

60 days of prayer for the persecuted Church

WORLD WATCH LIST
2021 EDITION

“He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”

2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)



OpenDoors

February 2021

Countries with extreme persecution

1 North Korea

The situation of Christians is vulnerable and precarious. 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

Christian converts from Islam face intense pressure from their families, friends, and neighbours to recant their Christian faith. So living openly as a Christian is not possible. Pray for courage and protection for Afghan believers.

3 Somalia

The Christian community is small and under constant attack. Pray that more labourers will be released into the harvest. Pray that Christian workers will be wise in finding ministry opportunities that express God's love.

4 Libya

Political and security conditions need to progress within the country for the situation for Christians to improve. Pray for stability and protection of the rights of religious minorities.

5 Pakistan

The influence of Islam in Pakistan goes back as far as the 1980s. The country is afflicted by numerous radical Islamic groups. Pray for the Pakistani government to pass laws that will protect Christians in the country.

6 Eritrea

The Church continues to pray fervently, win souls and grow in numbers. Thank the Lord for sustaining His Church in Eritrea. There are still many Christians in prison for their faith. Pray that the Lord will sustain them, strengthen their faith and encourage them daily through His Spirit.

7 Yemen

Assisted by the chaos of civil war, Islamic militant groups have become more influential. The insecurity this causes increases the opportunity for the oppression of minorities, including Christians. Pray for peace and protection.

8 Iran

Shia Islam is the official religion, and all laws must be consistent with the official interpretation of Sharia law. Pray that the laws will change, allowing for freedom of religion.

9 Nigeria

Pray that the Church will be able to withstand pressure to give up their faith and have the grace to respond to

(Nigeria continues)

challenges in a way that glorifies Christ. Pray that the Gospel will be preached despite the hardships the Church faces.

10 India

Pray for God's provision and protection over Christians who boldly evangelise in the growing number of states with anti-conversion laws. Pray that they'll be wise in their evangelism efforts.

11 Iraq

Many Christian families are gradually leaving the country because they feel hopeless and powerless due to the difficult living conditions, unemployment, and the lack of opportunity for youth. Pray that God will give them the patience to stand strong in their land for Christ.

12 Syria

"Pray for unity inside the church. We need strength from the Lord to accept each other's weaknesses and be united against the enemy," Pastor Habib Khalouf asks for his church in Latakia. He also asks to pray for all the churches in Syria to be united against the enemy's plan of division in the country.



Countries with very high persecution

13 Sudan

There are still many voices in the country calling for Sharia law. 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.

14 Saudi Arabia

Many isolated believers lack fellowship and community and often deal with huge pressure from society and family to recant their faith. They need community, discipleship and a sense of belonging. Pray that God will safely bring them into contact with other believers.

15 Maldives

It continues to be very challenging to disciple secret believers because of security and unity issues. Pray for God to provide answers and solutions on how to overcome these hindrances so secret believers can be spiritually nourished.

16 Egypt

Christians continue to face various dangers for their faith. Pray that God will comfort and provide for all those who've been attacked or lost loved ones in recent years. Pray that others may see God's light and love shining through them.

17 China

Pray for Chinese Christians to stand strong amid tightening religious restrictions and that they will engage in cross-cultural missions effectively. Pray that young believers will enter a deeper walk with Jesus amid a materialistic environment.

18 Myanmar

Christian converts from Islam or Buddhism

(Myanmar continues)

face strong pressure from their families, friends and neighbours to recant their faith. Pray that they would have courage and endurance in the face of persecution. Pray for increased religious freedom.

19 Vietnam

As the Christian minority grows, the government works hard to monitor churches and curb the growth of Christianity and has issued harsh penalties against Christians who are critical of the regime. Pray for a loosening of restrictions and increased freedom.

20 Mauritania

The overall political, economic and social situation in Mauritania makes the country conducive to the rise of radical Islam. Pray against an insurgency and that through Christians radical Islamists will come to know the Saviour they persecute.

