

PRAYER GUIDE

February – April 2021

February

Top 12 in the World Watch List 2021

Extreme Persecution

01 North Korea #1

Pray believers like Dae-bok* will be reminded of Jesus' love and that of His Church. Pray each believer will be comforted and led by the Holy Spirit in the face of extreme persecution.

02 Afghanistan #2

Converting to Christianity is illegal under Afghani law. Pray God will be transforming the hearts of leaders like President Ashraf Ghani to glorify Him.

03 Somalia #3

Pray over Faith* as her family pressures her to renounce her faith. Pray for her safety and boldness as she seeks to share the gospel with them despite their violent threats.

04 Libya #4

Praise God that many new believers are being baptised despite extremist threats and limited Christian resources. Pray God will be using them as a clear testament of His love and grace.

05 Pakistan #5

Authorities heavily monitor churches in Pakistan. Believers are regular targets of violence and can lose their lives for speaking about their faith. Pray for nationwide peace.

06 Eritrea #6

Authorities in Eritrea often search the homes of Christians, especially during underground church meetings. Pray for the safety of these believers. Ask God to build strong churches despite persecution.

07 Yemen #7

New church leaders have not been able to meet due to the war and pandemic. Pray fellowship and teaching via online platforms will be accessible and effective in strengthening the church.

08 Iran #8

Praise God that the underground church in Iran is growing. Pray for wisdom and spiritual maturity for church leaders, and opportunities for congregations to serve one another.

09 Nigeria #9

Pray for comfort over the wife and son of a village chief who was killed by extremists. Pray they will be leaning into God even in the midst of extreme hardship and persecution.

10 India #10

Opposition in India has reached unprecedented levels, much of it at the hands of the government. Pray for leaders and greater support for Christians suffering in poverty.

11 Iraq #11

Very few Christians are left in Iraq since the Islamic State entered the nation and violence escalated. Pray God will be using those remaining to grow and strengthen His Church.

12 Syria #12

An economic crisis has left most Syrians in poverty. Pray God will be using Christians in Syria as a source of hope and support, bringing revival to the nation in the face of hardship.

Top 13-50 in the World Watch List 2021

Very High Persecution

13 Sudan #13

Those who leave Islam to follow Jesus are particularly vulnerable to persecution. Pray believers will remain steadfast even when facing pressure from their families and communities.

14 Saudi Arabia #14

Many believers have expressed an interest to marry and raise Christian families. Pray God would hear them, making a way for His Church to continue in Saudi Arabia for generations to come.

15 Maldives #15

The Maldives has been shaken by COVID-19. Pray the nation's leaders will come to know God and lean on Him as they govern through economic and political hardship.

16 Egypt #16

Christians can lose custody of their children because of their faith. Pray for peace, comfort and opportunities to reunite with their children.

17 China #17

Believers, particularly those of a Muslim background, have experienced escalating government surveillance. Pray they will not shy away from living out their faith and sharing the gospel.

18 Myanmar #18

Pray for safety and protection for Rohingya Christians as they are targeted with pressure and violence for both their faith and ethnicity. Pray for strengthened faith and hope.

19 Vietnam #19

Praise God that believers Ho* and Yen* now have access to clean water after being banned from the village's communal well. Pray they will love their village despite persecution.

20 Mauritania #20

Those who leave Islam often lose their jobs and are rejected by society. Pray that Christians will have access to the resources and support they need, especially adequate food.

21 Uzbekistan #21

Owning a Bible is illegal in Uzbekistan. Even downloading a Bible app can carry harsh penalties. Pray for spiritual maturity and God-given wisdom for believers.

22 Laos #22

A Christian family's house was destroyed by villagers due to their faith. Pray for them as they relocate, and praise God that they received emergency relief from Open Doors.

23 Turkmenistan #23

Any unregistered Christian activity must be done in secret and underground churches are often raided. Pray for protection and perseverance over believers who gather together, no matter the cost.

24 Algeria #24

Praise God that the Algerian church is growing in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that new believers will find opportunities for fellowship and teaching.

25 Turkey #25

Christian refugees in Turkey are being treated with suspicion and hostility by local police. Pray they will remain steadfast in faith even if they risk deportation.

26 Tunisia #26

Marwa* was expelled from her house when her faith was discovered. Pray she will find a safe home and continue to share her love for Jesus with others.

27 Morocco #27

Habiba's husband divorced her when she became a Christian. Pray she will find a new place to live and that her children will remain safely with her as she moves.

28 Mali #28

As extremism escalates, pray over believers in Mali. Pray for their protection, as well as wisdom and guidance as they navigate life in light of constant threats of violence.

March

01 Qatar #29

Many believers follow Jesus despite not knowing any other Christians. Pray these believers will find opportunities to connect with other secret Christians.

