

The Open Doors Handbook of Prayer is a snapshot of the 50 countries of the world where it is hardest to be a Christian. These are the places where owning a Bible can get you arrested, where attending church means taking a beating, where the price of following Jesus is often paid in blood. The handbook draws on data from the World Watch List, an annual ranking compiled by Open Doors researchers based on detailed information from Open Doors co-workers and key church leaders in over 70 countries. From North Korea to Nigeria, from Saudi Arabia to Syria, from Pakistan to the Palestinian Territories, these are the places where faith costs the most.

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Prayer is the most important, powerful, exciting and dynamic weapon that we as Christians can wield."

- Dr. Carl Moeller, President/CEO Open Doors USA

Over 100 million Christians in almost half of the countries of the world are persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Though the numbers are stunning, they should not be surprising since Jesus warned His disciples that they would "be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and hated by all nations because of me" (Mt. 24:9). Our persecuted brethren cry out for our prayers - not for comfort and escape - but for others to stand firm and testify with their suffering. Today let us stand united in prayer for persecuted Christians worldwide. Here is what you can do!

- Make a copy of this handbook and share with your church, your family and friends. Encourage them to pray daily for persecuted Christians.
- Weekly Prayer Alert from Open Doors. Register to receive the e-alert and pray alongside thousands of brothers and sisters for their most urgent requests.
- Prayer Force Alert Monthly Calendar. Available for download from the Open Doors website.

For more information on how you can pray for persecuted Christians visit us at www.OpenDoorsUSA.org/Pray



OpenDoors®
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide
www.opendoorsusa.org

PRAYER GUIDE FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

2011 EDITION



World Watch List



OpenDoors®
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide



“Your Prayers Help us Breathe”

A Christian in Bhutan shared that “your prayers help us breathe.” The very essence of our earthly life, each breath we take, is not optional...and neither are our prayers. Our fellow believers around the world need our prayers to help them cope with daily struggles.

This Handbook of Prayer provides a snapshot of 50 countries where faith costs the most. But it is not so much about countries as about people. It is people who suffer violence and discrimination. It is people who fear the knock on the door. It is people who grieve. It is people who cast His light in the darkest of places, regardless of the personal cost. Join with me right now and pray for persecuted Christians...and help them breathe.

Father God, it is a privilege to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world. Together we are one body of Christ our Lord, and when one part suffers, every part suffers with it (1 Cor 12:26). Help us enter, with whole hearts, into the pain of the persecuted so we may say that since the day we heard about them, we have not stopped praying for them (Col 1:9).

Dr. Carl Moeller

President/CEO Open Doors USA

The World Watch List

This handbook is based on the World Watch List, an annual list compiled by Open Doors based on information covering every aspect of persecution, including legal restrictions, people’s freedom to gather and worship, as well as acts of violence against individuals

and churches. The countries are then ranked by order of severity and categorised as indicated by the color coding on the left.

We have also indicated which countries are likely to have elections this year. We cannot be certain that these elections will go ahead, or if they will have any real impact, but they can

be a chance for change, so please remember these countries especially in your prayers. Every effort has been made to ensure that all information is as accurate as possible at the time of publication.

Sources: Compass Direct, Open Doors, The World Factbook, BBC Country Profiles, www.electionguide.org Population statistics and percentage of Christians provided by Open Doors.

For more information on the countries in this list please visit www.opendoorsusa.org/countries

Key to icons



Election this year



DVD available



Travel opportunity

Severe persecution

Oppression

Severe limitations

Some limitations

Some problems

Four news stories from the real world of the persecuted church. Four stories out of hundreds of thousands every year. The information in this handbook shows that, globally, things are getting worse, not better. Some countries, for example, have moved down the list this year. It's not that their record has improved: it's just that other countries have outstripped them in persecution.

What is particularly striking is the rise of persecution in the 'hotspots' of the world: Pakistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan.

Still at the top of the list – the hardest place in the world to be a Christian — is North Korea. There is massive tension between this country and its neighbor South Korea. Will it be war? Or economic collapse? Only God knows.

Given such news and uncertainty, it's easy to think that there is nothing we can do for the pastors, men, women and children who are persecuted because of their faith.

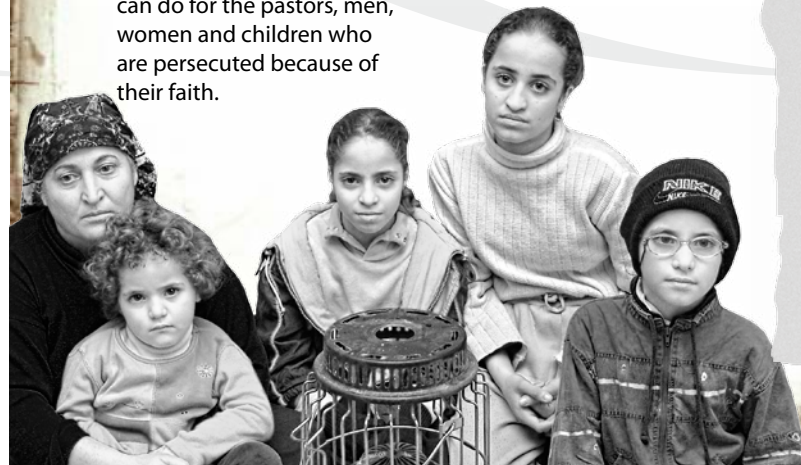
But that's not true. We can pray for them. We can act on their behalf. We can give money to meet their needs.

Open Doors is actively serving persecuted Christians in almost all of the countries highlighted in this handbook. And we produce many other resources to help Christians in the United States support persecuted Christians around the world, including regular email prayer alerts and guides to help you write letters of encouragement. We also offer opportunities to volunteer, campaign and even travel to some of the places on this list.

If you would like to be involved, please contact us at USA@OpenDoors.org.

And if you already support our work, then thank you.

But let's not be tempted into thinking that nothing can be done. Through giving, through campaigning, above all through prayer, we can change people's lives.



HERE IS THE NEWS...

NORTH KOREA

23 Christians in a house church are discovered by the police. Three of them are immediately sentenced to death, the other 20 are sent to a labor camp.

MAURITANIA

A 25-year-old woman is beaten and burned by her father and brothers because they discover she is a Christian. She later dies in hospital of her injuries.

INDIA

A pastor is forced to become a Hindu under threat of mob violence. He does so 'to save his old mother, who could not have escaped the violence as she was not in a position to walk'. Every day he is watched in case he has changed his mind.

