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**“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”**

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NIV)

# WORLD WATCH LIST

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## PRAYER CALENDAR

**MARCH 2020**

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**1 | NORTH KOREA** When it comes to protecting its ideology, North Korea does not care about international reputation or even diplomatic and economic fallout. Pray for Kim Jong Un, that he would come to know the one true God. Pray for change within the regime and that the power of evil will be broken.

**2 | AFGHANISTAN** The small number of Christian converts in the country must remain in hiding. The increasing level of violence creates a general sense of insecurity and there are no signs of improvement for the foreseeable future. Pray for stability and peace in Afghanistan.

**3 | SOMALIA** The Somali people are more than 99% Muslim and society expects all Somalis to be Muslim, as Islam is the state religion. Imams state publicly in mosques and madrassas that there is no room for Christianity, Christians or churches in Somalia. Pray that the Lord will continue to build His Church here amid these hostilities.

**4 | LIBYA** The continued state of anarchy means that Christians will continue to be persecuted in Libya and it also provides a base of operations for militant groups to attack Christians in neighbouring countries. Pray for believers, for their protection and for them to grow in their faith.

**5 | PAKISTAN** Radical Islamic groups will oppose every change of the status

## PAKISTAN continues

quo, just as they have already violently opposed all efforts to open discussions about reviewing the country's notorious blasphemy laws. Pray that God will change the hearts of those in power to open discussions about the blasphemy laws and religious freedom.

**6 | ERITREA** Eritrean Christians have expressed a deep concern over the advancement of radical Islam in their country. Pray that they may have the grace to continue reaching out to people and that many would come to faith in Jesus.

**7 | SUDAN** Sudan has been through immense change in 2019. The rule of dictator Hassan al Bashir ended in April through a civilian protest movement. Despite all these changes, it's not clear if a new Sudan will have more room for Christians to worship Christ in freedom. Pray that true religious freedom will be implemented in Sudan.



**8 | YEMEN** Eighty per cent of Yemenis depend on humanitarian aid. Aid is typically channelled through the tribal and family lines of which Christians are often disconnected. Pray that aid will reach Christians.

**9 | IRAN** Christianity is considered a condemnable Western influence and a constant threat to the Islamic identity of the Republic of Iran. So it's an immense disgrace when a member of a Muslim family leaves Islam. Pray for Christians who have been cursed and disowned by their families for their faith.

**10 | INDIA** The assertiveness and aggressiveness of all kinds of Hindu organisations have increased over the years. They claim that India belongs to Hinduism and that other religions should be driven out of the country. Pray for strength for Christians and other religious minorities in an increasingly hostile environment.

**11 | SYRIA** Syria continues to be caught in an ongoing civil war that started in 2011. Pray for peace to be established in this country as well as for wisdom for our team as they continue to assist Christians in these difficult times.

**12 | NIGERIA** Most Christians in the southern part of the country live in an environment in which their religious freedom is respected. Christians in the north suffer from violence perpetrated by militant Islamic groups. Pray that God will equip the Church to be able to withstand pressure to give up the faith amidst the violence.

**13 | SAUDI ARABIA** The desert kingdom is defined by Wahhabism, a purist and strict interpretation of Islam. Other religions aren't allowed to be practised openly. Pray that despite this, Saudi Christians will find ways to share the truth with their families, and that their families will search for the truth and not respond in anger.

**14 | MALDIVES** The country is 100% Sunni Muslim and each Maldivian citizen wanting to turn away from it will lose his or her citizenship. Pray for wisdom for Christians who have to live under such circumstances and that God will open up Maldivians' hearts to Him.

**15 | IRAQ** Since the renewed threat of the rise of the Islamic State, Christians feel insecure about staying in this country. Pray that the Church in Iraq will stay united amidst this and that God will strengthen the role of the Church in Iraq.

**16 | EGYPT** Although Christianity has deep roots in Egypt, Christians are often marginalised and treated as second-class citizens. Pray that God will sustain Christians and that they'll cling onto their true citizenship as children of the Kingdom of God.

