



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 388 million Christians live in places where they experience high levels of persecution and discrimination.
- 4,849 Christians were killed for their faith.
- 3,623 churches and other Christian buildings were attacked.
- 224,129 Christians forced to leave their homes, go into hiding in-country or leave the country.

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.

Sudan: 2,201,00 Christians

Persecution Type: Islamic Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia, Clan Oppression, Organized Corruption & Crime.

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: General Abd-al-Fattah al-Burhan Abd-al-Rahman

How You Can Pray for Sudan

- As the brutal civil war in Sudan continues, ask God to bring about a peaceful resolution and help the church to be peacemakers in this war.
- Pray for believers who suffer from the civil war and have been forced to flee, or who have no choice but to stay and hunker down. Ask God to protect them.
- Pray that Christians in Sudan could carefully live as salt and light, and show that Jesus' peace is a better way.
- Pray for the future of the church in Sudan and wisdom for her leaders. Even if the warring parties are able to come to a peace resolution, neither are favourable towards the church.

Eritrea: 1,713,000 Christians

Persecution Type: Dictatorial Paranoia, Denominational Protectionism, Organized Corruption and Crime

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Isaias Afwerki

How You Can Pray for Eritrea

- There are many Christians stuck in Eritrea's notorious prison system – some detained simply for practising their faith. Pray they will keep their hope alive and be set free.
- Ask God to protect and provide for the daily needs of Christians who are arrested or detained for their faith. Pray they will know they aren't forgotten, and that their families will be comforted.
- Eritrea is ruled by a brutal dictatorship. Pray that President Afwerki's heart would be turned away from oppression and towards the love of Jesus.

Syria: 300,000 Christians

Persecution Type: Islamic Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia, Clan Oppression, Organized Corruption & Crime, Denominational Protectionism

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Ahmed al-Sharaa

How You Can Pray for Syria

- In the aftermath of the fall of the Assad regime, many Christians live with constant uncertainty. Pray that believers would lean on God as their 'Rock eternal' (Isaiah 26:4).
- Pray for converts from Islam, that they would find love and fellowship even when they encounter rejection by family and friends.
- Pray for the victims of the Damascus church attack, that their wounds would be healed, and they would feel God's closeness as they decide how best to live out their faith.

Nigeria: 107,275,000 Christians

Persecution Type: Ethno-Religious Hostility, Islamic Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia, Organized Corruption and Crime

Main Religion: Islam / Christianity

Government: Federal Presidential Republic

Leader: President Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu

How You Can Pray for Nigeria

- It seems the violence in northern Nigeria is never-ending. Ask God to bring peace to this country.
- Just this year, tens of thousands of Nigerian Christians were displaced. Pray that God would give them hope and stability.
- Pray that the government of Nigeria would do everything possible to protect people from violence. Ask God to work on the hearts of both officials and those who would inflict violence on His people.

As reported by [opendoorsus.org](https://open.doorsus.org) (2026)