YEMEN (Nr 5 on World Watch List 2024)

Population:35 mil Religion Muslim 99.1%; All other 0,9% Official language: Arabic; Literacy 54%

DID YOU KNOW? Following Jesus in Yemen continues to be extremely dangerous. Yemen society is strongly Islamic, conservative and tribal, and the tribal punishment for denouncing Islam can be death or banishment.

Most believers are Yemeni and come from Muslim backgrounds. As conversion from Islam is forbidden by Islamic and state law, Christians must keep their faith secret or risk severe repercussions from their families, the authorities or radical Islamic groups. This can include divorce, loss of custody of children, arrest, interrogation and even death.

The humanitarian crisis caused by Yemen's 10-year civil war has also exacerbated the pressure on believers. While some relief aid is available, this is mostly distributed through local Muslim groups and mosques, which are alleged to be discriminating against anyone not considered a devout Muslim.



Taken from World Fact Book

Please pray:

- Pray for strength and protection for believers living in areas where they are at risk from Islamic militant groups.
- Pray that converts from Islam would have wisdom and courage to share their faith.
- Pray that peace will come to Yemen that has faced years of brutal war and humanitarian crisis.
- . "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvellous deeds among all people." (Ps 96:3)



SAAWE Ena 083 6600 885

NIGERIA (Nr 6 on World Watch List 2024)

Population: 236,7 mil. Religion: Muslim 54%, Roman Catholic 10.%, Christian 35% Official language: English. Literacy 62%

DID YOU KNOW? More believers are killed for their faith in Nigeria each year than anywhere else in the world combined. The attacks are brutal in nature and can involve destruction of properties, abductions for ransom, sexual violence and death. Believers are stripped of their livelihoods and driven from their homes.

Violence by Islamic extremist groups such as Fulani militants, Boko Haram and ISWAP (Islamic State in West African Province) increased during the presidency of Muhammadu Buhari, putting Nigeria at the epicentre of targeted violence against the Church. The government's failure to protect Christians and punish perpetrators has only strengthened the militants' influence. Christians living in the Shariah (Islamic law) states of northern Nigeria face discrimination and oppression as second-class citizens. (Open Doors)



Taken from World Fact Book

Please pray :

- Pray that victims of violence and their families will find healing and hope in Jesus.
- Pray for peace, stability and safety in the areas where militants seem to attack with impunity.
- Pray for stability and care for the displaced Christians. .

"Though war break out against me, even then I will be confident " (Ps27:3)



Ena 083 6600 885

PAKISTAN (Nr 7 on World Watch List 2024)

Population: 252 mil. Religion: Muslims 96,5%, Christian 1,8% Official languages: Urdu & English, Literacy 58%

DID YOU KNOW? The devastating attack on the Christian community in Jaranwala in August 2023 was a sobering reminder of the hostile environment facing many believers in Pakistan. Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are often used to target minority groups, but Christians are disproportionately affected. Indeed, roughly a quarter of all blasphemy accusations target Christians.

Believers are targeted in other ways, too – both overtly and subtly. The number of Christian girls (and those from other minority religions) abducted, abused and forcefully converted to Islam (frequently backed by lower courts) is growing, while churches that engage in outreach are particularly prone to opposition. All Christians suffer from institutionalised discrimination, and occupations that are deemed low, dirty and degrading are reserved for Christians by the authorities. (Open Doors)



Taken from World Fact Book

Please pray :

- Pray that Christians will be protected from spurious allegations of blasphemy.
- Pray that believers will hold onto their identity as children of God as they are often demeaned.
- Pray for the protection and welfare of Christian women and girls, and for the release of all those taken from their families.

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised."(Heb 10:36)



SAAWE Ena 083 6600 885

SUDAN (Nr8 on World Watch List 2024)

Population: 50,5 mil; Religion: Muslims 92%; Christians 4%, other 4%. Official languages: Arabic, English. Literacy 60%

DID YOU KNOW? The devastating conflict that broke out in April 2023 is threatening to further undermine the positive steps made towards religious freedom following the ousting of Omar al-Bashir in 2019. The crisis stems from a power struggle between the National Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). More than 9 000 people have been killed and nearly 6 million displaced. More than 165 churches have closed, and others have been destroyed. Churches have also reported human rights violations such as rape, kidnapping and looting.

There are concerns that the conflict will give Islamic extremists a renewed foothold in the country, undoing the reforms made by the transitional civilian government. Those who convert to Christianity from Islam continue to face huge dangers.

CHAD CHAD CHAD CHAD CHAR CHAR

Taken from World Fact Book

Please pray:

- Pray for an end to the violence in Sudan and for provision for Christians who have been displaced.
- Pray for strength and protection for brave believers who risk so much to serve others during the conflict.
- Pray that the positive steps towards religious freedom will not be undone but built upon.

"Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love,...." (Joel 2:13b)

