

# PRAYER GUIDE

## World Watch List 2025 Edition

### THANK YOU FOR PRAYING THROUGH THE WWL 2025

#### 01 North Korea

Nearly 70 years have passed since the Kim dynasty began, and things seem worse than ever for God's people in North Korea. Pray that God will give Christians, both in and outside North Korea, eyes to see His light in the darkness.

Pray for the 400,000 secret believers in North Korea. Ask God to give them a chance to worship with other Christians.

Thank God for the bravery shown by so many North Korean Christians. Ask Him to refresh them with His peace.

#### 02 Somalia

Somalia is an incredibly dangerous place to follow Jesus. Ask God to protect His people and to give them hope, even when everything seems hopeless.

Pray that God will protect anyone, especially converts from Islam, who faces attack from Islamic extremist group al-Shabaab.

Pray for secret believers who have children. These parents need wisdom as they teach their children to follow Jesus. Ask God to help secret Christians know they aren't alone.

#### 03 Yemen

The violence in Yemen is still ongoing. Pray God will bring peace and justice to Yemen and that the cries of His people will not be forgotten.

Ask God to protect Yemeni Christians at risk of attack from Islamic extremists. Pray for those whose loved ones have been harmed or killed.

Pray that God will help the underground church in Yemen flourish—for believers to live as salt and light in an incredibly dark place.

#### 04 Libya

Libya remains a country divided, with two groups grappling for control. Pray that this tension won't erupt into war and further endanger believers.

Christian migrant workers in Libya are at risk from extremist groups. Ask God to protect these believers, particularly in areas where there's no real rule of law.

There are few churches in Libya, and converts from Islam are forced to follow Jesus in secret. Ask God to open doors for believers to find community so they can grow in their walk with Christ.

#### 05 Sudan

Christians are caught in the crossfire of the ongoing civil war. Pray for peace and for believers to not be targeted.

Thank God for the Christians who continue to serve the casualties of the war. Pray that God will preserve and protect their brave witness.

Ask God to be with believers displaced by the violence in Sudan. Pray that He will hear the cries of the suffering and deliver them.

Pray that the warring parties will put their differences aside and find a way to bring peace to Sudan.

#### 06 Eritrea

Last year saw yet another mass arrest of Christians. Pray these believers, and others like them, will be freed.

Pray for believers who are forced into military service against their will. Pray God will protect them and help them live out their faith.

Pray for the families of those arrested. Children grow up without knowing their mother or father. Pray for God to meet their needs.

Eritrea has one of the most notorious prison networks in the world. Pray for imprisoned believers to be released and to not lose hope while waiting for their freedom.

#### 07 Nigeria

Once again, Nigeria is the most violent place in the world for Christians. Pray for those whose loved ones have been killed or abducted.

Pray for God to work in the hearts of Nigerian leaders to protect Christian citizens and communities.

Pray for the millions displaced by violence. Ask God to bring them home and give Nigerian Christians the knowledge that He is still at work.

Pray for unity among Christians in Nigeria, that there will no longer be a divide between north and south, and that all believers will serve God together.

#### 08 Pakistan

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws continue to be used to target Christians. Ask God to change the hearts and minds of decision-makers in Pakistan to overturn these laws.

Christians know they are second-class citizens in Pakistan. Many work in jobs considered unfit for Muslims. Pray they will find joy in their daily lives.

Ask God to protect and preserve Christian women in Pakistan who can be forced to marry Muslims.

## 09 Iran

Ask God to guide the new president, that he will pursue openness toward all minorities, including Christians.

Pray for secret churches, that God will protect these networks of underground believers and give them a spirit of wisdom and courage.

Pray for Christian prisoners, for their mental and physical wellbeing. Pray for their families who must go on with their lives while their loved ones are imprisoned.

As the Church in Iran continues to grow, pray that God will bless this multiplication and allow it to safely progress.

## 10 Afghanistan

Ask God to protect secret Christians, which most believers in Afghanistan are. It's impossible to live openly as a follower of Christ, so pray the Lord will preserve His people.

Pray that, even as the Taliban continue their brutal regime, God will touch their hearts and change them.

Pray they see the truth of Jesus' love and hope. Pray for those in prison to be protected and released.

Pray for the thousands of Afghan refugees. Many live in countries where it's still dangerous to follow Jesus. Ask God to help them find connection and hope after losing their homes and communities.

## 11 India

Praise God for the election results in India, and ask Him to help the new coalition government protect the rights of all Indians, including Christians.