21 Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has one of the harshest dictatorships in Central Asia, who will do anything to remain in power. They attack all forms of opposition and deviations from the norm, including Christianity. Pray for change and acceptance of Christianity in Uzbekistan.

22 Laos

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

23 Turkmenistan

Officially, in most areas in the country, you're not allowed to worship in public while evangelising is a punishable offence.

(Turkmenistan continues)

This has resulted in house churches being increasingly targeted by police and authorities. Pray for the protection of these churches.

24 Algeria

There are at least 35 000 Christians in genuine Algerian (and Berber) churches and many more who aren't yet connected to a church because they live in remote places. Pray for God to make a way for these believers to be able to attend church.

25 Turkey

Pray for those Christians who are forced to keep their faith secret. Pray that God will protect them. Pray also for protection and provision for those who are discriminated against in the workplace because of their faith.

26 Tunisia

Violent radical Islamic groups are active in the border areas to the south. They target any Christian, whether foreign or national if the opportunity arises. Pray for the safety of these believers.

27 Morocco

While the law only punishes proselytisation, converts to Christianity can be punished in other ways, for instance, by losing inheritance rights and custody of their children. Pray for protection against such injustice.

28 Mali

Christians are sometimes targeted by organised criminal networks that have aligned with rebel groups. Pray for wisdom and courage for Christians to live out their faith in these circumstances.



March 2021

29 Qatar

Conversion from Islam to Christianity is socially unacceptable in Qatar. Pray for protection for those who choose to follow Jesus and that they would find comfort and assurance in Christ.

30 Colombia

More than half of the believers in rural areas of conflict zones are threatened with death, extortion, bans on evangelism, and constant vigilance. Pray that God will strengthen all those who follow Him, despite the risks.

31 Bangladesh

Pray and ask God to strengthen believers to stand strong in their faith, especially secret believers, so that they can endure persecution and not compromise their faith.

32 Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso has around one million displaced people, many of them Christians due to jihadist violence by various radical groups. Pray for wisdom and for God's physical and emotional provision for pastors of churches that have been sheltering displaced people.

33 Tajikistan

The regime puts heavy pressure on "deviating" groups such as the Christian minority by tightening and strictly enforcing already existing laws. Pray that this pressure would lessen and that the country will become more open to Christianity.

34 Nepal

Nepal becomes more and more like India as Hindu extremists gain influence. Pray for the protection of believers who are arrested for sharing the Gospel. Pray that lawyers will come forward to defend them.

35 Central African Republic

Thousands of people, most of them Christians, are enduring life in IDP camps because security hasn't been restored. Pray that the Lord would undertake for them and that these circumstances will draw them closer to Christ.

36 Ethiopia

Christians overall are harassed and often denied access to communal resources. Converts from Islam to Christianity are ostracised and often denied family rights. Pray that the Lord will help us equip the Church to offer Christians hope in these circumstances.

37 Mexico

Mexico is one of the most dangerous

(Mexico continues)

places in the world to preach due to organised crime cartels that see the Gospel as a threat to their work. Pray for the protection of those who boldly preach the Gospel in this country.



38 Jordan

Jordan's economic difficulties could lead to more social and political unrest that could negatively affect Christians and other minorities. Pray for wisdom for government leaders as they work to strengthen the country's economy.

39 Brunei

Followers of other religions face heavy punishments for evangelising and converting from Islam to another religion. Christians sometimes wonder if there's a future for them in Brunei. Pray for perseverance for believers.

40 Democratic Republic of Congo

Christians face mounting pressure and violence caused by Islamic militants in the eastern part of the country as well as pressure from the government for Christians who protest the regime. Pray that God will equip and sustain Christians in such an oppressive environment.

41 Kazakhstan

Pray for Kazakh believers and for church leaders, especially pastors who lead secret churches and believers who converted from Islam. Pray for their security amid increasing restrictions and government control.

42 Cameroon

Last year when suspected Boko Haram militants attacked the village of Gossi in the far north region thankfully no lives were lost. Sadly, they caused a lot of damage to the properties of already-demoralised Christians. Pray for God to uplift believers in the region.

