



Pray FOR THE
persecuted
CHURCH

24 hours of prayer for the persecuted church:

International Day of Prayer – Nov. 5, 2017



What Is Persecution?

“Any hostility experienced from the world as a result of one’s identification as a Christian”

-Open Doors USA

Research suggests that Christians in more than 60 countries face persecution from governments, neighbors, and even family members. Persecution comes in many forms — from hostile words and attitudes to physical torture and death. Each day Christians make the choice to endure this harsh treatment rather than turn from Jesus Christ.

Persecution Comes in Many Forms

- Verbal abuse
- Isolation from family
- Discrimination from teachers, employers, and landlords
- Higher taxes
- Imprisonment
- Physical torture
- Rape
- Slavery
- Destruction of property
- Death



24 Hours of Prayer

This International Day of Prayer, let's commit to 24 hours of prayer for those suffering persecution for their faith.

Get involved:

- Adopt one country to pray for
- Pause throughout the day to pray for different countries

Pray for believers in ...

1. North Korea
2. Jordan
3. South Sudan
4. Syria
5. China
6. Afghanistan
7. India
8. Myanmar (Burma)
9. Iraq
10. Central African Republic
11. Nepal
12. Nigeria

Persecution at a Glance

North Korea: In this country, being a Christian is forbidden by law, and public expressions of faith or possession of Bibles can result in execution.



Approximately 70,000:

The number of Christians imprisoned in labor camps

Persecution at a Glance

Jordan: Christians in Jordan used to enjoy widespread religious freedom, but persecution has recently increased. Refugees and Muslim-background believers suffer most.

Approximately 660,000:

The number of Syrian refugees in Jordan



Persecution at a Glance

South Sudan: In addition to political instability and tribal warfare, Christians in South Sudan experience intense persecution from radical Islamic terrorists.



1.5 million:

The number of people forced to flee South Sudan for their safety

Persecution at a Glance

Syria: Islamic State militants have taken advantage of the power vacuum caused by civil war to spread their violent persecution of any who do not convert.



5 million:

The number of Syrians who have fled the country to escape violence

Persecution at a Glance

China: Christians who worship apart from government-approved churches are subject to discrimination, physical threats, and arrest.



6.2 percent:

The growing number of China's population that is Christian

Persecution at a Glance

Afghanistan: In Afghanistan, persecution often comes at the hands of close family and friends. Converts to Christianity can lose property rights or even be killed.



#3:

Afghanistan's rank on the World Watch List of most dangerous places for Christians

Persecution at a Glance

India: Despite this country's rich tapestry of culture and ethnicity, a hostile political atmosphere makes it difficult for Christians to openly practice and share their faith.



2.5 percent:

The small number of India's population that is Christian

Persecution at a Glance

Myanmar (Burma): Christians in this nation face discrimination by the government as well as violence by groups of radical Buddhist monks.



100,000:

The number of Christians forced to flee into neighboring Malaysia

Persecution at a Glance

Iraq: ISIS has given Christians the ultimatum to “convert to Islam, pay a tax, or face death,” causing countless families to flee their ancient homelands.



230,000:

The number of Christians left in Iraq.
Five years ago, there were 1.5 million.

Persecution at a Glance

Central African Republic: Violent clashes between Muslim and Christian groups make this a volatile place for Christ-followers.



1 million:

The number of people displaced due to religious conflict

Persecution at a Glance

Nepal: Nepali Christians are frequently targeted by extremist Hindu and Maoist groups.

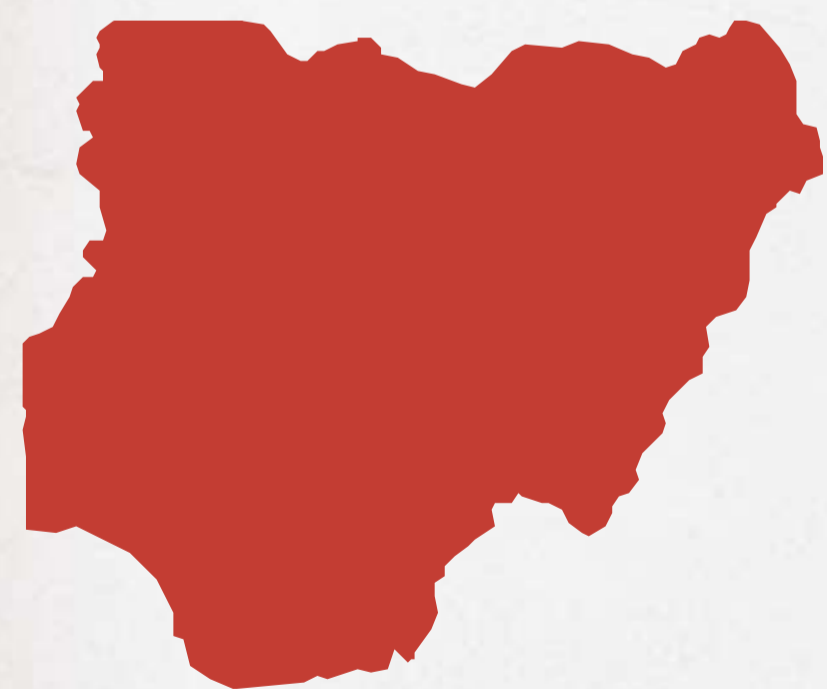


1.4 percent:

Christ-followers make up this small percentage of the population

Persecution at a Glance

Nigeria: Boko Haram, the militant Islamic group, continues to terrorize Christians and has forced millions to flee their homes in fear of capture.



1.3 million:

The number of Nigerians affected by religious violence

What Does the Bible Say about Persecution?

James 1:2-3

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

1 Corinthians 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

What Does the Bible Say about Persecution?

Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Hebrews 13:3

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you are also in the body.

What Can You Do?

PRAY: Intercede on behalf of fellow believers

ADVOCATE: Use your voice and social media to raise awareness about persecution

PROVIDE BIBLES: For \$5, you can place God's Word into the hands of one persecuted believer.

Visit worldhelp.net/prayer for more information about how to get involved.

What Should I Pray For?

- Strength and courage
- Opportunities to share the Gospel despite persecution
- That those separated from their families will be reunited
- Comfort for those who have converted and been disowned by family
- Health and safety
- That God will touch the hearts of oppressors
- That those displaced from their homes will be able to return
- That believers will forgive, love, and pray for their persecutors



Get Your Church Involved

- Have each person pledge to pray for a specific country on Nov. 5.
- Commit to joining with other congregations during the 24 hours of prayer for the persecuted church.
- Teach kids about persecuted children around the world and how to pray for them.



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Learn more

Read stories of persecuted believers and discover other resources to help you during International Day of Prayer at [*worldhelp.net/prayer*](https://worldhelp.net/prayer).

World *Help*®

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.