IRAQ

A child misses mass one Sunday evening. That night suicide bombers attack the church. “We used to go to church, but not after what happened. A really, really bad thing happened at our church and I lost a lot of my friends” he says. “They were all killed.”



1

NORTH KOREA



PRAY

- ▶ For endurance for the 50,000 to 70,000 Christians in labor camps
- ▶ For wisdom for parents who want to teach their children about Jesus
- ▶ In 2010 Kim Jong-Un was elevated to second in command. Pray that the situation will change for Christians when he becomes the new leader.

Nowhere in the world is Christian persecution so fierce. Christians have to hide their faith; Christian parents can't even share their beliefs with their children until they are old enough to understand the dangers. Owning a Bible could get you killed, or sent to a harsh labor camp. In 2010 hundreds of Christians were arrested. Some were killed, others sentenced to labor camps. Despite the risks, the church is standing firm: there are an estimated 400,000 believers.

- ▶ **Leader:** Kim Jong-il
- ▶ **Population:** 20 million (400,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:** Atheism/traditional beliefs
- ▶ **Government:** Communist dictatorship



2

IRAN



PRAY

- ▶ The majority of the population is under 30. Pray that many will be reached with the gospel and find real freedom in Jesus
- ▶ For protection for Christians in prison, and for perseverance for those under surveillance
- ▶ There is a huge need for Bibles. Ask God to supply His people with His Word.

There was a sharp increase in the number of Christians arrested at the start of 2010. Although some were later released, pressure on the church remains high. Many of the approximately 350,000 believers from a Muslim background live in fear of harassment by the government. The regime lost credibility following the turmoil of the 2009 elections, and in an effort to distract attention from continuing protests against it, it is increasingly lashing out against Christians.

- ▶ **Leader:** Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
- ▶ **Population:** 74.2 million (450,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:** Islam
- ▶ **Government:** Islamic republic



AFGHANISTAN



PRAY

- ▶ For strength for secret believers under pressure to renounce their faith
- ▶ For Christian radio and TV programs to encourage isolated believers and help seekers to find the way to Jesus
- ▶ For wisdom for young Christians, both physically and spiritually, who are eager to share the gospel with others despite the risks.

Christians who are open about their faith face pressure from family, society and the government. So believers usually try to stay under the radar and do not meet together publicly because of concerns for safety. In June 2010 the deputy secretary of the Afghan Parliament called for the execution of Christian converts after the baptism of Afghan Christians was shown on TV. As a result, many Christians went into hiding. In August 2010 several Christian aid workers were killed by the Taleban.

3



- ▶ **Leader:** President Hamid Karzai
- ▶ **Population:** 28.15 million (thousands of Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:** Islam
- ▶ **Government:** Islamic republic

SAUDI ARABIA



PRAY

- ▶ Most Christians are foreign workers. Pray that they would have wisdom in sharing their faith
- ▶ That isolated believers will have the courage to connect with other Saudi believers
- ▶ That young Saudis living or working outside the country will hear the gospel and come to faith.

There is no religious freedom in this Islamic kingdom. Public non-Muslim worship is forbidden and conversion to Christianity – seen as apostasy – is punishable by death. Foreign Christians are allowed to worship in private compounds, but often face difficulties. Twelve Filipino Christians and a priest were arrested during a service in a private home in October 2010. Saudi believers fear being open about their faith. There were reports of Christians being physically harmed for their faith in 2010.

4



- ▶ **Leader:** King Abdullah
- ▶ **Population:** 25.7 million (1.25 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:** Islam
- ▶ **Government:** Monarchy





5

SOMALIA



PRAY

- ▶ For an end to the chronic political instability and fighting in this war-torn country
- ▶ For the handful of believers to grow in a healthy understanding of their faith despite such difficult circumstances
- ▶ That God would open up new ways to reach Somalis with His Word.

It remained very dangerous to be a Christian here in 2010. At least eight believers were killed and a quarter of all Christians fled the country. Most believers must practice their faith in secret. The country has been without effective central government since 1991. Islamist insurgents, Al-Shabaab, control most of the south, and are effectively trying to wipe out Christianity from the country. There are, however, indications that they are losing popularity.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Sheikh Ahmad
- ▶ **Population:**
9.1 million (few Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Transitional

YEMEN



PRAY

- ▶ That local believers can meet together in safety and that strong bonds of trust can be built
- ▶ For the two young German girls rescued in May 2010 after being kidnapped in 2009. There is still no news of their parents and baby brother – pray for a breakthrough
- ▶ For the continued spread of the gospel through Christian radio programs and other Christian media.

Islam is the state religion and Sharia is the source of all legislation. There is some religious freedom for foreigners, but evangelism is prohibited; several expatriate workers were deported in 2010. Yemenis must not leave Islam, and believers from a Muslim background face persecution from family, the authorities and extremist groups. Insecurity caused by terrorist movements made Yemen very unstable in 2010. Four of the nine foreign Christians kidnapped in June 2009 remain missing.

7



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Ali Saleh
- ▶ **Population:**
23.6 million (6,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic



6

MALDIVES



PRAY

- ▶ That believers will have discernment and courage to witness to those who are earnestly seeking the truth
- ▶ For the many children growing up in broken families, without good role models to emulate
- ▶ Ask the Lord to provide ways for Christians to meet for fellowship despite the restrictions.

All citizens must be Muslims in this archipelago. Legislation forbids the practice of any religion except Islam; churches are forbidden and the import of Christian literature is prohibited. New regulations governing religious practice were unveiled in 2010, and stricter policies were also imposed on tourists after some were caught bringing in Bibles. The few indigenous believers are isolated from one another and are monitored both by the authorities and by their communities.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Mohamed Nasheed
- ▶ **Population:**
311,000 (few Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic

IRAQ



PRAY

- ▶ That the Iraqi government will be able to restore a situation of peace without limiting the church's freedom
- ▶ The need for trauma counselling is high among young people. Pray that children who have lost parents will receive the care they need
- ▶ Ask God to provide shelter, jobs, education and healthcare for believers displaced by the violence.

Violence against Christians increased in 2010, with large numbers of believers killed and injured. There were a number of attacks on Christians in Mosul in the run-up to March's elections, leading to an exodus of Christians to villages in the Nineveh plains. Bomb attacks against church buildings and Christian institutions increased in the second half of the year. In October, at least 58 Christians were killed and many were injured in a bomb attack on a church in Baghdad.

