Open Doors®

STAND ONE WITH THEM

STOP THE VIOLENCE BY PRAYING TO OUR POWERFUL GOD

Thank you for committing to pray for the persecuted church on this year's International Day of Prayer.

By joining thousands of Christians around the world to pray, you stand as one against extreme persecution. Together, we ask God to stop the violence and start the healing.

The following resources are here to help you pray for the millions of believers who are displaced, tortured, outcast, imprisoned, and grieving.

More than anything else, they ask for your prayers.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Ephesians 6:18

TAP A REGION TO BEGIN:

PRAY FOR ASIA

PRAY FOR AFRICA

PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

PRAY FOR LATIN AMERICA

Pray for

ASIA

STAND ONE WITH THEM IN PRAYER

Jump to Guided Prayer

PERSECUTION IN ASIA

Persecution is rapidly increasing against Christians in Asia. Those who don't support the ruling party can be branded as troublemakers, disturbers of the peace, or even terrorists and are subject to discrimination, monitoring, and imprisonment.

World Watch List

COUNTRIES IN ASIA

#1 North Korea
#7 Pakistan
#10 Afghanistan
#11 India
#17 Myanmar
#18 Maldives
#19 China
#21 Laos
#26 Bangladesh
#29 Turkmenistan
#35 Vietnam
#36 Bhutan
#42 Indonesia
#44 Brunei
#46 Tajikistan
#47 Kazakhstan
#49 Malaysia

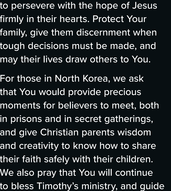
Spotlight on

NORTH KOREA

It's impossible for Christians to live freely in North Korea's totalitarian regime. If discovered, believers are deported to labour camps as political criminals, or killed on the spot. Meeting for worship is almost impossible and must be done in complete secrecy. The immense risk means that sometimes a Christian might not even tell their own family of their faith out of fear of being turned over to the authorities.

"Our missions are often dangerous. We managed to get some believers out of a very difficult situation. This was only possible through God's guidance and the prayers of many supporters around the world. It is only through God's special providence, grace, and blessings that our underground church network still exists."

– Timothy, a secret church leader in North Korea



JOIN US IN PRAYER

Father God,

Our hearts ache as we hear about the pressure and discrimination facing our family in Asia. May every believer feel Your tender loving care and be strengthened with Your power to persevere with the hope of Jesus firmly in their hearts. Protect Your family, give them discernment when tough decisions must be made, and may their lives draw others to You.

For those in North Korea, we ask that You would provide precious moments for believers to meet, both in prisons and in secret gatherings, and give Christian parents wisdom and creativity to know how to share their faith safely with their children. We also pray that You will continue to bless Timothy's ministry, and guide him to strengthen Your Church.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

STOP THE VIOLENCE. START THE HEALING.

Sign the global petition to stop violence against Christians, and add your prayer to the Open Doors prayer tree by clicking the button below.

SIGN THE PETITION

Pray for

AFRICA

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Jump to Guided Prayer

PERSECUTION IN AFRICA

Violence against Christians in Africa is at an all-time high. Sub-Saharan Africa is the most violent place in the world for followers of Jesus. Believers face attacks from Islamic extremists on their churches and homes, abduction for ransom, violent assaults, and the constant risk of death.

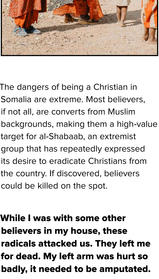
World Watch List

COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

#2 Somalia
#3 Libya
#4 Eritrea
#6 Nigeria
#8 Sudan
#14 Mali
#15 Algeria
#20 Burkina Faso
#23 Mauritania
#24 Morocco
#27 Niger
#28 Central African Republic
#32 Ethiopia
#33 Tunisia
#38 Egypt
#39 Mozambique
#41 Democratic Republic of the Congo
#43 Cameroon
#45 Comoros

Spotlight on

SOMALIA

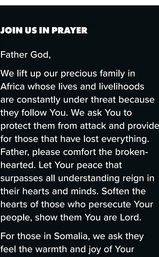


The dangers of being a Christian in Somalia are extreme. Most believers, if not all, are converts from Muslim backgrounds, making them a high-value target for al-Shabaab, an extremist group that has repeatedly expressed its desire to eradicate Christians from the country. If discovered, believers could be killed on the spot.

"While I was with some other believers in my house, these radicals attacked us. They left me for dead. My left arm was hurt so badly, it needed to be amputated.

They chased away the other Christians and then started to beat me. I don't need to be a secret Christian anymore, since everybody now knows about my faith. And I have already sacrificed my arm for Christ. Now, I feel free to evangelise. I openly walk to places where idlers sit around, and I tell them about the happiness I found in Christ."