**17 | ALGERIA** Pray for the Christians who are persecuted by their families, which can be the case for Believers from a Muslim Background. Pray for their protection and that they'll love and forgive those who persecute them.

**18 | UZBEKISTAN** No religious activities beyond state-run and state-controlled institutions are allowed. Pray for Baptists, Evangelicals and Pentecostals who are threatened, raided, fined and arrested.

**19 | MYANMAR** Pray for persecuted Christian minorities, that they'll lovingly minister to persecuted Rohingya Muslims, especially those choosing to return from exile in Bangladesh. Pray that many hearts will be opened to the truth of Christ.

**20 | LAOS** Laos, one of the five remaining Marxist-Leninist countries in the world, staunchly sticks to Communist ideology and as such is strictly opposed to

## LAOS continues

any influence deemed foreign or Western, such as Christianity. Pray that God will open the eyes of the people of Laos to who He is.

**21 | VIETNAM** The government from national to local level persecutes the Christian minority through laws. Ethnic group leaders regard Christians as traitors of their culture and identity. Pray that God will change the hearts of those in power towards Christians.

**22 | TURKMENISTAN** Turkmenistan is considered to be one of the most restrictive countries in the world. After Uzbekistan, it is the most repressive Central Asian state for religious minorities. Pray for increased freedoms in the country.

**23 | CHINA** Due to the new regulations on religion, many more reports are emerging of crackdowns on churches. Crackdowns include the confiscation of Christian material, raids, fines and arrests, especially of church leaders. Pray for wisdom and strength for the Church in worshipping God as the crackdowns on Christianity continues.





**24 | MAURITANIA** Mauritania is completely dominated by Islam. The influence and prominence of more austere and intolerant versions of Islam have become increasingly visible in Mauritania. Pray that Christians will be properly disciplined to stand strong in their faith.

**25 | CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** There has been a slight decrease in reported incidents of violence, but the CAR is not out of the woods yet. "It may be peaceful in Bangui, the capital, but in many places in the north and east, like Bria, peace has not returned." Pray for peace to return to all of the CAR and that Christians will be allowed to share the Gospel freely.

**26 | MOROCCO** Moroccans are expected to be loyal to Islam, king and country. If a Muslim decides to follow Jesus, it is seen as a source of shame to their families and communities. Christians have been accused of being disloyal to the king. Pray for wisdom for Christians as they live out their faith in this country.

**27 | QATAR** Due to political differences with Saudi Arabia and its allies, Qatar has become more and more isolated. Pray that ways will be found to encourage and disciple the believers there, especially in these times of increasing isolation.

**28 | BURKINA FASO** Last year saw an increase in attacks by Islamic militants, with at least 20 Christians having been killed in five attacks in which Christian communities were targeted. Pray for protection and wisdom for Christians in this country amid increasing trials.

**29 | MALI** Christians are still affected by Islamic oppression. Evangelistic activities in the north are especially risky and could lead to attacks by radical Muslims. Pray for much grace and courage for the Church as they live out their mission in Mali.

**30 | SRI LANKA** Many believers and churches are unaware of their legal rights and unprepared financially to face charges in courts. If not jailed, they end up having criminal records which can compromise their standing in the community. Pray for legal protection for them so that they'll not be abused and bullied by the government.

**31 | PERSECUTED CHURCH** Persecution is increasing around the world with Christians facing increasingly hostile circumstances for their faith in Jesus. Pray that in this new year, the Lord will equip and strengthen the persecuted Church to stand strong in the faith and be a shining light for Him in some of the darkest places.

\*Representative images used for security purposes.

Persecuted  But never alone.



**Open Doors**

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Open Doors South Africa

[www.opendoors.org.za](http://www.opendoors.org.za)  
P.O. Box 1771, Cresta, 2118  
T +27 11 888 9341  
E [southafrica@od.org](mailto:southafrica@od.org)