



*Prayer for the Persecuted Church*

***“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God.” Isaiah 40:1***

***“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.” Hebrews 13:3***

Global Watchdog Open Doors reports that in just the last year...

- Over 365 million Christians live in places where they experience high levels of persecution and discrimination.
- 4,998 Christians were killed for their faith.
- 14,766 churches and other Christian buildings were attacked.
- 295,120 believers detained without trial, arrested, sentenced, or imprisoned.

These numbers are heart-breaking. And sadly, they do not tell the whole story.

**General Pray:**

- Whatever their circumstances, God will give persecuted Christians the right words. (Ephesians 6:19-20)
- That persecuted Christians will understand and find peace in the sufficiency of God’s grace, even in their weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- That Christians facing hardship will draw from a source of power larger than themselves. (2 Corinthians 1:7-9)
- God be present in their hardship, protecting them according to His will.
- That their witness would inspire those who seek to harm them.

## **Saudi Arabia**

**Persecution Type:** Islamic oppression, Dictatorial paranoia, Clan Oppression.

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** Absolute Monarchy

**Leader:** Crown Prince and Prime Minister Muhammad Bin Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud

### **How You Can Pray for Sudan**

- Please pray that secret believers will find other Christians to meet with, and that Christian communities will have discernment and courage as they distinguish between true believers and spies.
- Ask that Christians will be led to those who are searching for truth, and that the number of people coming to know Jesus will grow.
- Pray that Saudi society would be opened to allowing people to freely follow Jesus.

## **Mali**

**Persecution Type:** Islamic oppression, Dictatorial paranoia, Clan oppression, Organized corruption & crime.

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** Semi-Presidential Republic

**Leader:** Interim President Assimi Goita

### **How You Can Pray for Iran**

- Please pray for courage and safety for Christians living at risk of attack from Islamic militants
- Pray that those affected by persecution will have a profound experience of God's comfort
- Ask that elections will go ahead this year, leading to stronger, just governance in Mali.

## **Algeria**

**Persecution Type:** Islamic oppression, Dictatorial paranoia, Clan oppression, Ethno-religious hostility.

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** Presidential Republic

**Leader:** President Abdelmadjid Tebboune

### **How You Can Pray for Nigeria**

- Please pray that God would be with Algerian church leaders and Christians who have seen their churches close. Ask God to intervene and help believers find a way to meet together.
- Pray for Christians who are accused or suspected of breaking the regulation making it illegal to “shake the faith of a Muslim.” Pray these believers would not be unfairly targeted and the unjust laws would be overturned.
- Ask that every Christian in Algeria would be able to worship freely with other Christians. Pray that God would protect them from abuse and oppression from family and community.

## **Iraq**

**Persecution Type:** Islamic oppression, Dictatorial paranoia, Organized corruption & crime, Clan oppression.

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** Federal Parliamentary Republic

**Leader:** Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani

### **How You Can Pray for Pakistan**

- Pray for Christians and churches who are victims of discrimination in Iraq. Ask God to help them persevere through unfair treatment and to change the hearts of their persecutors.
- Praise God that rebuilding continues in historically Christian communities in northern Iraq. Ask Him to help churches and Christians continue to deepen their roots in Iraq.
- Pray for Open Doors’ work supporting trauma care in Iraq. So many Iraqi Christians carry deep wounds from the years of ISIS. Ask God to bless this ministry.