

Pakistan

Population 188.1 million (5.3 million Christians)

Main Religion Islam

Government Republic

- Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are often abused to attack minority groups, including Christians
- Churches are still free to meet, but they are monitored and services sometimes attacked
- Christians are treated as second class citizens – women and children are particularly vulnerable

Prayer points:

- That the blasphemy laws will be abolished so that they can no longer be abused
- That a Committee for the Protection of Minorities will be established, and will give Christians and other minorities a voice in government
- For mother-of-five, Asia Bibi, imprisoned since 2009 on charges of blasphemy

Maldives

Population 358,000 (Several Christians)

Main Religion Islam

Government Islamic republic

- Being Maldivian is equated with being a Muslim, and the justice system increasingly reflects Islamic law
- Converting from Islam means losing your citizenship, and owning a Bible results in a prison sentence
- Even tourists have reported getting into trouble for having a Bible

Prayer points:

- For strength and comfort for isolated Maldivian believers
- For wisdom for Christians to know who to trust, and for them to be able to find fellow believers for fellowship and encouragement
- For God to continue to use radio programmes and other media to reach more Maldivians with the gospel

China

Population 1.4 billion (85 million Christians)

Main Religion Atheism

Government Socialism

- In most regions Christian activities are being watched rather than controlled, in Tibet they experience greater control by government and family
- In these areas, every change of religion is seen as a disgrace to the family and even treason to the community
- Believers can be disowned, kidnapped, and threatened.

Prayer points:

- For God to protect the hearts of Muslim and Tibetan background believers as they stay faithful to him
- For courage and strength for Christians sharing the gospel in the more volatile states
- That churches experiencing more freedom in the rest of China will support their persecuted brothers and sisters

India

Population 1.3 billion (59 million Christians)

Main Religion Hinduism

Government Federal republic

- India's new BJP government is radicalising society as the influence of fundamentalist Hindus increases
- Spies in churches monitor Christian activity, and use anti-conversion laws to inhibit their work
- Violence against Christians is rampant – homes have been destroyed and Christians beaten and sometimes killed

Prayer points:

- For the protection of Christians who are becoming increasingly vulnerable to attacks
- For wisdom for church leaders struggling to get permission to build churches. Pray for good legal advice
- Praise God for those strengthening the church through literacy and livelihood projects and biblical training