8



- ▶ **Leader:**
Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki
- ▶ **Population:**
30.7 million (334,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Parliamentary democracy



9

UZBEKISTAN



PRAY

- ▶ For believers in prison. Ask God to strengthen and encourage them and their loved ones
- ▶ For God's protection on Christians who continue to meet together
- ▶ For several young believers who were identified by the police when they attended a meeting. Pray that they will still be able to get a good education.

Pressure on Uzbek Christians increased in 2010. The number of raids on churches increased, resulting in more court cases. Short-term prison sentences were given out more frequently as a punishment for religious activities and fines were up to 100 times the minimum monthly wage. A 27-year-old Baptist was sentenced to ten years in prison. Many churches lost their registration and some their buildings. Christians experienced job loss, beatings and expulsion from the family home.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Islam Karimov
- ▶ **Population:**
27.5 million (208,500 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Authoritarian (republic)

PAKISTAN



PRAY

- ▶ For those working to help flood victims to rebuild their lives
- ▶ That the government would review the blasphemy laws and do more to protect religious minorities
- ▶ Kidnapping of young girls to force them to convert to Islam is common. Pray for protection for Christian girls.

Religious freedom is constantly being eroded. Persecution does not come primarily from the state, but the constitution and judiciary fail to protect religious minorities. In 2010, 29 Christians were killed and 4 sentenced for blasphemy. At least 58 Christians were kidnapped and 100 physically harmed. During the floods of August 2010, Christians experienced discrimination in the distribution of aid. In November 2010, a Christian woman was sentenced to death for blasphemy.

11



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Asif Ali Zardari
- ▶ **Population:**
180 million (5.3 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic



10

LAOS



PRAY

- ▶ For God's protection and provision for the 11 families expelled from their villages, especially the young children
- ▶ That Christians will have the courage to remain in the faith, in spite of the high price they must pay
- ▶ That policies designed to promote religious freedom will be implemented in rural areas and benefit believers, who are mostly tribal and rural.

The government's attitude towards Christians is very negative and the church cannot operate freely. Many believers experience extreme physical and emotional pressure to renounce their faith. In 2010, 25 Christians were killed and at least 20 were arrested and held without trial. A number of churches were destroyed. In January, 11 Christian families were forced out of their villages into the forest when they refused to deny their faith. But despite severe persecution, the church is growing.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Choummaly Sayasone
- ▶ **Population:**
6.4 million (200,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Buddhism
- ▶ **Government:**
Communist state



ERITREA



PRAY

- ▶ That God's people in prison and their families would be given strength to remain faithful
- ▶ That international pressure would bring an end to the government's repressive policies
- ▶ For wisdom for church members now leading congregations following the arrest of their pastors.

All evangelical churches remain closed following the ban on all religious groups (other than Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran or Islamic) in 2002. Arrests appear to have continued throughout 2010. As many as 2,200 believers remain in prison for their faith, while at least 13 have died under the harsh incarceration conditions. Many of their families have had no news from the prisoners in months. Eritrean refugees in Sudan and Ethiopia continue to face the threat of repatriation.

12



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Isaias Afewerki
- ▶ **Population:**
5 million (2.4 million Christian – mostly Orthodox)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam/Christianity (Orthodox)
- ▶ **Government:**
One-party state



13

MAURITANIA



PRAY

- ▶ That this young church will grow in faith, so it can withstand the storms of persecution
- ▶ For wisdom for Christian parents as they bring up their children in a Muslim society that can be very hostile
- ▶ That believers will be trained to reach people groups who have never heard the gospel.

Citizens are Muslims by default. The government restricts evangelism and the distribution of non-Islamic religious materials. Conversion to another religion is punishable by death. Extremist group al-Qaeda in the Maghreb is gaining support and is monitoring Christians in the country. In 2010 a young woman was burned to death by her family when her faith was discovered. Over 20 Christians received death threats and most had to flee their homes to escape a similar fate.

- ▶ **Leader:**
General Mohamed Abdelaziz
- ▶ **Population:**
3.3 million (8,400 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Islamic republic



TURKMENISTAN



PRAY

- ▶ For protection on Christian youth activities. Sometimes summer camps are raided by police and teenagers are detained for hours without food or water
- ▶ For unity between churches and for godly Christian leaders
- ▶ For good discipleship and training resources to become more available.

The constitution provides for religious freedom, but in 2010 police officers reportedly told Christians they would do everything to ensure there are no Christians left in the country. Turkmen Christians are often insulted and put under pressure to return to Islam. Many believers run the risk of losing their jobs. There are few registered churches; non-registered religious activity is illegal. In 2010 a pastor was falsely accused of swindle and sentenced to four years in prison.

15



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Berdymukhamedov
- ▶ **Population:**
5.1 million (95,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
One-party state



14

BHUTAN



PRAY

- ▶ For the Drukpa believers, who are often forced to meet secretly
- ▶ Christian children must attend Buddhist festivals as part of their education. Pray that they would grow in God's truth through their parents' example
- ▶ Many Christian families struggle with marital unfaithfulness. Ask God to help church leaders to strengthen families.

Although the constitution guarantees free expression of faith, it penalises forcible conversions. This can be abused to the detriment of believers. The Drukpa people, who comprise 68 per cent of the population, are often staunch Buddhists zealous in protecting their religion. To convert to a different faith is a shameful act and is often met with discrimination in the workplace and social pressure. Most persecution occurs in rural areas, where Buddhist monks oppose Christianity.

- ▶ **Leader:**
King Jigme Wangchuck
- ▶ **Population:**
703,000 (16,500 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Mahayana Buddhism
- ▶ **Government:**
Monarchy

CHINA



PRAY

- ▶ For Uyghur pastor, Alimjan Yimit, sentenced to 15 years in prison at the end of 2009
- ▶ That the church will have a positive influence on society through ministries to the aged, dysfunctional families and the poor
- ▶ For Open Doors' Youth Leaders Training courses to develop leaders to reach out to young people across China.

Increasing tolerance for unregistered churches was tempered with continuing clampdowns on high profile groups and individuals in 2010. In October, the authorities prevented 200 house church leaders from attending the Third Lausanne World Congress after warning that the gathering was 'anti-China' due to non-representation by the official church. An imprisoned Christian human rights lawyer released by officials on April 6 went missing again two weeks later.

