



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.

Nicaragua: 6,832,000 Christians

Persecution Type: (Post)Communist Oppression, Organized Corruption & Crime, Dictatorial Paranoia

Main Religion: Christianity

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: Co - Presidents Jose Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Rosario Maria Murillo Zambrana

How You Can Pray for Nicaragua

- Pastors in Nicaragua can face arbitrary arrest and detention. Pray for these leaders and their families.
- Ask God to protect Open Doors partners as they seek to serve and strengthen the Nicaraguan church.
- Pray that churches under surveillance by the authorities would be given courage and wisdom.

Bangladesh 950,000 Christians

Persecution Type: Dictatorial Paranoia, Islamic Oppression, Clan Oppression, Religious Nationalism

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Parliamentary Republic

Leader: President Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppi

How You Can Pray for Bangladesh

- Pray for healing and endurance for these believers. Through much of 2025, Bangladesh dealt with political turmoil in the aftermath of the prime minister's resignation. Some extremists used this opportunity to violently persecute religious minorities, including Christians.
- Pray for Christians who convert to follow Jesus. Often, they face pressure from both family and community. Ask God to help them know they are not alone.
- Thank God for the brave, resilient faith of many believers in Bangladesh, who continue to walk with Jesus despite the risk.

Bhutan: 19,300 Christians

Persecution Type: Religious Nationalism

Main Religion: Buddhism

Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Leader: King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

How You Can Pray for Bhutan

- Pray for those Christians in Bhutan who only have the option to attend churches that are not legally registered. Pray they would be able to continue to meet regardless of official recognition, and that those working for registration would find favour.
- Lift up believers in Bhutan who have converted from Buddhism. Bhutan is built around Buddhist beliefs, so conversion can create its own difficulties.
- Pray for Open Doors partners in Bhutan who help support the church with prayer and emergency support. Ask God to give these partners hope and joy in ministry.

Turkmenistan: 95,000 Christians

Persecution Type: Islamic Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia, Clan Oppression

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Serdar Berdimuhamedow

How You Can Pray for Turkmenistan

- Pray for unity among the people of God in Turkmenistan. Ask that God will break down walls and that the love of believers would be on display, as Jesus has commanded (John 17:21).
- Many church leaders are heavily monitored by the totalitarian regime. Ask God to give them safety and courage.
- Muslims who decide to follow Jesus in Turkmenistan may face rejection. Pray for healing and hope.