

Autumn

@

burlington
BAPTIST CHURCH

Connecting



Connecting with the
Persecuted Church

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

Do we know what's happening

This is our family



Connecting with the Persecuted Church

It's hard isn't it

Is God in control ?

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

The gospel impact was growing

Acts 11:21

The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

Persecution was increasing

Acts 12:1

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them.

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

Jesus warned them, but now it's personal

John 15:18-20

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

How does the Church respond - 24x7 prayer

Act 12:5

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was *earnestly* praying to God for him.



Connecting with the Persecuted Church

How does the Church respond - 24x7 prayer

To pray is to accept that we are, and always will be, wholly dependent on God.

Tim Keller

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

Peter is released and gives God the Glory

Act 12:11

Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

Unstoppable God
Unstoppable Mission

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

Despite what we see, God is on the move

Act 12:24

But the word of God continued to spread and flourish. ■

Connecting with the Persecuted Church

Unstoppable God - Unstoppable Mission



Connecting with the Persecuted Church

What's Jesus invitation to us ?

Will you play your part ?

Will you stand with me alongside my children who are suffering because they own my name ?



Connecting with the Persecuted Church

What would it look like if we said YES ?

Matthew 25:36,36

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'