16



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Hu Jintao
- ▶ **Population:**
1.35 billion (85 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Atheism
- ▶ **Government:**
Socialism





17

QATAR



PRAY

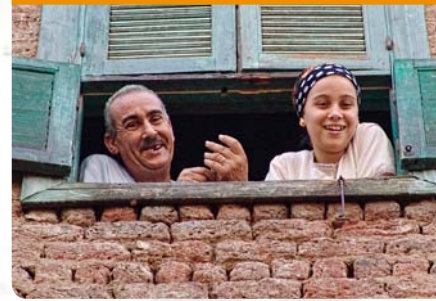
- ▶ **Leader:** Emir Sheikh Hamad
- ▶ **Population:** 1.4 million (89,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:** Islam
- ▶ **Government:** Traditional emirate



Nearly all citizens are Muslims; almost all Christians are expatriates. The constitution provides for freedom of worship and Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches are officially recognized. However, evangelism is prohibited and the Government places restrictions on public worship. Several foreign Christians were expelled from Qatar in 2010, almost certainly because of their Christian faith. Leaving Islam is considered apostasy; Muslim background-believers face severe persecution.

- ▶ That isolated indigenous believers will connect with each other and experience real fellowship
- ▶ For the witness of the expatriate Christian community. Pray that no more foreign Christians will be expelled from the country
- ▶ Many Qataris are wealthy. Pray that money would not be a barrier to people receiving the gospel.

EGYPT



PRAY

Tensions increased between Christians and Muslims throughout 2010. Christians face much discrimination and churches are strictly regulated. Muslim-background believers are rejected socially and culturally. On January 1, 2011, 21 people were killed when a bomb planted outside a church in Alexandria exploded as congregants were leaving a New Year's Eve Mass celebration. However, there is a new openness to the gospel through satellite TV and Christian Arabic websites.

- ▶ For churches serving their local communities by providing employment opportunities for persecuted Christians
- ▶ That many would hear the gospel though Christian TV and internet programs
- ▶ That young church leaders and women involved in ministry would gain greater understanding of the power of prayer.

19



- ▶ **Leader:** President Hosni Mubarak
- ▶ **Population:** 80 million (10.8 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:** Islam
- ▶ **Government:** Republic



18

VIETNAM



PRAY

- ▶ **Leader:** President Nguyen Triet
- ▶ **Population:** 89 million (8 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:** Buddhism
- ▶ **Government:** Communist state



2011 is the centennial year for the evangelical church. A number of celebrations are planned across the country, pending approval by the government. The church is growing steadily, despite the persecution that persists, particularly in rural areas, where village chiefs and local authorities continue to harass believers. In November, two Christian evangelists were sentenced to six and four years in prison for 'undermining national unity'.

- ▶ Give thanks for 100 years of Christianity in Vietnam
- ▶ That officials will permit churches to meet and celebrate
- ▶ For the production of a new Illustrated Children's Bible in time for the celebrations – that Christian children will grow in their understanding of God

CHECHNYA



PRAY

The church is very young, vulnerable and isolated. Fellowship with other believers is almost impossible. An Islamic revival is taking place in Chechnya; the largest mosque in the Caucasus has been built in Grozny. Christianity is associated with Russia and Chechen believers whose faith becomes public are seen as traitors to Islam and society. Local authorities and relatives monitor the activities of Christians and put great pressure on them to return to Islam.

- ▶ That the few Christians would persevere in faith. Several have turned away from their faith as the pressure became too great.
- ▶ That Christians may know how to live and witness in their situations.
- ▶ For the many children orphaned during the civil war with Russia. Pray that God's love will touch their hearts and transform their lives.

20



- ▶ **Leader:** President Ramzan Kadyrov
- ▶ **Population:** 1 million (few Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:** Islam
- ▶ **Government:** Republic (Russian Federation)



21

COMOROS



- ▶ **Leader:**
President
Ahmed Sambi
- ▶ **Population:**
676,000 (6,400
Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic

A constitutional referendum passed in 2009 stated that Comoros is an Islamic state, although Sharia (Islamic law) has not yet been implemented. There has been an increase in Muslim fundamentalists coming to Comoros to teach in the mosques. Occult movements are also winning over some Christians, causing disunity in churches. Those who come to faith in Christ from a Muslim background face many difficulties. Yet the small underground church is growing, albeit at a slow pace.

PRAY

- ▶ That Sharia (Islamic law) will not be introduced to these islands
- ▶ That Christians would have wisdom to resist the influence of occult movements
- ▶ Praise God for church growth. Pray that Christians will make good use of opportunities to reach out to the lost.



22

ALGERIA



- ▶ **Leader:**
President
Abdelaziz
Bouteflika
- ▶ **Population:**
34.9 million
(99,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic

Freedom for the evangelical church is very limited. A restrictive religion law introduced in 2006 prohibits evangelism and gives the government the right to regulate aspects of Christian practice. Active application of the law seemed to decrease in 2009, but last year the church faced several setbacks. In September four Christians were put on trial for 'creating an illegal place of worship'. In January a church in Tizi Ouzou was attacked by Islamists and church material was burned.

PRAY

- ▶ That the church will continue to grow, despite ongoing opposition
- ▶ Thank God for many new believers. Pray that they will become a firm foundation for the future
- ▶ That the restrictive law of 2006 will be abolished.

THE REALITY OF PERSECUTION

FOR MEN, persecution means living with the reality of arrest and punishment. Even where Christianity is 'tolerated', converts and disciples face routine violence and intimidation. Their stories show the pressure they are under: a church leader is arrested and held without charge, a Christian father takes his family and flees. Houses are raided, hard-won businesses shut down overnight.

For men, Open Doors provides a range of support: letters of encouragement sent to those in prison; discipleship courses to help them persevere; safe houses for fathers and families; tools to help them rebuild their lives in a new and safer part of the world.

FOR CHILDREN, persecution means a life of uncertainty. Some are orphaned by persecution. Many have a parent in prison or labor camp. Christian boys are targeted for training as child soldiers or even abducted to be raised as Muslims. Girls can be kidnapped, and forcibly married. Many Christian children are denied education. Socially excluded, they are doomed to a life of menial and low-paid jobs.

For children, Open Doors provides care and love. We run homes for children orphaned by persecution. We support displaced families with aid and medical supplies. We provide education for excluded Christian children and Bibles to nourish their faith.

FOR WOMEN, persecution increases their vulnerability. They can be falsely imprisoned, beaten, raped, killed. Female converts often find themselves banished from their extended family, left without a place to live. Widows of Christian martyrs, or wives whose husbands have been imprisoned, often lack the education or the skills they need to earn a living. They relied on their husband. Now he is gone.

