



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.

Myanmar

Persecution Type: Dictatorial paranoia, Religious Nationalism, Ethno-Religious Hostility

Main Religion: Buddhism

Government: Military Regime

Leader: Prime Minister, Sr. Gen. Min Aung Hlaing

How You Can Pray for Myanmar

- Please pray that God will enable Christians to endure the ongoing, long-term consequences of the coup.
- Pray that Christians caught in the conflict between the ruling military junta and rebel groups will be peacemakers.
- Pray that the leaders of Myanmar's military will see that Jesus is the true source of peace and joy.

China

Persecution Type: (Post)Communist Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia

Main Religion: Agnosticism

Government: Communist Party-led state

Leader: President Xi Jinping

How You Can Pray for China

- Pressure on Chinese Christians seems to increase with each passing year. Pray that believers will experience growth in their faith even as persecution rises.
- Ask God to protect believers who live in areas where Islam or Buddhism are the primary faiths. Converts from these religions can encounter overt persecution from their families and communities.
- Church leaders are often monitored and regarded with suspicion by Chinese authorities. Pray these leaders will feel the presence of Christ.

Maldives

Persecution Type: Islamic oppression, Dictatorial paranoia, Organized Corruption and Crime

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Mohamed MUIZZU

How You Can Pray for Maldives

- Pray that secret believers will be able to access the Bible in their own language this year.
- Pray for Christians – both Maldivians and migrant believers – to find opportunities to meet, pray and worship with one another.
- Pray that the Lord will open the eyes of the global community to the situation facing Christians in the Maldives.

Syria (Opendoorsus.org indicates this may be old information)

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

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Authoritarian Presidential Republic

Leader: President Bashar al-Assad

How You Can Pray for Syria

- Following Jesus in Syria means confronting more than a decade of near-constant challenges – Islamist extremism, war, natural disasters and constant economic stress. Pray that God will bring about the peace only He can.
- Ask God to give hope and healing to converts from Islam who have been rejected and expelled from their families and communities.
- Pray for the churches in Syria, that they will be given refreshment to continue serving God's people.
- Pray for the awakening of the church to work together and to intentionally stand in the gap. Pray that the church will admit its shortcomings and ask for God's forgiveness and mercy to heal wounded hearts; that it would stand by the oppressed, proclaim the good news, strengthen the weak and shine for the truth in words and deeds.