

Saudi Arabia

Population 29.9 million (1.25 million Christians)

Main Religion Islam

Government Monarchy

- All Saudis are considered Muslims – it is illegal to evangelise Muslims and conversion to another religion is punishable by death
- There are no church buildings and house churches are raided
- Christians risk arrest, imprisonment, lashing, deportation and torture
- Most Christians are expats or migrants, but there are a small number of Muslim-background believers

Prayer points:

- For encouragement for Muslim-background believers who must live out their faith in complete secret
- For strength and protection for Christian migrant workers who are often abused and threatened for refusing to convert to Islam
- Praise God for dreams and visions revealing Jesus to Muslims. Ask for more of these miracles, and for new believers to grow in their faith.

Iran

Population 79.5 million (450,000 Christians)

Main Religion Islam

Government Islamic republic

- Within Iran, only Armenians and Assyrians are allowed to be Christians, and even they are treated as second class citizens
- Churches are monitored and often raided by secret police
- In several cases, Christian prisoners have been physically and mentally abused, including threats of execution

Prayer points:

- For protection and wisdom for those who are reaching out to Muslims with the gospel in defiance of the laws against this
- For strength and comfort for those imprisoned for their faith
- Praise God that many Muslims are choosing to follow Jesus despite the risks. Ask God to help them to grow in their new faith

Syria

Population 22.2 million (1.1 million Christians)

Main Religion Islam

Government Republic

- 700,000 Christians have left Syria since 2011
- Christians are frequently attacked, abducted and killed
- Christians are often a target for kidnapping as they have a reputation for being wealthy and supporting the government

Prayer points:

- For protection and provision for Christians in Syria, particularly Muslim-background believers who are especially vulnerable
- For an end to the violence in Syria and wisdom for world leaders to know how to help
- Praise God that many are coming to faith in Jesus in the midst of the conflict. Ask God to strengthen their new faith and build His church.

Afghanistan

Population 32 million (Thousands of Christians)

Main Religion Islam

Government Islamic republic

- Afghani believers must keep their faith completely secret
- Those who convert from Islam are considered traitors and excluded by their communities, and even risk being killed
- There is no public church, even for expats
- Foreign Christians are also at risk – several Christian aid workers were killed in 2014

Prayer points:

- For safety for local believers, expat Christians and foreign aid workers
- For strength and spiritual growth for new believers, particularly those who are isolated
- Praise God for the President's wife, Rula Ghani, who is a Lebanese Christian. Ask God to use her to change the attitude of Afghans towards Christians