– Abda, persecuted believer in Somalia



JOIN US IN PRAYER

Father God,

We lift up our precious family in Africa whose lives and livelihoods are constantly under threat because they follow You. We ask You to protect them from attack and provide for those that have lost everything. Father, please comfort the broken-hearted. Let Your peace that surpasses all understanding reign in their hearts and minds. Soften the hearts of those who persecute Your people, show them You are Lord.

For those in Somalia, we ask they feel the warmth and joy of Your presence. Help them as they seek to follow You, knowing the dangers that will come if their faith is discovered. We pray for Abda and his family. We ask You to continue to protect them and provide for them and their Christian community. Restore to them all that has been taken away.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Pray for

THE MIDDLE EAST

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Jump to Guided Prayer

PERSECUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Christians in the Middle East have lived with a backdrop of war and extremist violence for over a decade. Many have lost their homes, jobs, and loved ones to persecution and conflict. Now, economic collapse and authoritarian regimes mean believers also face discrimination, isolation, attacks, and threats to their safety.

World Watch List

COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

#5 Yemen
#9 Iran
#12 Syria
#13 Saudi Arabia
#16 Iraq
#31 Oman
#40 Qatar
#48 Jordan
#50 Turkey

Spotlight on

YEMEN

Following Jesus in Yemen continues to be extremely dangerous. Yemeni society is strongly Islamic, conservative, and tribal. The tribal punishment for denouncing Islam can be banishment or death. Most believers are Yemeni and come from Muslim backgrounds. As conversion from Islam is forbidden by Islamic and state law, Christians must keep their faith secret, or risk severe repercussions from their families, the authorities, or Islamic extremist groups. This can include divorce, loss of custody of children, arrest, and interrogation.

"From the moment I decided to follow Jesus, I knew I would face persecution. The more I received threats, the more I was eager to serve. Yemen needs brave servants to go out in society and proclaim the message of God. I could stay safe. I could remain at home and face no persecution, but what good is my faith if I don't go out and deliver the message of God to others?"

–Saleh, Yemeni Christian leader

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Father God,

We thank You for every precious believer in the Middle East. We ask You to give them discernment and conviction to follow You, despite the dangers. We pray for miracles throughout the region and to see Your Church grow.

Thank You for the courageous faith of our brothers and sisters in Yemen. Strengthen and protect them from evil, meet their every need, and provide more opportunities for believers to gather and learn about You. May their transformed lives capture the hearts of those around them and draw them to You.

We especially pray for Saleh and his family. Thank You that, despite the threats and attacks, he refuses to stop following You. Protect him and his loved ones. Bring peace to his household, and let his courageous testimony of Your goodness draw countless others to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Pray for

LATIN AMERICA

Jump to Guided Prayer

PERSECUTION IN LATIN AMERICA

The persecution of Latin American Christians continues to grow. While Christians in Colombia and Mexico regularly face violent assault from drug cartels and gangs, Christians in Nicaragua and Cuba face hostile persecution from their authoritarian governments. Forced displacement, death threats, destruction of churches, psychological damage, surveillance, harassment, theft, and deprivation of basic rights such as access to public services or education are some of the consequences that many of these Christians face for believing in Jesus.

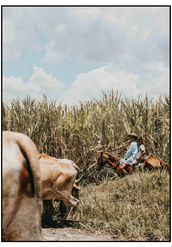
World Watch List

COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

#22 Cuba
#30 Nicaragua
#34 Colombia
#37 Mexico

Spotlight on

CUBA



Cuba's government is the main reason Christians face persecution. Anything deemed to compete with the Communist Party of Cuba is squeezed out, including the Christian faith. Church leaders or believers who speak out against human injustice or political corruption, daring to criticise the regime, risk interrogation, arrest, and prison. The country is widely believed to be in a massive economic and social crisis; Cubans are experiencing escalating hunger, power outages lasting up to 20 hours, rising service costs, and a persistent shortage of basic needs.

"There is much work to do and many challenges to accomplish, as we are under constant government siege from the time we send resources to the time we carry out our activities. We ask for prayer, so the Lord's plans continue being fulfilled in our country, and God continues giving us strength so more and more people come to know Christ every day."

– Pastor Josué, Cuba

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Father God,

Our persecuted brothers and sisters in Latin America face incredible uncertainty. We ask You to strengthen their hearts and minds and remind them that You are their anchor and refuge. Help them to be strong and courageous. May Your perfect love remove all fear as You minister to them. Protect Your sons and daughters; help them to share the good news of Jesus despite the violence they face.

For our Cuban family who face food shortages, power outages, and government repression, please provide their every need. We ask that You make a way for them even where there seems to be no way. We also pray for Pastor Josué and his family. Strengthen his faith in You as he continues to minister. Give him Your wisdom to lead Your people.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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