43 Bhutan

Buddhism is Bhutan's spiritual heritage and is enshrined in its constitution. Pray that the Lord would loosen the hold of Buddhism on the country and that through this, Christians would experience religious freedom.

44 Oman

Local imams encourage the upholding of cultural norms, which are intertwined with Islamic principles. Pray for believers to

(Oman continues)

have wisdom and discernment on how to navigate potential conflicts.

45 Mozambique

Jihadists have launched several attacks in northern Mozambique. Unless the situation is brought under control, northern Mozambique risks becoming a regional centre of Islamist extremism. Pray for wisdom for the government to deal with this situation so its people will be protected.

46 Malaysia

The constitution defines ethnic Malays as Muslims. For this reason, Malays don't have the religious liberty to leave Islam, and those who practice other religions are forbidden from sharing this among Malay Muslims. Pray for a change in Malaysia.

47 Indonesia

Pray for Christian children attending public schools in strong Islamic regions where they often experience discrimination. Pray for encouragement, comfort, and a sense of hope for the students. Pray also that they'll remain strong in their faith.



48 Kuwait

Kuwaiti Christians (mostly converts from Islam to Christianity) face interrogations by government officials, being commanded to stop meeting and losing their jobs and homes. Pray that believers will have the fortitude to stand firm in their faith.

49 Kenya

Political groups are using people's dissatisfaction with the government to spread radicalism in the Muslim areas of the northeast and coastal Kenya. Pray for wisdom and diligence for the government in dealing with grievances so that they can stop this.

50 Comoros

There has been an increase in Islamic sympathies among the population at large, government officials, non-Christian religious leaders and Muslim youth groups, which has caused anxiety among Christians. Pray for God to mightily undertake for Christians in such a challenging environment.

51 Cuba

The government represses the Church and harasses pastors, church leaders and believers. They issue pre-arrest warrants and charge people with criminal and civil code violations to disguise religious repression. Pray for God's guidance for the Church in an increasingly hostile environment.

52 Sri Lanka

Pray for pastors in Sri Lanka who are mocked and frequently disturbed by their neighbours for conducting services. Pray that they'll not waver in their faith and that they'll draw strength from the Lord when they feel weary.

53 United Arab Emirates

The passion and the hope to have an impact for Christ in society can diminish when there are very few local brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray that God will bless Emirati believers with more brothers and sisters with whom to fellowship.

54 Niger

The country faces violence from Islamic radicals spilling over from Mali, Nigeria and Burkina Faso as well as different kinds of traffickers in the Agadez region. Pray for wisdom for the government to deal with these threats and for protection of all from violent attacks and abduction.

Countries with high persecution

55 Kyrgyzstan

Islamic culture prevails in Kyrgyzstan (especially in the countryside), with local authorities tending to be under the influence of the local Muslim community. This has strong repercussions for converts from Islam to Christianity. Pray for protection and strength for Christians in the country.





56 Palestinian Territories

The influence of radical Islamic ideology is growing, and historical churches have to be diplomatic in their approach towards Muslims. Pray for wisdom for the Church in shining the light of Christ under such circumstances.

57 Tanzania

Even though persecution affects all categories of Christian communities in the country, in Muslim dominated areas, converts from Islam are most affected. Pray for protection and strength for converts from Islam who face pressure from their Muslim communities for their faith.

58 Russian Federation

Much of the pressure on Christians in Russia comes from the government

(Russian Federation continues)

imposing restrictive legislation. Pray for guidance for Russia's Christians, so they may comply with domestic laws while carrying out their evangelistic activities.

59 Djibouti

The rise in Islamic militancy has become a concern for the government. Due to its location, Djibouti has been a transit route for many violent Islamic militants. Pray for wisdom for the government in dealing with this militancy.

60 Bahrain

Churches are monitored, lack space to build churches and experience difficulty in the building process. Pray that the Bahrain government will give the Church more freedom to freely worship God and own building space to come together.

*Representative images used for security purposes.

All information correct at time of publishing.

Persecuted  But never alone.



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