As Christians in Manipur State continue to recover and rebuild after the violence in 2023, pray God will bring about a spirit of peace and reconciliation.

Pray that church leaders falsely accused under anti-conversion laws will not be attacked or imprisoned.

## 12 Saudi Arabia

There are no legal churches in Saudi Arabia (outside of some permitted on compounds limited to non-Saudi residents). Pray that believers will find a place to worship and grow in knowledge of the Lord.

Pray for foreign-born Christians who meet secretly. Ask God to protect their meetings and help them walk in wisdom and faith.

Pray for Christians who are committed to reaching people in Saudi Arabia through online or in-person ministry, or through outlets like TV channels. Ask God to give favour to their efforts.

## 13 Myanmar

The 2021 coup in Myanmar continues to have long-term consequences for Christians. Churches were destroyed, and more recently, church leaders have been targeted and detained. Ask God to be with His people as they endure.

Pray for Christians caught in the conflict between the ruling military junta and rebel groups. Pray for peace.

Pray for the leaders of Myanmar's military junta, that they will have their hearts changed and see Jesus is the true source of peace and joy.

## 14 Mali

Many extremist groups are active in Mali, including groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and Islamic State (IS). Pray for God to protect believers who are targeted and violently attacked by these groups.

Pray for Open Doors' local partners in Mali as they seek to strengthen believers who have lost almost everything to violence.

As the military junta remains in power in Mali, pray that God will provide stability for all Malians and that those in charge will work toward religious freedom.

## 15 China

Pressure seems to increase every year for Chinese Christians. Pray believers will experience growth in their faith even as persecution rises.

Ask God to protect believers in areas where Islam or Buddhism are the primary faiths. Converts from these religions can encounter overt persecution from their families and communities.

Church leaders are often monitored and regarded with suspicion by Chinese authorities. Pray these leaders will feel the presence of Christ.

## 16 Maldives

It's illegal to print or import Bibles in Divehi, the Maldivian native language. Pray Christians will still have access to God's Word. Currently, only 25 books of the Bible have been translated into Divehi.

Public worship is outlawed in the Maldives. Ask God to give Christians, native and foreign workers, the opportunity to find fellowship.

The Maldives is regarded by much of the world as a vacation paradise, but it remains incredibly difficult for people to follow Jesus there. Pray the global community's eyes will be opened to the challenges of Christians in the Maldives.

## 17 Iraq

It has been a decade since ISIS took over parts of northern Iraq. Christians are slowly returning home. Pray for them as they continue to rebuild and recover.

When ISIS attacked, many Iraqi Christians suffered long-term trauma. Thankfully, Open Doors supports trauma care programs in the country. Ask God to bless this work.

Pray for believers who are converts from Islam. They can experience significant pressure no matter where they live in Iraq.

## 18 Syria

Following Jesus in Syria means navigating more than a decade of challenges that are still ongoing: Islamic extremism, war, natural disasters, and constant economic stress. Pray that God will bring about the peace that only He can.

Ask God to give hope and healing to converts from Islam who have been rejected and expelled from their families and communities.

Pray for church leaders to have God's wisdom as they continue to guide their communities.

## 19 Algeria

Almost every Protestant church in Algeria has been forcibly closed. Pray for God to allow the remaining places of worship to stay open.

In Algeria, sharing your faith in Jesus is risky. It's illegal to shake the faith of a Muslim. Ask God to give His people wisdom, boldness, and protection when they share their faith.

Pray that every believer in Algeria will find a Christian community where they can enjoy fellowship.

## 20 Burkina Faso

Violence in Burkina Faso has led to a massive displacement crisis. Pray for believers who are displaced for their faith. Ask God to bring them hope and healing.

Pray for believers who have endured violence. Ask God to bind up their wounds.

Pray for church leaders who have been forced to flee and still hope to minister to their flock. Pray God will encourage and strengthen these shepherds.

This past year, at least four journalists disappeared and several news sites were suspended or completely banned by the government. Pray for journalists to be protected to report the news truthfully, and for media freedom and access to information in the country.

## 21 Morocco

Moroccans began 2024 with recovering from a devastating earthquake in September 2023. As communities continue to rebuild in 2025, ask God to help the Moroccan Church be salt and light.

It can be illegal for Moroccan Christians to share their faith. Ask God to help bring about His harvest and that Christians will be wise and courageous as they live for Jesus.

Pray for converts from Islam who can be pressured or even attacked by their families and communities. Pray they find hope and peace.

