

Pray that the intra-Afghan talks will lead to peace throughout the country and greater safety for Christians.

20

MAURITANIA

Pray for the Word of God to be preached among Mauritaniens in their heart language; for God's mercy in the wake of severe drought and a poor economy. That God will send rain. Pray for Christ's freedom to be understood by those suffering under the bondage of slavery.

PRAY ALSO FOR

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND INJUSTICE

Pray for the protection of Christians facing jihadi attacks. Ask that the extremists will turn from violence and come to know the Prince of Peace. Pray that Christians' faith will remain steadfast, the needs of the displaced will be met and the bereaved will know God's comfort.

CHILDREN

Pray for the children of persecuted Christian families and children who decide to follow the Lord even when the rest of their family does not believe. Ask that the Lord will lighten their path to grow up to be strong in their faith. Ask Him to be their Protector and their Comforter in the face of danger. Pray that Christian children in Pakistan and Egypt will be enabled to break free from the cycle of poverty and illiteracy in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

REFUGEES & INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

Lift up in prayer all Christian refugees and those displaced within their own country. Pray that God will be their refuge and a strong tower. Ask Him to watch over all dispossessed Christians, that they will know His comfort and peace and be assured by Him of their heavenly homeland, where the Lord has prepared a city for them (Hebrews 11:16).

PASTORS & EVANGELISTS

Give thanks to God for pastors, church planters and evangelists who serve in the face of opposition and violence. Ask the Holy Spirit to equip and empower them

for ministry and provide for their practical needs. Ask for them to be protected from attacks from the majority community, harassment from the authorities and unjust penalties for their service to God. Pray for fruitful ministries, with lives transformed by the Gospel of Christ and churches strengthened to face persecution with courage and perseverance.

WOMEN

Lift up Christian women and girls living in contexts of marginalisation and persecution. Pray that God will provide for them and comfort all who mourn and are lonely. Pray that the vulnerable will be protected from those who seek to harm them because of their faith and gender.

CONVERTS

Give thanks to the Lord for new converts who willingly take up their cross to follow Jesus, enduring loss and suffering for His sake. Pray that God will strengthen, encourage and protect them in their faith. Ask that He will equip them with all they need to grow in the knowledge and love of God. Intercede for new Christians who suffer rejection, that they will be comforted by the assurance that their place in God's family can never be taken from them.

MARTYRS

Thank God for the assurance of eternal life for all who believe in Jesus. Praise Him for the perseverance of believers who did not cling to life in the face of death. Ask that their sacrifice will embolden others to endure and be a powerful witness to their killers. Ask that the Lord will comfort those left behind and give them His peace that passes all understanding

A LIVING HOPE

Praise God for the hope we have, that all who are in Christ have already been made alive with Him and will one day be with Him in glory. Pray for our brothers and sisters who today face harassment, discrimination, violence and persecution, that they will hold firm in the assurance of that living hope and be sustained through the comfort of the Holy Spirit and the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

During this holiday period we invite you to pray that the persecuted Church grows in breadth and depth—that God would raise up new leaders, bring unity, and empower believers to lead more to Christ through bold proclamation of the Gospel.

Here is a list of the top 20 countries worldwide where Christians experience the most persecution

1

NORTH KOREA

Pray for daily grace for Christians, who are in danger every moment. May all facing death, torture and abuse in labour camps know God's sustaining power.

2

SOMALIA

Pray that Somali Christians, who face the strong possibility of violence, even death, for their faith in Jesus, will find protection under the shadow of the Almighty. Ask God to bring peace to conflict-wracked Somalia and freedom to its people.

3

YEMEN

Intercede for Yemeni Christians who share in the sufferings of their neighbours and endure additional hardships for their faith. Pray for progress in bringing the civil war and humanitarian crisis to an end. Ask the Lord to help His children to endure.

4

ERITREA

Ask the Lord to strengthen Christians and bring healing and restoration to those released from prison, especially those who have no home to return to. Pray that the hearts of the

authorities will soften to release more imprisoned Christians and allow believers of all denominations to worship freely.

5

LIBYA

Ask for the protection of Christians, especially converts from Islam. Pray for an end to the modern-day slavery of migrants. Pray for lasting peace, justice and stability

6

NIGERIA

Ask the Lord to protect Nigerian Christians from relentless persecution and comfort them in their distress. Pray that the plans of terrorist groups will be thwarted and that the government will actively intervene against extremist violence.

7

PAKISTAN

Pray that the “blasphemy” laws will be repealed and those awaiting trial or execution protected and exonerated. Ask the Lord to be a “wall of fire” around Christian women and girls keeping them safe from abduction, and that the justice system will protect the innocent.

8

IRAN

Ask that new believers leading convert groups will be equipped by the Lord to nurture even newer converts toward a firm grounding in their faith. Pray for courage for imprisoned Christians and for those who have to flee their homeland and families.

9

AFGHANISTAN

Ask God to shield Afghan believers and give them encouragement from the Bible and internet ministries.

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10

SUDAN

Give thanks to God for the government’s brave and decisive action in reforming the law. Pray for the protection of government ministers responsible for this and that calls for a return to a stricter Islam will not be heeded.

11

INDIA

Ask God to protect Indian Christians against discrimination and violence, and comfort those who have lost loved ones. Pray that rising Hindu extremism will be quelled and that political leaders will pursue peace rather than division.

12

SYRIA

Pray that Christians forced to flee north-east Syria will find safety and a new home. Give thanks that the faith of Christians has emerged stronger from the furnace of affliction. Pray that the Lord will continue to provide for them as they rebuild their lives.

13

SAUDI ARABIA

Pray for the protection of all Christians. Give thanks for some small moves towards a more lenient interpretation of Islam in Saudi Arabia and pray that this will be expanded to allow Muslims to choose to follow another religion if they want, without penalty.

14

MYANMAR

Lift up Chin, Karen and Kachin Christians, and other brutally persecuted ethnic minorities in Myanmar including

Rohingya (mainly Muslims). Pray that they will be given strength to endure hardship in IDP camps and all who have lost loved ones will be comforted. Ask that military and complicit government leaders will turn in horror from their atrocities.

15

MALDIVES

Intercede for Christians in the Maldives, especially converts from Islam, asking that the Lord will sustain them in their faith despite the challenges they face. Pray that, if the Lord wills, limits on religious freedom will come to an end.

16

CHINA

Pray for courage and resilience for Christians in China that they may stand steadfast in their faith. Pray that the authorities will see Christians as a force for good and harmony in society.

17

MALI

Pray that Islamist violence will come to an end in Mali. Ask that the Christians will not be fearful but will be filled with peace, knowing God’s presence with them.

18

IRAQ

Ask the Lord to protect and strengthen Iraqi Christians who feel unsafe in their homeland. Pray that God will guide those who are displaced as to where to settle down. Pray that their community and the Iraqi government will enable a Christian heartland to be re-established in Iraq.

19

ALGERIA

Ask God to shield Afghan believers and give them encouragement from the Bible and internet ministries.