For women, Open Doors provides safety, friendship and strength. We support those expelled from their home or community. We train Christian widows to find work and feed their families, and help ostracized converts to start their own businesses.

FOR CHURCHES, persecution means secrecy, hiding, fear. Forced underground, they meet in secret locations. Where allowed to meet, the church is monitored: spied upon by the secret police, its leaders kept under surveillance. Buildings are targets for arson, mob violence or even bombs. Pastors are martyred by their enemies who believe that cutting off the 'head' will kill the body. They are wrong: the church is growing.

For the church, Open Doors provides support and encouragement. We stand with them, fighting for their rights. We train leaders to stand strong. And we provide Bibles where the scriptures are hard to obtain or even forbidden entirely.

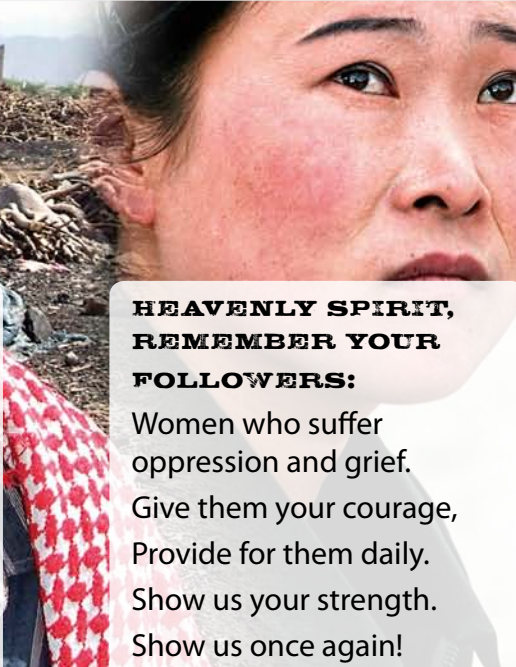
PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap and on behalf of the land" Ezekial 22:30

Will you stand in the gap? The first and most important thing you can do is pray for the persecuted Church. Register to receive the free Weekly Prayer Alert and read stories and testimonies from our brothers and sisters in faith and pray for their most urgent needs. Visit the Open Doors website at www.OpenDoorsUSA.org/Pray



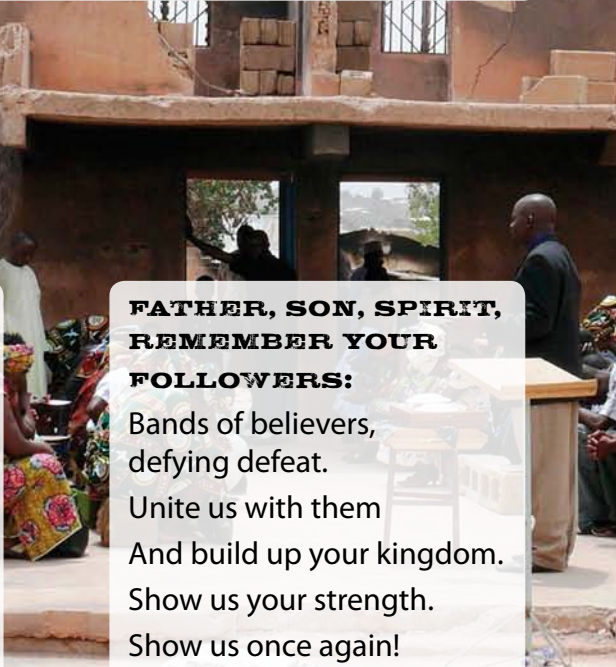
BROTHER LORD JESUS, REMEMBER YOUR FOLLOWERS:
 Men who are threatened for loving your name.
 Protect them from evil,
 And help them bring glory.
 Show us your strength.
 Show us once again!



HEAVENLY SPIRIT, REMEMBER YOUR FOLLOWERS:
 Women who suffer oppression and grief.
 Give them your courage,
 Provide for them daily.
 Show us your strength.
 Show us once again!



GOOD FATHER GOD, REMEMBER YOUR FOLLOWERS:
 Children deprived of love, joy and peace.
 Guard them and save them
 And give them your healing.
 Show us your strength.
 Show us once again!



FATHER, SON, SPIRIT, REMEMBER YOUR FOLLOWERS:
 Bands of believers, defying defeat.
 Unite us with them
 And build up your kingdom.
 Show us your strength.
 Show us once again!



23

NIGERIA (NORTH)



PRAY

- ▶ For comfort for Christians bereaved or made homeless through violence
- ▶ Thank God that the church is becoming more united as a result of opposition
- ▶ For wisdom and courage for church leaders reaching out to their Muslim neighbors and caring for converts.

The forceful implementation of Sharia (Islamic law) in twelve northern states remains a huge challenge for the church. In 2010 there were continued attacks on Christian communities. Extremist Islamic groups have increased their activities. Over the year, more than 2,000 believers were killed in religious violence in the northern states. However, more churches are reaching Muslims with the gospel and the number deciding to follow Christ is increasing.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Goodluck Jonathan
- ▶ **Population:**
154.7 million (81 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Christianity/Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Federal republic



24

AZERBAIJAN



PRAY

- ▶ For the provision of more Bibles, literature and training material, despite restrictions on imports and distribution
- ▶ For undisturbed opportunities for children to hear the gospel through summer camps or weekly activities
- ▶ For endurance and courage for active Christians, who face much opposition.

Azeri believers are considered traitors as Christianity is associated with the country's rival nation, Armenia. Many are unable to find or keep jobs and are watched closely by the secret services. Some churches have not been able to renew their registration in 2010. It is virtually impossible to put up a new church building and, according to the law, private homes cannot be used for holding religious services. However, the number of indigenous believers continues to grow, and many are active in outreach.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Ilham Aliyev
- ▶ **Population:**
8.8 million (125,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic

LIBYA



PRAY

- ▶ Thank God for the small groups of Christians gathering in houses. Ask Him to give them strength
- ▶ That people in remote areas will tune in to Christian radio and TV broadcasts
- ▶ For wisdom for young believers sharing their new faith with their families.

Libya adheres to Islamic law and all citizens are Sunni Muslims 'by definition'. The government criminalizes evangelism and converting from Islam brings social pressure and ostracism. Most Libyan Christians are afraid to meet with other believers. Small Christian communities mostly consist of sub-Saharan migrants and Western expatriates. The large network of secret police makes it difficult to organize church activities. Many expat churches have had their permits withdrawn.

