

#21 | CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC In the Central African Republic there has been an increase in violence against Christians, especially in the northeast by Seleka offshoots, many of which can be considered violent religious groups. Pray for God's grace on all those affected by such violence – may God heal them from the trauma and comfort them in their loss.

#22 | ALGERIA The political future remains uncertain in Algeria as the government tries to prepare a succession for President Bouteflika. Pray for a smooth transition without violence. Pray also that the 'new' government will be more open towards Christians and will acknowledge their rights as lawful citizens.



#23 | TURKMENISTAN In Turkmenistan, secret house churches are increasingly targeted by police and the authorities. In most areas, officially and publicly worshipping God is not permitted, and evangelising is a punishable offense. Pray for the protection of these house churches.

#24 | MALI The main challenge that Christians currently face in Mali is the presence of radical Islamic groups. This creates fear and insecurity among Christians. Pray for God's courage for Christians in the country and that His purposes will be accomplished in and through their lives.

#25 | MAURITANIA Pray for the Mauritanian Church to grow in spiritual maturity so that they will fully trust in God. Pray also for training to be made possible for illiterate believers – many of them women – as they seek God with a limited ability to read and to access the Scripture.

#26 | TURKEY Turkey is gradually enforcing Islamic influence while discrimination against Christians and other religious minorities is increasing. Pray for God to enable those Christians experiencing persecution to place all their hope and trust in Him.

#27 | CHINA Pray for Christians to stand strong amid tightening religious restrictions, which even affect Christian children at school. Pray that those at school will enter a deeper walk with Jesus amidst the pressure to conform to the traditional beliefs of the country.

#28 | ETHIOPIA In searching for "roots and identity" some individuals and ethnic groups have become hostile to Christians who refuse to take part in all the religious and cultural rites of the community. Pray for God's grace over these believers to remain steadfast in the faith.

#29 | TAJIKISTAN The regime in Tajikistan puts a great deal of pressure on the Christian minority and other "deviating" groups by tightening already-existing laws and enforcing these strictly. Pray that this pressure would lessen and that the country would become more open to Christianity.



#30 | INDONESIA Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world. Here, Christian converts from Islam are heavily pressured to renounce their faith. Pray that they would have access to Bibles and fellowship and that God would grant Christian congregations access to secure church buildings.

*Names changed and representative images used for security purposes.

PRAYER FORCE ALERT WORLD WATCH LIST

Prayer calendar for the Top 30 World Watch List countries



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"If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you." – 1 Peter 4:14 (NIV)

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PRAYER CALENDAR FOR THE TOP 30 WORLD WATCH LIST COUNTRIES

#1 | NORTH KOREA Christians in North Korea face persecution from state authorities and their non-Christian family, friends, and neighbours. Pray for their protection. Pray also for Christians who suffer in prisons, labour camps and remote areas – that God will give them strength and endurance.



#2 | AFGHANISTAN The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan does not allow conversion from Islam. It is seen as apostasy and brings shame on the family and community. Pray for change to take place within the country and for more of an openness toward religions outside of Islam.

#3 | SOMALIA Islam is so deeply-rooted among Somalis that Christians have no freedom whatsoever to live out their faith. Pray that the Lord will strengthen those who have chosen to follow Him despite the great risks involved. Pray for protection and innovative ways for Christians to have fellowship.

#4 | LIBYA Pray for peace in this war-torn country. The central government does not seem to have a lot of power, which means the level of anarchy remains high. Pray for the protection of the small and vulnerable community of Christians in Libya.

#5 | PAKISTAN Pray for protection for Pakistani converts from a Muslim background who suffer the brunt of persecution in Pakistan. Radical Islamist groups see them as apostates and their family, friends, and neighbours see their conversion as shameful to the community.

#6 | SUDAN In 2018 the Church in Khartoum faced many atrocities that has led to drawn-out court cases. Thank the Lord for justice in some cases due to the international attention received. Pray that continued international attention to religious freedom infringements would lead to greater freedom for the Sudanese Church.

#7 | ERITREA Christians in Eritrea must worship in secret and hundreds remain in prison for their religious practices outside of the state-recognised churches. Pray that despite this, Christians will be empowered by the Spirit to shine Christ's light in this country.

#8 | YEMEN The ongoing civil war in Yemen is currently the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Amidst this, Yemeni believers feel forgotten, isolated, and neglected. Pray for the war and the injustice to end and that Christians will keep their trust in God.

#9 | IRAN Pray for Iranian believers in prison and their families on the outside. Also pray for those still anxiously awaiting trial on faith-related charges. Pray for advocacy efforts, made on behalf of the persecuted and imprisoned, to bear fruit.

#10 | INDIA Pray for God's provision and protection over Christians in India who boldly evangelise, despite a growing number of states with anti-conversion laws. Pray that they will be wise in their evangelistic efforts.

#11 | SYRIA Pray for peace negotiations between the fighting parties in Syria. The war is complex and ordinary people have suffered greatly. Up until now the peace negotiations have yielded no end to the war. Pray for a true turnaround in this country.



#12 | NIGERIA Sharia (Islamic) law rules the 12 northern states of Nigeria, which means that Christians face a lot of marginalisation when it comes to education, jobs, and healthcare. Pray that these Christians would not be discouraged but have the grace to continue serving God despite the persecution.

#13 | IRAQ There have been many encouraging messages of people coming to Christ in the southern parts of Iraq. Pray for God to provide good shepherds for these new believers and that He will fill their hunger to know Him.

#14 | MALDIVES Many Maldivians want to leave the country because of the restrictions on freedom – some end up seeking solace in smoking or drugs. Pray that Maldivians will turn to Jesus to experience true freedom and that the new government will allow more openness and freedom in the country.

#15 | SAUDI ARABIA Isolated believers in Saudi Arabia lack fellowship and community. They often deal with pressure from their family and society to recant their faith, or with the fear that their faith will be discovered. Pray that God will provide them with community, discipleship and a sense of belonging.

#16 | EGYPT Pray for young Christian men and women that are looking for work. Many Muslim employers prefer Muslim employees, even when they are less skilled. This leaves many young Christians jobless, which hinders them in starting a career.

#17 | UZBEKISTAN Christians who have converted from Islam often experience isolation, as well as the fear that their family's discovery of their faith will lead to ridicule, persecution and even death. Each time these new believers reach out for Christian fellowship and community, they put their lives in danger along with those they meet with.

#18 | MYANMAR The children of Myanmar are the future of the Church and the nation. Pray for the Christian children's camps that are held in the country. Here, Buddhist children get to hear Bible stories and the Gospel. Pray for the Lord to bless the seeds of faith planted in the hearts of these children.

#19 | LAOS Pray that Christians in Laos would be able to freely access Bibles and register churches. Pray also that Christian children in Buddhist schools would not be discriminated against and given low marks simply because of their faith.

#20 | VIETNAM Pray for family members in Vietnam who pressure their Christian relatives to return to their traditional faith and rituals. Pray that they will see Christ clearly in their Christian relatives' lives and turn to Christ.