

## Upcoming Events

- Nursery Available (Ages 0-5) - Parents > attendant will escort you
- Every Sunday - L.I.F.E. Groups @ 9-10AM - All Ages
- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> (Sun) - DEMO DAY! >> We need your help
  - Starting right after church
  - Heavy Lifting - Removal of pews & carpeting.
  - Lunch will be provided
  - If you have tools / gloves that will help, please bring them.
  - Ques? See Don Hickson
- Oct 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> (Thur-Sat) - Ladies Retreat, Wildwood, NJ  
Ques? > Lisa Cotter
- OCT 14<sup>th</sup> - FBC Monthly Board Meeting @ 7PM
- OCT 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7-9PM - True Women's Center (Choices of the Heart)  
Annual Gala - 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - @ DoubleTree, Cherry Hill, NJ
  - Speaker: Nick Foles - Christian & Superbowl LII MVP
  - Register to attend @ Truefriendsnj.com
- 10% of ALL our Giving goes to Global Missions  
Designated Offerings can be made to Local Outreach, Changemakers etc.
- Get CONNECTED with God, His Church & His People see - CONNECT Card
- Wednesdays @ 7:00PM Bible Study & Prayer  
[www.fairmeeting.net/fbcblackwood](http://www.fairmeeting.net/fbcblackwood)

## — MISSIONARIES —



*Georgia (Russian Church)*

- Boris & Vera Lebedev
- [boris.lbrdrv69@yandex.ru](mailto:boris.lbrdrv69@yandex.ru)

## Persecuted Christian

- NIGERIA -

### FORMER ISLAMIST MATYRED FOR CHRIST

A Christian, his wife & their newborn daughter were killed by members of the man's former terrorist group. Moustafa was a prominent leader in the group, & one night he snuck into a Christian meeting, intending to cause trouble. But as a Christian woman shared about God's coming judgment, he became a follower of Christ. When he told his terrorist group about his new faith, they tried to burn him to death. He survived for 3 months, visited by many Islamist friends who became followers of Christ through his witness. After Moustafa's death in 2024, his wife, who was pregnant with twins, delivered a son & had friends rush him to a Christian leader. As she delivered the second child, terrorists from her husband's former group killed her & the baby girl. Front-line workers ask Christians to pray for the son & his caregiver, who carries deep emotional wounds from the incident.

Nigeria is almost evenly divided between Muslims, in the north, & Christians, in the south. There are more than 80 million professing Christians in Africa's most populous nation, the fruit of both pioneer mission work & freed slaves who returned to the continent from Europe with the gospel following the 1833 abolition of slavery in England. Foreign missionary activity in the north has declined much since '08 due to the emergence of militant group Boko Haram. It is affiliated with al-Qaida & has also aligned itself with ISIS. Although Boko Haram has weakened somewhat in the northeast, it still carries out devastating attacks in Christian communities & on army units. Boko Haram is also reportedly backing ongoing attacks on Christian villages by militant Fulani Muslims, who have focused their attacks in central Nigeria. Terrorist groups & other Muslims in the north want to drive Christians out of the region & continue their push to create a separate nation governed by Islamic law. 51% of Nigerians are Christians. The nation is divided between Christians & Sunni Muslims. The Boko Haram Islamic extremist group & militant Fulani Muslims both attack Christians throughout northern Nigeria.

Nearly all Christians in northeastern Nigeria have lost family members or friends in attacks by militant groups. Entire congregations have been displaced & many pastors have been forced to leave the region. Being active in church looks much different than it did at the beginning of the 21st century. It now takes great courage & faith to openly worship & serve Christ. Thousands of Christians remain in camps designated for internally displaced people. With few schools able to function because of the violence, families are concerned about their children's education. Life is a constant struggle, & in some places it is difficult for Christians to find food. Famine threatens farms in the north as a result of ongoing Islamist violence, & militant Fulani Muslims kill farmers when they attempt to return to their farms. In addition, many villages & farmlands have been taken over by the Islamist militias.

#### PLEASE PRAY:

For Sade & her children, who were driven from their home by militant Fulani Muslims. For the boldness of front-line workers in areas where Islamist violence is common. That displaced congregations in northeastern Nigeria will experience God's provision. That members of Boko Haram & other Islamic terrorist groups will repent & place their faith in Christ.

That Christians, through God's grace, will be able to forgive their persecutors, some of whom are their neighbors.

Pray that widows & orphans will experience God's comfort, presence & provision in their loss.

[WWW.PERSECUTED.COM/STORIES](http://WWW.PERSECUTED.COM/STORIES)