25



- ▶ **Leader:**
Colonel Muammar Gaddafi
- ▶ **Population:**
6.4 million (173,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Authoritarian state

OMAN



PRAY

- ▶ Give thanks for the opportunities expatriate Christians have to share the gospel
- ▶ That small groups of believers will find ways of sharing the gospel with Omanis and will have access to Christian materials
- ▶ For the spread of the gospel through Christian satellite TV and internet programs.

The law prohibits religious discrimination but all religious organizations must register. Almost the entire Christian population is expatriate. Foreign Christians are allowed to worship in private homes or work compounds. Muslim-background believers risk persecution from family and society, and the government may act if the family asks it to do so. In such cases, these believers are often treated as psychiatric patients.

26



- ▶ **Leader:**
Sultan Qaboos
- ▶ **Population:**
2.8 million (35,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Absolute Monarchy





27

BURMA (MYANMAR)

PRAY



- ▶ **Leader:**
General Than Shwe
- ▶ **Population:**
50.1 million (4.6 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Buddhism
- ▶ **Government:**
Military dictatorship

The military junta is the primary source of persecution. Although the constitution guarantees religious freedom, faiths other than Buddhism face restrictions. Christians are prohibited from buying or renting properties for their activities. New believers are pressured to return to Buddhism both by their families, who see conversion as a betrayal of the country, and by Buddhist monks, who traditionally hold power in the villages. Most believers live in Chin State and are very poor.

- ▶ There has been severe famine in Chin State since 2008. Pray for pastors' families who sometimes have nothing to eat but rats
- ▶ For opportunities to learn about new crops that the rats will not ravage – and other livelihood skills
- ▶ For women lay leaders and pastors' wives, who silently submit to domestic violence.

BRUNEI



Most Christians in Brunei are expatriates and migrants. They are allowed to practice their faith, but not to share it with Malays, the major people group in Brunei. Churches that are officially registered are prohibited from taking in seekers and converts from the local population. Violation of these restrictions means church closure and possible imprisonment for the pastor. Because of these restrictions, believers from a Muslim background are often isolated and neglected.

PRAY

- ▶ For the few pastors prepared to minister to isolated believers from a Muslim background
- ▶ That local churches will embrace converts fleeing threats because of their faith in Christ
- ▶ For children of believers from a Muslim background, that the seeds of faith will be preserved in their hearts.

29



- ▶ **Leader:**
Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah
- ▶ **Population:**
395,000 (39,500 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Constitutional Sultanate



28

KUWAIT

PRAY



- ▶ **Leader:**
Emir Sheikh Sabah
- ▶ **Population:**
3 million (421,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Constitutional emirate

The Christian population consists mostly of foreign workers; there are only a few hundred Kuwaiti believers. Evangelism of Muslims is strictly forbidden, and tribal loyalty prevents people from breaking away from family and community traditions. The constitution provides for religious freedom, but in practice, believers experience discrimination because of government policies. Non-Muslims and non-Sunni Muslims struggle to obtain legal permission to establish new places of worship.

- ▶ For local believers to be strong in their faith and bold in their witness
- ▶ That Christian communities will attract the interest of local Kuwaitis and reach out to them
- ▶ That the government would ease restrictions on places of worship.

TURKEY



Although Turkey is a secular state, Christians face some legal discrimination. Evangelical Christians can only meet to worship if they have received official status. Religious meetings in homes are strongly discouraged in some areas for fear of Muslim extremists. Leaving Islam for Christianity is seen as a disgrace and Christians are negatively portrayed in the media. In 2010 there were reports of Christians being arrested, assaulted and fined.

PRAY

- ▶ For protection for believers who speak out boldly about their faith
- ▶ For perseverance for believers from a Muslim background facing pressure to return to Islam
- ▶ That Turkish citizens will be free in reality to choose, be educated in and communicate their religion, as decreed in their constitution.

30



- ▶ **Leader:**
Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan
- ▶ **Population:**
74.8 million (100,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Parliamentary republic





31

MOROCCO



PRAY

- ▶ For unity in the Moroccan church as pressure on Christians increases
- ▶ That young Moroccans will discover the truth of Jesus Christ through internet or satellite TV
- ▶ That the king will use his power to give more liberty to the Moroccan church.

Non-Muslim foreign communities can openly practice their faith here. However, evangelism is prohibited and conversion to Christianity discouraged. The king seems to want to modernize the country but finds himself in a delicate position. Increased tension between Sunni and Shiite Muslims led to a government crackdown on religious groups in 2010. At least 150 foreign Christians were expelled from the country, and there were reports of local Christians being beaten and harassed.

- ▶ **Leader:**
King Mohammed VI
- ▶ **Population:**
32 million (29,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Constitutional Monarchy



32

INDIA



PRAY

- ▶ That leadership and discipleship training programs would help believers grow in faith and maturity
- ▶ For the peaceful resettlement of Christians still displaced by the violence in Orissa
- ▶ Ask God to provide for children orphaned in religious riots.

The Hindutva ideology, which seeks to enforce Hindu dominance in society, is advancing at a fast rate. Christians are a soft target since they do not retaliate, as shown by the systematic violence against Christians in Orissa and Karnataka in 2008-09. In 2010 nine believers were killed. There were many reports of Christians being arrested and assaulted, and church buildings and schools being damaged. Yet the church is growing, and unity is increasing as a result of the opposition felt by all denominations.

- ▶ **Leader:**
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh
- ▶ **Population:**
1.2 billion (71 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Hinduism
- ▶ **Government:**
Federal republic



TAJKISTAN



PRAY

- ▶ For the economic situation. Many Tajik people, including Christians, struggle daily to provide for their families
- ▶ For Tajik Christians who are under pressure from their relatives to renounce their faith
- ▶ For Christian parents to have the courage to let their children go to Sunday Schools and summer camps.

Pressure on new Christians comes from relatives and the extended family, as Tajik identity is associated with being Muslim. Changing religion brings great shame on the family and teaching Christianity to children is a very sensitive issue in the country. Government control on religious activities has also increased and the import or distribution of Christian literature is very restricted. Christians active in outreach risk harassment, beatings and, occasionally, arrest.

33



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Emomali Rakhmon
- ▶ **Population:**
7 million (74,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



PRAY

- ▶ Pray that foreign Christians would have wisdom in sharing their faith
- ▶ Internet use is extensive; pray that Christian internet sites would reach many with the gospel
- ▶ The standard of living is generally high because of oil wealth; pray that riches would not be a barrier to people receiving the gospel.