## 22 Laos

In tribal areas, Christians can be expelled from their villages because of their faith. Ask God to help them find a safe place to live and worship Him.

Pray for the families of pastors and other church leaders who have been killed. Ask God to heal their wounds.

Pray for the Lord's protection over Christians who are monitored and meet under the watchful eye of communist authorities.

## 23 Mauritania

Local Christians in Mauritania are not allowed to openly attend church. Pray for believers to find a place they can grow in faith with a Christian community.

Mauritania has laws that forbid conversion from Islam. Ask God to overturn these laws so all people will be able to follow the religion of their choosing.

Extremism from other countries threatens to invade Mauritania. Many of these extremists do not tolerate any form of Christianity. Pray that God will protect His people and maintain stability in Mauritania.

## 24 Bangladesh

The 2023 riots and breakdown in law and order led to the attack of many believers. Ask God to protect every Christian, giving them strength to stand firm in their faith. Pray He brings healing and comfort to the victims of these attacks.

Many believers in Bangladesh were impacted by a cyclone in May 2024. Pray they are restored and able to find hope, even as they deal with persecution and recovery from a natural disaster.

Praise God for Bangladeshi believers who continue to live as salt and light though it puts them at risk.

## 25 Uzbekistan

As Christians and churches continue to be targeted by governmental abuse, ask God to be with them and to help them persevere despite the constant frustration.

Pray for unregistered churches to not be targeted or harassed by authorities. Ask God to use these believers as witnesses to show the love of Jesus to those who want to stop the worship of Jesus.

Ask God to be with converts from Islam who can experience pressure from their families and communities.

## 26 Cuba

Pray for church leaders in Cuba who are targeted by surveillance and abused by state authorities. Ask God to provide strength and wisdom.

Pray that all churches, both registered and unregistered, will be allowed to remain open. Pray for those who monitor these churches to have their hearts touched by the message they hear.

Ask God to provide strength and encouragement to Cuban believers as they walk with Him despite the pressure.

## 27 Central African Republic

The civil war in Central African Republic (CAR) has lasted more than a decade. There aren't any signs of an end. Ask God to bring peace.

The political unrest in CAR puts Christians at risk of being targeted by extremists. Pray that God will protect His people from harm.

Because of the long years of violence, many Christians bear deep wounds. Ask God to heal this pain as only He can.

Pray for Christians who are victims of sexual assault. Rebel groups often use sexual violence to persecute Christian women and girls. Pray that God will bring emotional, spiritual, and physical healing to these survivors.

## 28 Niger

Niger continues to battle political instability and threats from Islamic extremists. Pray that God will bring order to chaos and will prevent radicals from taking power or territory.

Ask God to protect Christians from attacks by Islamic militant groups.

Many young people are coming to faith in Jesus. Pray for emotional and spiritual maturity in their relationship with Christ.

Pray for converts from Islam who can face rejection and oppression from their families and communities.

## 29 Turkmenistan

Pray that leaders in Turkmenistan will have their hearts softened and will find the hope of Jesus.

Ask God to make a way for His Word and other Christian materials to reach believers hungry for Scripture.

Many church leaders in Turkmenistan are monitored by the authorities. Pray they will be protected and will lead with grace and peace.

## 30 Nicaragua

Nicaragua's authoritarian government continues to target any perceived critics of its rule. This includes any church leader who speaks out against what's happening. Pray for God's protection for these brave leaders.

Pray for Open Doors' work in Nicaragua and for the believers we serve. Pray that efforts like persecution preparedness training and discipleship seminars will help believers live as salt and light.

Pray for believers who are monitored and placed under surveillance by the government. Pray this will not hinder the spread of the gospel.

## 31 Mexico

Parts of Mexico are under the control of gangs and cartels. These groups regularly target Christians, especially church leaders. Pray for God to protect His people in these regions.

When someone converts from a traditional religion in an indigenous community, it can create persecution. Pray that God will care for all those who find Him.

Ask God to strengthen Open Doors' work in Mexico, that our local team and partners will be ambassadors for Jesus' Kingdom of hope and peace.

## 32 Oman

Churches in Oman are only officially available to non-Omanis. When Omanis form a church, there's always a risk of discovery and a crackdown. Ask God to protect these faith communities.

Thank God that foreign believers in Oman can worship freely. Pray they will have wisdom and boldness in living out their faith.

Some migrant workers live in communities where conversion to Christianity can be punished. Pray they will be kept safe and find a church where their faith can grow.

