TAJIKISTAN (nr 27 on WWL)

Population: 11 million; **Religion:** Muslim 98,7%, Evangelical 0,4%
Unreached: 99% of total population

DID YOU KNOW? The country's secular, dictatorial state maintains a tight grip on all religions. This very much includes Christians – especially those from Protestant groups, who are deemed dangerous followers of "deviant" sects. Since 2015, pressure on "unauthorised" gatherings – such as Baptist, Evangelical, and Pentecostal groups – has increased, leading to a rise in raids. More interrogations, fines, and the confiscation of materials have come. Religious activities involving under-18's are banned, and recent amendments seek to criminalise the "underground" religious education of children. With young people making up 50% of the Tajik Church, this is a huge obstacle to overcome. The Russian Orthodox Church enjoys more freedom. There are about 3,000 converts in Tajikistan. They are highly vulnerable to reprisals from their family and community, as well as the authorities, for "betraying" their ethnic and national identity. Given the dangers, many converts keep their faith secret.



Taken from Worldometers.info

Please pray :

- Ask God to keep Christians safe and give extra grace to church leaders as the government of Tajikistan monitors communities of believers.
- Pray that God would be with Afghan refugees, including Christians, living in Tajikistan as the authorities begin to deport them.
- Pray for workers who deliver His Word and provide training and discipleship so the Gospel can spread.

"My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations." Isa. 51:5

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UZBEKISTAN (nr 25 on WWL)

Population: 37,6 million; **Religion:** Muslim 83%, Atheist 14%, Christian 2,4%
Unreached: 96,5% of total population

DID YOU KNOW? Despite being a secular state, Uzbekistan can be an enormously challenging place for its small pocket of Christians to express and share their faith. Cumbersome and unattainable restrictions hinder churches. This includes a recently introduced requirement for churches to have a minimum number of mem-bers, yet for small congregations, that number is impossible to reach. Churches that fail to comply with government protocols – for example, by possessing "unauthorised" materials – are at risk of raids, arrests, threats, and heavy fines. The Russian Orthodox churches rarely encounter problems because of their limited engagement with the native Uzbek population. Converts from Islam face strong opposition from their families and community, particularly those living in rural regions where Islamic and clan identity is strong. Unsurprisingly, many believers feel forced to keep their faith secret. *(Open Doors)*



Taken from Worldometers.info

Please pray :

- Pray that churches and church leaders, who often come under surveillance by authorities, would be able to lead others without harassment or harm.
- Ask God to protect believers who risk targeting and raids on non-registered churches simply to meet and worship Him.
- Ask that converts from Islam who are often pressured by family, community and government to recant, will receive God's grace and hope to stand firm.
- God's Word to be treasured above all Islamic tradition.

"But My salvation will last forever, My righteousness will never fail.." Is. 51:6

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KYRGYZSTAN (nr 40 on WWL)

Population: 7,4 million; **Religion:** Muslim 95%, Atheist 6%, Christian 2,5%
Unreached: 96% of total population

DID YOU KNOW? Christians in Kyrgyzstan continue to face strong opposition from their families and communities, while hostility from the authorities has intensified with the introduction of tighter religious controls.
The repercussions facing those who have courageously left Islam to follow Jesus can be severe. They can include house arrest and physical violence, and the children of converts can encounter bullying at school. Imams are sometimes enlisted to preach against converts, which can lead to their expulsion from the community. In some parts of the country, the influence of the local Muslim community may mean that vulnerable Christians can't rely on local authorities for protection and justice.
New laws governing religion have stifled the expression of local churches, including unattainable requirements for simply registering a church. Protestant groups – who can be deemed "extremist" – are especially affected. Russian Orthodox churches are largely left alone because of their more insular nature.



Taken from Worldometers.info

Please pray :

- Pray for believers to have courage and wisdom as they navigate a new series of religious laws that many observers say will target religious minorities, including Christians.
- Ask God to protect and sustain those who convert from Islam to Christianity as it can lead to heavy persecution for some converts.
- Pray that God will shield house churches who can experience infiltration by security forces and that they remain focused on Him.

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TURKMENISTAN (nr 35 on WWL)

Population: 7,7 million **Religion**: Muslim 96,2% Atheist 1,7% Christian 1,8 %
Unreached: 97,6% of total population

DID YOU KNOW? In the totalitarian atmosphere of Turkmenistan, life for Christians can be stifling. All citizens are closely monitored, but those suspected of belonging to churches can face even greater scrutiny. Those involved in Protestant groups are especially at risk. In fact, they're often deemed "extremists" for their involvement in activities that fall outside the remit of what is sanctioned by the authorities.
There are strict restrictions on the possession of religious material and a ban on private religious education, making it risky for children to hear about Jesus. Registering new churches is virtually impossible. Even the Russian Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic churches can fall under the authorities' watchful eyes during their services. Pray that the Bible in local languages and digital discipleship resources can bypass state restrictions, and that radio, satellite TV, and internet broadcasts reach open hearts
But persecution doesn't only come from the authorities: it can also come from those closer to home. As in other countries in Central Asia, those in Turkmenistan who take the courageous step of leaving Islam to follow Jesus can face immense opposition from their own families and communities.



Taken from Worldometers.info

Please pray :

- Pray for unrestricted freedom to posess and read God's Word.
- Ask God to protect church leaders who are heavily monitored by the totalitarian regime.Pray for the country leaders to meet Jesus.
- A generation of youth who turn to Jesus, despite the severe consequences.
- Pray for healing and hope for Muslims who decide to follow Jesus, as they face anger, rejection, discrimination by family and community.

" I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand" Is. 51:16

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