

## North Korea

**Population** 25.2 million (300,000 Christians)

**Main Religion** Atheism/Traditional beliefs

**Government** Communist dictatorship

- One of the most dangerous places in the world to be a Christian
- Anyone who deviates from the traditional ideologies is considered an enemy of the state
- Thousands of Christians are incarcerated in prison camps
- There are many secret believers, but they face arrest, disappearance, torture, or public execution

### Prayer points:

- Ask for comfort and strength for the thousands of Christians imprisoned in labour camps, and the isolated believers who worship in secret.
- Praise God that the church is very much alive and has a vision to bring the gospel to the nations.

## Iraq

**Population** 35.8 million (300,000 Christians)

**Main Religion** Islam

**Government** Parliamentary democracy

- Islamic extremism has been growing since the invasion of Iraq, which has led to the rise of Islamic State (IS)
- IS have violently taken over 50% of the nation, telling Christians and other minorities to convert and pay a high tax, or face the sword
- Most Christians have fled abroad, few remain in IS-controlled Iraq
- Churches have been demolished, unauthorised gatherings banned, and disobedience can lead to public execution

### Prayer points:

- For wisdom for the leaders of Iraq to know how to combat IS
- For healing and provision for the thousands of refugees who left everything behind as they fled IS
- Praise God that He is using His church in Kurdistan to care for refugees. Ask Him to give them strength and love as they serve.

## Somalia

**Population** 11.1 million (Hundreds of Christians)

**Main Religion** Islam

**Government** Federal republic

- The militant Islamist group al-Shabaab has publicly declared that it “wants Somalia free of any Christians”
- Those suspected of being Christians are often killed on the spot
- Somalian Christians cannot own Bibles
- Islam holds such high status in the country that converting to another religion is illegal.

### Prayer points:

- For stability in Somalia, and that a strong government will be formed that will prioritise religious freedom
- For protection for secret believers and for wisdom for them to know who to trust

## Libya

**Population** 6.3 million (35,000 Christians)

**Main Religion** Islam

**Government** Provisional government

- Since the downfall of Gaddafi, the situation for Christians in Libya has deteriorated
- It is illegal to bring Arabic Bibles into the country or to evangelise
- Migrant workers are allowed to have churches, but Libyans are not
- Christians face attack from militant groups, as well as family members

### Prayer points:

- Even if the government was favourable towards Christians, it would be powerless to protect them. Pray that an effective government will be formed that will guarantee safety and freedom for all.
- For protection and strength for Christians in Libya
- Praise God that the gospel is reaching Libyans through satellite TV and internet. Pray that God would be able to reach many in this way.