One of the most liberal countries in the Gulf, around 80 per cent of the population are expatriates. The constitution provides for religious freedom, but the government restricts this freedom in practice. All citizens are defined as Muslims. Evangelism is prohibited and the law denies Muslims the freedom to change religion. Converts may face pressure to return to Islam. But non-Muslim groups can worship freely, in dedicated buildings or private homes.

34



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Sheikh Khalifa
- ▶ **Population:**
4.6 million (400,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Federation



35

SUDAN (NORTH)

PRAY



- ▶ That the CPA will be successfully put into practice and that all parties will accept the outcome of the referendum in the south
- ▶ The majority of church leaders have little formal training. Pray that they will be equipped to stand firm under pressure
- ▶ For those working to bring the gospel to the people of Darfur.

Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, persecution has decreased. However, the church in the north remains threatened by the influence of Islam. The peace agreement is still very fragile, given a clear mistrust between both parties to the agreement. The Islamic government in Khartoum restricts Christian activities in conflict-stricken Darfur. In January 2011 a referendum was held in southern Sudan to decide whether the south should secede from the north.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Omar al-Bashir
- ▶ **Population:**
42.2 million (11.3 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic



36

ZANZIBAR ISLANDS

PRAY



- ▶ That Christians will boldly reach out in love to Muslims with the gospel
- ▶ For wisdom for church leaders in leading their congregations
- ▶ Praise God for growing unity among churches and pray that it will be carefully guarded.

The three islands of Unguja, Tumbatu and Pemba are 97 per cent Muslim. There is no church on Tumbatu Island and most churches on Unguja Island are for expatriates. Islamic extremism continues to grow, causing problems for Christians. Registration of churches remains difficult. Believers still struggle to gain access to jobs and education. Reaching Muslims with the gospel is a huge challenge.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Amani Abeid Karume
- ▶ **Population:**
1.2 million (4,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Semi-autonomous republic



TUNISIA

PRAY



- ▶ That new believers will have the courage to meet others for fellowship
- ▶ That those who are looking for the truth would be open towards Christianity
- ▶ That the small church will grow and be firmly rooted, with a deepening of faith through Christian media.

Although the constitution provides for freedom of religion, churches face some restrictions. Islam is the main religion and Islamic religious education is a compulsory subject in schools. Evangelism is not allowed, but there have been several reports of people converting to Christianity. This sometimes gives rise to hostility or rejection from the family or community. However, many seekers are finding Jesus Christ, particularly through Christian satellite TV and internet sites.

37



- ▶ **Leader:**
Interim President Fouad Mebazaa
- ▶ **Population:**
10.2 million (23,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic

SYRIA

PRAY



- ▶ For strong, Bible-focused leadership in all churches
- ▶ That churches will work together in reaching out to others
- ▶ That young Christians will model and spread the message of peace and forgiveness to their peers.

The church dates from the first century and traditional churches have a well-respected place in society. Evangelical churches are free to worship, but face problems when they reach out with the gospel. Believers from a Muslim background often face opposition from family and friends. One of the government's main targets seems to be to retain stability, and to ensure that Christians, as well as other religious minorities, do not disturb communal harmony or threaten government.

38



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Bashar al-Assad
- ▶ **Population:**
22 million (1.9 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic





39

DJIBOUTI



PRAY

- ▶ For perseverance for isolated believers under pressure to return to Islam
- ▶ For the effective distribution of Bibles and Christian literature
- ▶ Ask God to bless Christian radio and satellite TV broadcasts in the French language.

Djibouti is a majority Muslim nation with a small, predominantly expatriate Christian community. The constitution provides for religious freedom, and the government's attitude towards non-Muslims is generally tolerant. However, societal animosity towards Christians is increasing. Conversion from Islam is strongly discouraged, and the small number of indigenous believers are persecuted by their families and society. There were some reports of churches being vandalized.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Ismael Guelleh
- ▶ **Population:**
864,000 (15,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic



CUBA



PRAY

- ▶ For wisdom for pastors who are being monitored by the government
- ▶ For perseverance for members of house churches, who find it particularly difficult to meet
- ▶ For Pastor Perez, who was sentenced to six years in prison in 2009 on false charges.

Roman Catholics make up about 60 per cent of the population, evangelicals 5 per cent. The constitution provides for religious freedom, but the government restricts this in practice. Churches must register and unregistered house churches experience harassment from the authorities. The government restricts the construction of new church buildings and permission is often hard to obtain. Religious groups complain about widespread surveillance and infiltration by state security agents.

41



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Raul Castro
- ▶ **Population:**
11.2 million (6.3 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Christianity (Roman Catholicism)
- ▶ **Government:**
Communist state



40

JORDAN



PRAY

- ▶ For courage and strength for believers who face discrimination from government or society
- ▶ That jurisdiction of Sharia (Islamic law) courts would not be applied to believers from a Muslim background
- ▶ For wisdom for expatriate Christians seeking to share their faith with Jordanians.

Known as one of the most Western-orientated countries in the Middle East, the constitution guarantees religious freedom. However, leaving Islam is prohibited and 'public proselytism' of Muslims is against government policy. Muslims who become Christians generally maintain a low profile to avoid harassment or interrogation. Two Christians were reported to have been physically harmed or strictly limited in their freedom because of their faith in 2010.

- ▶ **Leader:**
King Abdullah II
- ▶ **Population:**
6.3 million (330,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Constitutional monarchy

BELARUS



PRAY

- ▶ Many churches have to wait several years to register. Pray for a breakthrough
- ▶ For foreign Christian workers facing deportation or visa refusal. Pray for a change in the government's attitude to Christianity
- ▶ Religious education is restricted. Pray for wisdom for Christian parents as they bring up their children to know the Lord.

Although the constitution provides for the equality of religions, the Orthodox Church is the only officially recognized denomination. A law introduced in 2002 makes unregistered religious activity a criminal offence, and all religious activity is monitored by the secret police. In March a pastor was heavily fined for leading an unregistered church, following a raid on his church's worship service. In July a pastor was fined three times in one day for sharing his faith in a nearby village.

42



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Alexander Lukashenko
- ▶ **Population:**
9.6 Million (6.7 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Christianity (Orthodox)
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic (dictatorship)





43

ETHIOPIA



PRAY

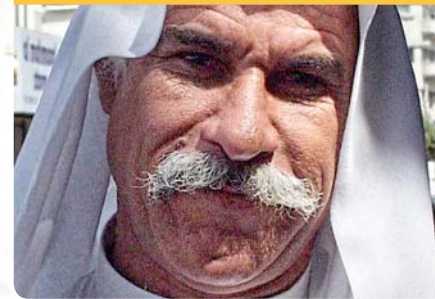
- ▶ Praise God that the church is growing
- ▶ New laws governing NGOs are expected to have a negative impact on the church. Pray that the church will react wisely to the challenges it faces
- ▶ That Open Doors training programs will help the church to stand strong and be a faithful witness for Christ.