### 33 Ethiopia

When people leave Islam or the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and join evangelical communities, they can experience heavy pressure. Pray for these believers.

Pray for believers living in unstable parts of Ethiopia where they may be targeted for following Jesus. Ask God to protect them.

Pray for unity among Christians in Ethiopia, that they will remain dedicated to Jesus.

### 34 Tunisia

Pray that the results of Tunisia's 2024 election will bring about stability and rule of law and the ruling authorities will have respect for freedom of religion.

Pray for converts from Islam, that they will be sheltered from abuse and rejection.

Christians in Tunisia aren't allowed to worship publicly. Pray they find communities of Christians that can help them grow in faith.

### 35 Democratic Republic of the Congo

The violence in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is staggering. Ask God to be close to His hurting people.

So many Christians have lost everything and have been forced to flee the DRC. Pray these displaced followers of Jesus can find stability and hope.

Despite the ongoing attacks of Christian communities, people in eastern DRC are coming to faith in Jesus. Pray for their faith to grow strong and that they will be well disciplined.

Pray for peace and for the hearts of the extremists to turn toward the Lord.

### 36 Bhutan

Pray for believers in Bhutan who can only attend churches that exist in a legal grey area. Pray they can meet to encourage one another no matter what, as it says in Hebrews 10:25.

Ask that God will protect and preserve believers who have converted from Buddhism. Many of these Christians experience rejection from their families, so pray they will see the reality of their new family in Christ.

Christians can be denied citizenship and other civic rights in Bhutan. Ask God to help these believers find their worth and citizenship in Him.

### 37 Mozambique

Even though residents of northern Mozambique were told they could return home, the region is still unstable and vulnerable to attacks from extremist groups, including one with ties to IS. Pray for protection for believers here.

Many Christians are severely traumatised from the violent attacks. Ask God to bring emotional and spiritual healing.

Pray for Open Doors' local partners working in Mozambique. Pray they will be protected as they seek to strengthen the faith of believers.

Ask God to be with Christians displaced by Islamic extremists. Pray they will know they are members of a global Church.

### 38 Kazakhstan

Pray for Christians who can be targeted by court cases for violations of Kazakhstan's Religion Law. Ask God to protect churches from misuse of these regulations.

The government of Kazakhstan regularly monitors church leaders. Ask God to protect His servants.

Many believers in Kazakhstan have trouble getting regular access to Bibles and Christian literature. Pray for God's Word to find its way to every believer in the country.

### 39 Tajikistan

Christians who meet in house churches can face monitoring from authorities and government raids. Pray these believers will be able to worship together without fear.

Pray for the hearts of government officials to change, that they will stop infringing on religious freedom and will allow people of all faiths to live out their beliefs.

Ask God to protect evangelists and other Christian workers who bring God's Word and other Christian resources to His people in Tajikistan.

### 40 Egypt

In Egypt, it can be dangerous to leave Islam to follow Jesus. Pray for these brave believers.

Pray for Christians who experience discrimination and abuse because of their faith. Ask God to sustain them.

Pray for Christians who are attacked or have loved ones that are attacked. Pray God will heal their wounds and restore their hope.

#### 41 Qatar

Thank God that so many Christians in Qatar can worship Him in freedom.

Pray for native Qataris to be permitted to convert from Islam without repercussion.

Pray for native converts in Qatar. Many become secret Christians. Ask God to protect their faith and help them find other believers.

#### 42 Comoros

Life can be extremely difficult for Christians who convert from Islam, especially those who are rejected by their families and communities.

Pray Christians will be able to worship openly though Islam is the state religion. Ask God to change hearts and laws so people in Comoros can legally follow Jesus even if they were previously Muslim.

Because of the small Christian community in Comoros, it's difficult for young Christians of marrying age to find a husband or wife. Ask God to prepare and send spouses to young believers so the next generation of Christians will grow in Comoros.

#### 43 Cameroon

Pray for Christians who have endured unspeakable violence, time and time again. Ask God to heal their wounds.

In the far north of Cameroon, many Christians have experienced repeated attacks. Pray for God to be with these hurting believers in a powerful way.

Despite the ongoing attacks on Christian communities, people are coming to faith in Jesus. Pray for their faith to grow strong and that they will be well disciplined.

Ask God to bring an end to government corruption and any other impediment to stability in Cameroon.

#### 44 Vietnam

Pray for Christians living in remote areas who are oppressed, abused, and attacked for their faith. Pray that God is with them and heals their wounds.

