



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.

Cuba: 6,874,000 Christians

Persecution Type: Dictatorial Paranoia, (Post)Communist Oppression, Secular Intolerance

Main Religion: Christianity

Government: Communist State

Leader: President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez

How You Can Pray for Cuba

Ask God to provide for the Cuban people, that they would have access to essentials. Like all Cubans, believers on the island face significant humanitarian needs.

Pray for church leaders who are monitored by the Cuban government. Pray that God will give them wisdom and courage and that they would be able to share their faith without impediment.

Pray for Bibles to be easily accessible to anyone who wants one. Bibles in Cuba can be difficult to come by, and quite expensive.

Uzbekistan: 395,000 Christians

Persecution Type: Dictatorial Paranoia, Islamic Oppression, Clan Oppression

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

How You Can Pray for Uzbekistan

Churches and church leaders often come under surveillance by the authorities. Pray they would be able to lead others without harassment or harm.

Non-registered churches are especially targeted and raided. Ask God to protect believers who risk so much simply to meet and worship Him.

Ask that converts from Islam in Uzbekistan – who are often pressured by family, community and government to recant – will receive God's grace and hope.

Niger: 74.900 Christians

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

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Semi-presidential republic (prior to military coup in July 2023)

Leader: General Abdourahmane Tchiani

How You Can Pray for Niger

A military junta has ruled Niger since 2023, and some basic freedoms are still elusive. Pray the military will govern fairly and offer elections soon – and that stability will return to Niger.

In some parts of Niger, Christians live at risk from attack by Islamic militants. Pray for protection and for those displaced by the insecurity of the region.

When a Nigerien converts from Islam to Christianity, they can face severe pressure from both family and community. Pray for these followers of Jesus to experience the Lord's provision in all their physical and spiritual needs.

Tajikistan: 55,000 Christians

Persecution Type: Islamic Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia, Clan Oppression

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Emomali Rahmon

How You Can Pray for Tajikistan

The government of Tajikistan monitors communities of believers. Ask God to keep Christians safe and give extra grace to church leaders.

As Tajikistan begins to deport Afghan refugees – including Christians – many Afghans live in fear of what will happen when they are sent home. Pray that God would be with these believers as they face the unknown.

Pray that God would protect Open Doors partners in Tajikistan and throughout Central Asia as they deliver His Word and provide training and discipleship so the gospel can spread.

As reported by opendoorsus.org (2026)