The constitution protects freedom of religion, but this freedom is controlled by the government. Evangelical churches face some pressure from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, but Islam is now the main persecutor. In 2010 there were several reports of Christians being falsely charged with crimes to force them to suspend evangelistic activities. In June a 13-year-old believer was stabbed to death for refusing to renounce Christ and marry a Muslim.

- ▶ **Leader:**
Prime Minister Meles Zenawi
- ▶ **Population:**
85.2 million (51.5 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Christianity (Orthodox)
- ▶ **Government:**
Federal republic



BAHRAIN



PRAY

- ▶ For perseverance for converts from Islam, who are often shunned by society
- ▶ Thank God that expatriate workers are relatively free to worship openly. Pray for courage to share their faith
- ▶ Thank God for the two bookshops selling Christian books. Pray that Christian retailers will be guided by the Holy Spirit when in contact with Muslim visitors.

In 2002, the 33 islands of Bahrain became a constitutional monarchy and to some extent there is freedom of expression. This mainly Shia-Islamic country is quite tolerant because of its international position in banking and trade. Members of religious groups are permitted to practice their faith, but only in private places of worship, and they are not allowed to advertise their services in Arabic. A considerable number of expatriate Christians work and live in Bahrain.

45



- ▶ **Leader:**
King Sheikh Hamad
- ▶ **Population:**
791,000 (65,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Constitutional Monarchy



44

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES



PRAY

- ▶ That Christians seeking to reach out to Muslims will be protected from threats
- ▶ That the Arab Christian community stays deeply rooted in society and that the church will grow
- ▶ That young Christians studying at the Bethlehem Bible Society will settle in the Palestinian areas rather than emigrating.

In the Gaza strip, pressure from the Hamas government continues to force Christians to leave. On the West Bank, although there is no official persecution, Christians face some discrimination. Some church leaders faced threats in 2010 for having contact and sharing the gospel with Muslims. Palestinian-Israeli peace talks made little if any progress in 2010, and many Christians want to leave the Palestinian territories because of the hopeless situation.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Mahmoud Abbas
- ▶ **Population:**
4.3 million (40,000 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Interim administration

KYRGYZSTAN



PRAY

- ▶ For wise leadership and peace for the country
- ▶ For Muslim-background believers who face hostility and rejection from their relatives
- ▶ For protection on all evangelism and outreach activities, as they are not legally permitted.

A minimum of 200 people is required to register a church. As a result, many groups function without registration, risking police checks and fines. In general, no open evangelism is allowed. Kyrgyz Christians from a Muslim background may face oppression from relatives, neighbors and Islamic clergy. In remote regions, believers find it difficult to get jobs because of their faith. 2010 saw major ethnic conflicts between Uzbeks and Kyrgyz, especially in the south of the country.

46



- ▶ **Leader:**
Caretaker president: Roza Otunbayeva
- ▶ **Population:**
5.5 million (292,500 Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic



47

BANGLADESH

PRAY



- ▶ For the expanding literacy program as it reaches rural believers and unbelievers
- ▶ For abused women in rural villages, including the wives and daughters of Muslim-background believers
- ▶ Copies of the Bible Storybook are being distributed to children. Pray that they will grow in their understanding of God.

Conversion to Christianity is still the most shameful act for a Muslim here. New Christians are often shunned by their family and community or pressured to revert to Islam. Sometimes they and their families are beaten and authorities deny them due process of law. Growing congregations attract opposition from underground terrorist groups and Muslim neighbors. In August 2010, a convert was falsely arrested because of his Christian activities. The son of another convert was kidnapped in June.

- ▶ **Leader:**
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
- ▶ **Population:**
162.2 million (1.4 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Parliamentary democracy



SRI LANKA

PRAY



- ▶ For encouragement for pastors and believers facing opposition because of the growth of the church
- ▶ For reconciliation between Sinhala and Tamil believers, as internally displaced peoples are rehabilitated
- ▶ For young people and children still suffering the trauma of the civil war that ended in 2009.

Though a controversial anti-conversion bill has been put aside, it has not been entirely abandoned. Buddhist monks with political leanings still seek to limit Christian activities by proposing policies such as the Noise Pollution Law, which prohibits the use of a sound system. However, church planting and evangelism have resulted in conversions in rural areas. This growth comes at a price, with vigorous attacks on pastors and believers by Buddhist extremists and locals.

49



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Rajapaksa
- ▶ **Population:**
20.4 million (1.7 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Buddhism
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic



48

INDONESIA

PRAY



- ▶ For pastors and believers whose church buildings have been closed
- ▶ That the Lord will lead Muslim-background believers to Christians who will help them in their walk with God
- ▶ For Christian children who face discrimination at school from teachers and students.

Persecution mostly takes place in West Java where churches are damaged or closed down, and building permits are revoked or delayed. Although national laws uphold religious freedom, Sharia-inspired laws are creeping into civil policies at the regency level, and often take precedence when believers are disadvantaged. To avoid inciting hostility from locals, churches barely reach out to Muslim-background believers, who are often discouraged and isolated, and struggle to grow spiritually.

- ▶ **Leader:**
President Yudhoyono
- ▶ **Population:**
238 million (36.8 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Republic



RUSSIA

PRAY



- ▶ For the families of the church leaders killed in 2010
- ▶ For boldness for Christians involved in outreach to Muslims
- ▶ For encouragement for Christians in Dagestan, where state authorities persecute both Christians and Muslims.

The constitution provides for freedom of religion, but only Eastern Orthodoxy, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism are acknowledged. State officials publicly support the Orthodox Church at the expense of other denominations. Persecution is more acute in central and southern areas. Converts to Christianity must practice their faith in small, discreet home groups. In 2010 ten Christians were arrested and three church leaders killed for being 'too active' in working among converted Muslims.

50



- ▶ **Leader:**
President Dmitry Medvedev
- ▶ **Population:**
141 million (82 million Christians)
- ▶ **Main Religion:**
Christianity (Orthodox)/Islam
- ▶ **Government:**
Constitutional federation



Malaysia was also ranked 50 on the list, after a spate of attacks on churches in January 2010.