Open Doors' local partners in Vietnam provide Bibles, leadership training, and more. Ask God to bless this work and expand His kingdom.

Thank God that many believers in Vietnam can worship freely. Pray that believers who gather in unregistered churches can also follow Jesus freely.

#### 45 Turkey

There are some in Turkey who seek to tie Turkish identity to Islam. Pray there will be an openness to accepting people of all faiths as true Turks.

Ask God to be with converts from Islam, particularly those who are rejected by their families.

Praise God that many believers in Turkey can worship Jesus openly and without fear. Pray for unity among believers and that all Christians in the country will continue to find ways to have fellowship with all believers in Turkey.

#### 46 Colombia

The peace between guerilla groups and the Colombian government remains tenuous at best. Ask God to work in the hearts of warring parties and for Christians to be peacemakers.

Praise God for indigenous believers who come to faith, even if it means they will be persecuted by their communities who view their faith in Jesus as a betrayal.

Pray for Christians living in areas controlled by cartels. Pray they will be granted safety and wisdom.

#### 47 Kyrgyzstan

Praise God for the freedom Christians in Kyrgyzstan experience in comparison to other Central Asian countries. The laws are restrictive, but congregations which do not manage to obtain registration can still often function as house-churches.

Ask God to give Central Asian believers boldness to stand firm in their faith, giving them strength especially when they experience pressure and persecution.

Pray that God's Word spreads in Kyrgyzstan so that citizens of their country will learn about the one true God and experience the freedom of life with Christ.

#### 48 Brunei

Pray for believers with limited access to Bibles. Pray they will be able to read and study God's Word freely.

Thank God that some churches can worship openly, even though they exist in a murky legal reality. Pray they will continue to stay open and disciple Christians in Brunei.

Pray the monarchy in Brunei will be open to the truth of Jesus.

#### 49 Chad

Chad is a country marred by political instability, authoritarianism, civil liberties suppression, refugee crises, and corruption. Ask God to move mightily in this nation, for His love to heal the people.

Pray for believers to continue being salt and light in their communities despite the persecution and instability surrounding them.

Ask God to protect His children from violence as they seek to share Him with those around them.

#### 50 Jordan

Thank God many Christians in Jordan are free to worship. Ask the Lord to make their worship a sign of light and hope for the whole region.

Pray for converts from Islam in Jordan. Their faith in Jesus can make them a target for abuse and even attack.

Ask God to bless the monarchy of Jordan and help them see the hope of Jesus in the lives of Jordanian believers.

Discover more about the World Watch List 2025 Visit [opendoors.org.au/www](https://opendoors.org.au/www) [opendoors.org.nz/www](https://opendoors.org.nz/www)

## #6 ERITREA: PASTOR GIDEON'S STORY

Eritrea is a northeast African country on the Red Sea coast. Many Christians there cannot gather freely and are forced to pray in secret.

Only three churches are approved by Eritrea's dictatorial government: the Eritrean Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church. These churches are under tight government control, and Christians who follow Jesus outside of them risk arrest and imprisonment.

Christians like Pastor Gideon.

Pastor Gideon was imprisoned for six and a half years. He lived out half his sentence in a huge prison in Asmara, Eritrea's capital.

"The prison conditions in Asmara, where many Christians are imprisoned, are extremely bad," he says. "Some of the cells are very small. There's no room to move around. They won't give us anything to read. There is no radio. You just sit there. You can easily become mentally disturbed. The pain that you feel internally, traumatises you."

Christians are incarcerated for an indefinite time: it can be months or even years.

Pastor Gideon's wife, Yael, could do nothing but wait. It was a time of crippling anxiety.

"If your husband is in prison, you are indirectly involved in his suffering," she explains, "because you do not know what is happening to him, nor when he will be released. You always worry about him. When he was released from prison, I was so happy. But my baby boy could not recognise his daddy."

Eritreans who decide to follow Jesus will be opposed by family, disdained by their community, and lose their jobs because of their colleagues' mistrust. If they are caught praying with other Christians, they will be imprisoned.

### **But the Church in Eritrea is still growing.**

"What makes us happy is that the gospel is spreading," says Gideon. "Now more than ever before. People, especially young people, are coming to Christ. Persecution has not stopped the Church."

Yael adds: **"Your prayer is a great help in our persecution. So, please keep praying for us till the end. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. And your prayer is really helping us in many ways in our daily lives. So, I beg you through the Lord to keep praying for us."**