



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.

Burkina Faso: 6,124,000 Christians

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

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Ibrahim Traore

How You Can Pray for Burkina Faso

Pray for stability and that the people of Burkina Faso would be cared for by the authorities. Since the 2022 military coup, Burkina Faso has been led by a military government. Promises to return to civilian rule have so far not come to pass.

Pray these extremists would encounter the truth of Jesus and put aside their violent aims. Islamic militants continue to carry out periodic attacks.

Ask God to help Christians who have been displaced or have lost loved ones in the violence. Pray they would be comforted and experience the true peace of Christ.

Pray for Open Doors partners as they care for displaced believers. Pray that God would bless these efforts and ignite a gospel fire that spreads across Burkina Faso.

China: 96,700,000 Christians

Persecution Type: (Post) Communist Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia

Main Religion: Agnostic/Atheist

Government: Communist Party-led state

Leader: President Xi Jinping

How You Can Pray for China

Pray for protection and courage in the face of uncertainty. Many believers in China worship in unregistered churches, knowing that at any point their church could be shut down.

Pray for young believers and their parents, that God would raise up a new generation of Chinese Christians. Under-18s are forbidden from attending church or religious gatherings.

Pray for church leaders who feel caught between protecting their congregations and fulfilling their calling. Pray for wisdom and strength.

Iraq: 187,000 Christians

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

Main Religion: Buddhism

Government: Military Regime

Leader: Acting President Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

How You Can Pray for Iraq

Converting to Christianity from Islam can have terrible consequences in Iraq. Ask God to protect these converts from harm – and to help them know they are not alone.

The church in Iraq is still working to reestablish itself, almost a decade after Islamic State group militants inflicted generational trauma. Pray that believers would be able to be salt and light and that God would bless those called to stay.

In a stark reminder that Islamic extremism is still alive in Iraq, a man with ties to IS attacked Christians in April 2025. Pray for the victims and that the roots of this hatred would be changed by Jesus' overwhelming love.

Maldives: Hundreds Christians

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

Main Religion: Sunni Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Mohamed Muizzu

How You Can Pray for Maldives

Right now, the complete Bible has yet to be translated into the native language of the Maldives. Ask God to change that this year.

Pray for converts from Islam – that they would be protected.

Christians (especially converts) are forced to worship in secret. Pray for these courageous fellowships and ask God to bless them.