose us and seek to do us harm.⁵ “Since prayer is a means for disarming hostility, it must include a spirit of forgiveness from a sincere heart and a clear conscience.”⁶

1 Linoleum block prints by Elizabeth Steele Halstead. Reprinted by permission from *Visuals for Worship*, ©2006, Faith Alive Christian Resources. pg. 39 “Cross and Sun Rays: Epiphany.”

2 El-Meskeen, Father Matta (Matthew the Poor). *Orthodox Prayer Life: The Interior Way* Crestwood: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2003, 259

3 (El-Meskeen 2003, 260)

4 Voice of the Martyrs, The. <http://www.persecution.com/public/pray.aspx?clickfrom=bWFpbI9tZW51> (accessed January 20, 2012).

5 (El-Meskeen 2003, 259)

6 (El-Meskeen 2003, 260)