

SYRIA



POPULATION: 22.4 million

INFO: The church in Syria is relatively tolerated, and Christians are free to join in services. However, the secret police know everything, and Believers from a Muslim Background face a lot of pressure from family and friends.

In the spring of 2011, the Arabic Revolt reached Syria. Many foreign Muslim extremists entered the country and started to threaten Christians. Living in a very insecure time, church leaders fear that in the future, the freedom Christians experience may be severely limited.

PRAY: Eat crackers and hummus (traditional Middle Eastern snack) while you pray for Syria.

PRAY: For Believers from a Muslim Background to remain strong in their faith under persecution.

PRAY: For future freedom for churches in Syria.

TUNISIA



POPULATION: 11.2 million

INFO: Being a Christian in Tunisia can mean that the police knows everything about you. The local Church in Tunisia is small; about 1 500 members. However, Muslims are finding Jesus Christ through television and Christian websites, but when they become a Christian they face a lot of discrimination.

In January 2011, the regime of President Ben Ali tumbled down. Many Muslim extremists entered the country and intensified the pressure on Christians. But there is also good news: the Church in Tunisia is growing despite all the pressure.

PRAY: Tunisian crochet is famous; it is a mixture of crocheting and knitting. Grab some knitted garments and hold them. Just as the strands of fabric are held together, pray for unity and support for the Tunisian church.

PRAY: For new Christians to find fellowship and support.

PRAY: For Christian media to continue to reach out and lead Tunisians to Christ.

PRAY: For the future regime of this nation.

EGYPT



POPULATION: 80.8 million

INFO: In Egypt, Islam is the state religion. The state forces all kinds of restrictions on the Church and it is very hard to get new building permits for church buildings. Due to the revolt in the spring of 2011, the position of Christians has become more difficult than before. Especially for Believers from a Muslim Background, who face oppression from their families and if they try to find a job. When trying to change their religion on their identification cards, Christians face a lot of problems. Believers Maher and Dina El-Gohary were forced to hide for two years because they wanted to do this!

PRAY: The word "paper" comes from the Egyptian word "papyrus", which means "that which belongs to the house". Take a piece of paper and write your prayer requests down for this country.

PRAY: For the unsettled political regime.

PRAY: For the believers facing persecution and discrimination.

YEMEN



POPULATION: 23.6 million

INFO: Yemen was the seventh country on the Open Doors World Watch List in 2011. In Yemen Islam is the only allowed religion and Islamic law, *Sharia*, is the source of all legislation. The government forbids conversion from Islam to Christianity. In 2011, six Believers from a Muslim Background were arrested and imprisoned for becoming Christians. The pressure on Christians is huge. They live daily with the fear of being arrested and put in jail without any official charges. When arrested, the pressure to convert to Islam is enormous. Foreign Christians are free to attend their own services on Sundays.

PRAY: A common spice used in Yemen is 'Hawajat', which is a mixture of turmeric, black pepper, cumin, coriander and cardamom. Get a hold of these spices and mix them together in a bowl, and then pray for Yemen and the small number of Christians there.

PRAY: For a positive response to Christian radio and TV, and revelation from God to those who are seeking Him.

PRAY: For the revelation of Jesus to the Islamic fundamentalists.

PRAY: For foreign Christians to be able to reach out to the local people.

LIBYA



POPULATION: 6.6 million

INFO: Local believers in Libya live out their faith in secret. The now overthrown military regime of Muammar Gaddafi forbid churches for local believers. Before the war started, there were many foreign Christians but almost all of them have fled the country. The secret police controls everything and that is a big threat for local believers. For this reason it is very hard to organise church activities. When the uprising started in the spring of 2011, many Christians were more open about their faith in Jesus Christ, but are now afraid of what will happen in the future.

PRAY: The desert covers much of Libya. It is one of the most arid places on earth. Fill a bowl with sand and run your hands through the grains as you pray for Libya.

PRAY: For peace in Libya.

PRAY: For local believers to find ways of being able to gather.

PRAY: For the living water of Jesus in this dry land.

IRAN

POPULATION: 74.2 million

INFO: Many Christians in Iran are persecuted and put in jail because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Armenian, Assyrian and Chaldean churches are officially recognized by the government, but it is forbidden to preach the Gospel. Believers from a Muslim Background often attend house churches, but it is very difficult to let people know that you are a Christian. Individual believers have difficulties with finding and keeping a job once it becomes known that they are a believer. Since the presidential elections in 2009, there have been many arrests; some Christians have been released, but many are still in prison. Life in an Iranian prison is very hard and often there is no legal counsel.

PRAY: "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12:24) Take a seed and place it in some soil while you pray for the Church in Iran.

PRAY: That despite all the pressures and suffering 'it will produce many seeds'.

PRAY: For the growing number of secret believers in Iran.