02 Colombia #30

Praise God Pastor Jonathan never gave up sharing the gospel online during the COVID-19 pandemic and pray the church grows again in numbers.

03 Bangladesh #31

Praise God that Adult Literacy Teachers' Training is reaching those in Bangladesh. Pray that it will equip more with the gospel and the skills to share it.

04 Burkina Faso #32

Pray for the million people displaced due to conflict and extremism. Pray that even in hardship, they will hold tightly to the steadfast promises of God.

05 Tajikistan #33

Government officials view Christianity as a threat and are responsible for most of the persecution in Tajikistan. Pray God will point government officials towards Jesus.

06 Nepal #34

Praise God that women like Cheena* have learnt to read and write through literacy classes run by Open Doors partners. Pray they will use these skills to honour God.

07 Central African Republic #35

Pray that believers in the Central African Republic would courageously share Jesus with their families. Pray for opportunities and boldness to evangelise, even in the face of persecution.

08 Ethiopia #36

Nine-year-old Dari* was attacked by another child because of her faith. Pray that teasing and persecution won't deter her from following Jesus, but push her deeper into faith.

09 Mexico #37

Sharing the gospel in gang-controlled areas can be dangerous. Pray for protection over Christians as they live out their faith in communities that desperately need the light of Jesus.

10 Jordan #38

Secret police are targeting believers who have left Islam to follow Jesus. Christians are monitored and often blacklisted, preventing them from working. Pray for perseverance and provision.

11 Brunei #39

All students, including Christians, must now learn Islamic teachings in school. Pray young Christians will keep their eyes firmly on Jesus and continue to grow in spiritual maturity.

12 The Democratic Republic Of The Congo #40

Rebel extremist groups are continuing to target Christians in North Kivu and Ituri. Praise God that He can transform even the hardest hearts and that He would protect the vulnerable.

13 Kazakhstan #41

Officials suppress any religious activities that aren't under state control. Pray the government and its leaders will see Christians as a blessing and not as a threat to the nation.

14 Cameroon #42

Sadia's* family threatened her for leaving Islam, forcing her into hiding. Pray that she may rebuild her relationship with her family and for opportunities to share the gospel.

15 Bhutan #43

Christians who refuse to participate in Buddhist activities often face rejection by loved ones. Pray believers will have access to supportive fellowship to lead them through hardship.

16 Oman #44

Sharia (Islamic) law influences everyday life in Oman. Pray pressure from authorities and communities will not weaken believers' willingness to share the love of Christ.

17 Mozambique #45

Violence from extremist group Al Shabaab has forced many Christians from their homes. Pray for provision of shelter, food, water, hygienic items and other essential resources.

18 Malaysia #46

Several Christians have disappeared; Pastors Raymond, Joshua, Ruth, and many others. Pray over the searches underway and for provision over the families left behind.

19 Indonesia #47

The Indonesian government is hostile towards Christianity. Pray that officials would receive Jesus' love as a testament of His love and power.

20 Kuwait #48

With little space to legally worship, there is tension between Christian denominations. Pray the Church will be unified under Christ, loving one another despite any differences.

21 Kenya #49

Pray God protect Mary*, John* and their four young children from increasing pressure to leave their faith. Pray they will be an example of Jesus' love, even as they are forced to flee.

22 Comoros #50

Nearly half the population is living in poverty. Christians are especially vulnerable. Pray for provision and spiritual maturity as believers seek to honour God even in the hardship.

23 Sri Lanka

Praise God that Sri Lankan believers recently received persecution preparedness training. Pray that this training empowers attendees to live for Jesus in their communities.

24 China

Horace* and Teresa* produce training materials for the church in western China. Pray that God protects them as they continue this work under religious restrictions and surveillance.

25 Vietnam

Praise God for the successful printing and delivering of 66,500 children's Bibles last year. Pray God will use these to impact the next generation of the Vietnamese church.

26 Mauritania

Mauritanian society is increasingly dominated by Islamic extremism. Ask that God will reveal Himself to those who persecute His Church and strengthen those facing persecution.

27 Afghanistan

Leaving Islam is considered the ultimate betrayal. As a result, Christians are often violently attacked by those they love the most. Pray they keep their eyes fixed on Jesus.

28 Laos

Athit* was arrested after he was caught praying for another man's healing. Praise God that his family is now receiving support from our local partners and pray for his safe release.

29 Sudan

Religious-based violence is commonplace in Sudan, and many church buildings have been destroyed. Pray for the safety of believers who meet together. Pray this time is fruitful.

30 Philippines

Praise God that Open Doors-run livelihood projects are beginning again. Pray they will be a blessing to those struck by economic hardship and an opportunity to empower Christians.

31 Qatar

Conversion from Islam often leads to serious legal problems. Pray for strength and provision over believers facing prosecution for their faith. Pray they will remain steadfast.

