



*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.

## **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 Algeria**

- Almost every Protestant church in Algeria has been forcibly closed or fears it will be soon. Pray that God will allow these places of worship to remain open.
- In Algeria, sharing your faith in Jesus is risky: it's illegal to 'shake the faith of a Muslim'. Ask God to give His people both wisdom and boldness, and pray that they will be protected if and when they share their faith.
- Pray that every believer in Algeria will be able to find a Christian community where they can enjoy fellowship.

## **Burkina Faso**

**Persecution Type:** Islamic Oppression, Organized Corruption and Crime, Dictatorial Paranoia

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** President Republic

**Leader:** President Ibrahim Traore

### **How You Can Pray for Burkina Faso**

- Violence in Burkina Faso has led to a massive displacement crisis. Pray for believers who are displaced by Islamist militants. Ask God to bring them hope and healing.
- Pray for believers who have endured violence. Ask God to bind up their wounds.
- Pray for church leaders who have been forced to flee their homes and villages – yet still hope to minister to their flocks. Pray that God will encourage and strengthen these shepherds.

## Morocco

**Persecution Type:** Islamic oppression, Dictatorial paranoia

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy

**Leader:** King Mohammed VI

### **How You Can Pray for Morocco**

- Please pray that God will help the Moroccan church be salt and light.
- Pray that Christians will be wise and courageous as they live for Jesus and work out how to share their faith.
- Pray that converts from Islam facing pressure from their families and communities will find hope and peace.

## Laos

**Persecution Type:** (Post) Communist Oppression, Dictatorial paranoia, Clan oppression

**Main Religion:** Buddhism

**Government:** Communist Party-led State

**Leader:** President Thongloun Sisoulith

### **How You Can Pray for Laos**

- In tribal areas, Christians can be expelled from their villages because of their faith. Pray that God will help these believers find a safe place to live and worship Him.
- Pray for the families of pastors and other church leaders who have been killed. Ask God to heal their wounds.
- Pray for the Lord's protection over Christians who are monitored and forced to meet under the watchful eye of the Communist authorities.