END OF THE TOP 50.

Thank you for praying through the 50 hardest countries to follow Jesus.

April

01 Vietnam

Eight families in northern Vietnam were denied COVID-19 relief aid from the government because of their faith. Pray God would continue to meet their physical and spiritual needs.

02 Good Friday

"But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
Praise God that in His love and grace, He gave His only son to pay the price for our sins on the cross.

03 Burundi

Onan's* father forced him from the family home when he discovered his new faith. Pray Onan and his wife Eliza* will find a safe home in a new area and a stable source of income.

04 Easter Sunday

"He is not here; He is risen!" (Luke 24:6)
Praise God for Jesus' life and resurrection, and that through His grace we are saved. Pray this will be a time of joyful celebration for Christians around the world.

05 Pakistan

Pray Christians from a Muslim background will be a great witness to those who persecute them. Pray they will faithfully pursue God rather than social acceptance.

06 Kenya

Jemima's* family threatened to marry her to a Muslim man when she became a Christian. Pray she will stand firm, and that God will guide Jemima as she matures in her faith.

07 Lebanon

Praise God the church has stood strong in the face of the hardship of 2020. Pray the Lebanese church will continue to stand in truth, justice and righteousness.

08 Uganda

When a spy in Joseph's* workplace confirmed his faith, Joseph was fired. Pray for provision over his family and that Joseph will look to God, trusting in His good promises.

09 Bangladesh

Pray for Open Doors partners as they seek to equip more local trainers to support persecuted Christians. Pray these sessions will be a blessing to communities and the Church.

10 Myanmar

Pray God will be uplifting the next generation of Church leaders in Myanmar. Pray they will find mentors to support their spiritual growth and challenge them in faith.

11 Tanzania

When Aisha's* parents discovered her faith, they stopped paying her school fees. Pray for Aisha's perseverance and that God provides for her so she may continue her studies.

12 Eritrea

The Eritrean Orthodox church often puts pressure on Christians from different denominations. Pray for peace between groups so all believers may be faithful witnesses.

13 Syria

Pray that Christians will be true peacemakers in a country torn apart by conflict and extremism. Pray they will be rooted in God's Word and characterised by compassion and service.

14 Tunisia

Extremists smashed and destroyed Hamed's* car when they learnt of his faith. Pray for his comfort and peace of mind following such a confronting attack.

15 Colombia

Pray over the Chocó region. Illegal armed groups, corruption and state neglect has made it one of the poorest regions of Colombia. Pray the Church will be a source of hope.

16 Uzbekistan

Christians from a Muslim background face the most severe persecution from all directions: government, family, friends and communities. Pray they will stand firm in faith.

17 Indonesia

Registration and building permits can be difficult for churches. Pray God will guide them as they seek places to worship together.

18 Malaysia

Several training projects are being held to equip young believers to share the gospel. Pray they will equip attendees to walk with boldness and faithfully speak of Jesus' love.

19 Ethiopia

Abdu's* father nearly killed him when he became a Christian. Praise God other believers interceded and rescued him from the attack. Pray over Abdu as he now lives in a new village.

20 Iraq

Pray for strength over the small Christian population to forgive and speak truth to those who persecute them. Pray their persecutors will come to know Jesus.

21 North Korea

Through networks in China, local partners are delivering food, medicine, clothes and Christian resources to North Korean Christians. Pray a blessing over these deliveries.

22 East Africa

Ayub* and his six siblings were separated from their mother when she was banished for her faith. Thank God they received support from Open Doors partners and pray for their spiritual peace.

23 India

Anti-Christian hate campaigns are being launched on social media. Pray God will be drawing bitter hearts towards His and transforming the nation to one that glorifies Him.

24 Nigeria

Violence has continued in Nigeria's middle belt, leaving Christians physically and emotionally exhausted. Pray they find rest and renewal in Jesus. Pray for their perseverance.

25 Syria

A crime wave has hit this country. There are daily reports of theft, violence and murders. Pray the Church will be a light and that God would use them to bring about peace.

26 Bhutan

Many Christians cannot find work because of their beliefs. Pray they will have adequate resources and support to live, especially when separated from their families.

27 Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabian law forbids the open practise of any religion other than Islam. Despite restrictions, pray more will grow in their knowledge and love for Christ and seek to share Him.

28 Nepal

Lalita* was beaten by her husband when he found her praying. Pray for her protection and strength as she continues to follow Jesus. Pray her husband may come to faith too.

29 Brunei

The divorce rate has significantly spiked in Brunei since 2019. Pray Christian couples will be strengthened together in faith and approach marriage with God-given wisdom and love.

30 North Korea

There are around 300,000 secret believers in North Korea, following Jesus in the most dangerous place to do so. Pray the North Korean church will continue for generations to come.