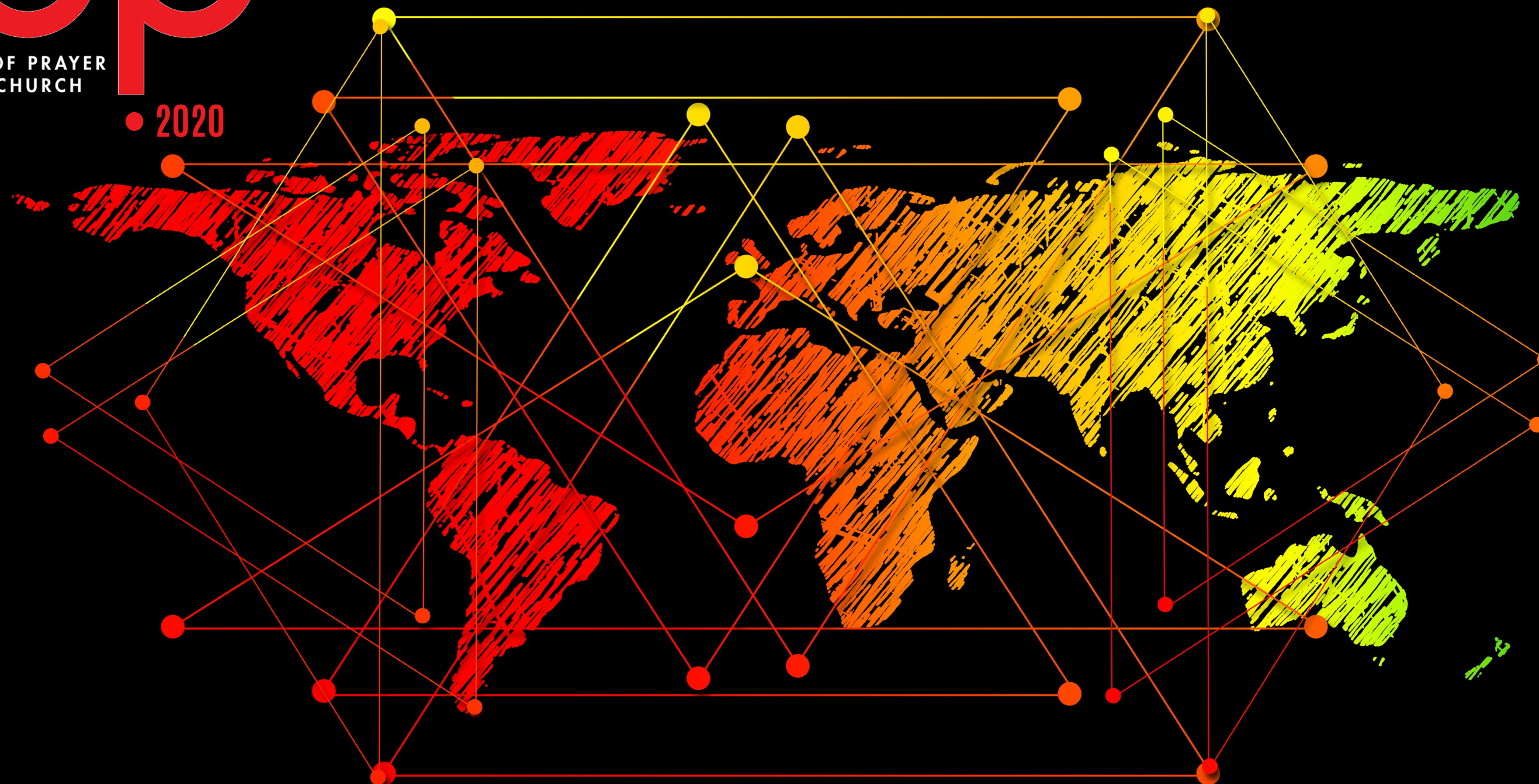


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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

• 2020

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PRAYER POINTS



**300 million
Christians
worldwide suffer
persecution.
That is 1 in every 7
Christians**

**On average,
8 Christians are
being killed daily
because of
their faith**

**Last year the world saw
a 6% increase in
Christian
persecution in countries
where it is most severe**

**Persecuted Christians worldwide face much oppression and
difficulty, ranging from discriminatory treatment at community and official
levels, illegal arrests, violence, human
rights violations and sometimes even murder**

1 www.churchinneed.org/christian-persecution

2 www.opendoorsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020_World_Watch_List.pdf



Join with us to uphold our brothers and sisters in prayer as they face many challenges for their faith. The following slides contain information that may help you in praying for some needs of the persecuted church.

North Korea

Christian persecution in North Korea is extreme and worship has to be carried out in complete secrecy. The possession of a Bible can get your entire family killed .

Out of the estimated 200,000 and 400,000 North Korean Christians, between 50,000 and 70,000 are in labor camps.

Inmates are tortured, starved and work long hours under dangerous conditions. Sometimes they are used for chemical tests or executed. Many thousands spend their days in detention centers or re-education camps.



North Korea

The global Coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown that followed led to a lack of access for basic needs as well as inflation in North Korea. It increased the hardships faced by many North Korean Christians.

1 www.opendpprsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020_World_Watch_List.pdf

2 www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/north-korean-christians-are-suffering-under-the-ghost-disease-of-covid-19/



North Korea

- Pray for each Christian in North Korea.
 - That their faith will persist and prevail
 - For courage.
 - For their physical protection from persecutors.
- For families that have lost loved ones due to persecution. That God will comfort them and that their faith in Him will be guarded.
- Pray for Christians detained in labor camps, used for experiments, and sentenced for execution. Pray earnestly that God in His mercy will intervene in their situation and alleviate their suffering. Pray that they will experience God's peace and provision even in the dire circumstances they are in.
- Pray for Christians lacking access to food and basic supplies due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Pray for God's provision and protection over them.
- Pray for positive global diplomatic efforts that will ensure freedom of belief in North Korea.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan constitutes a near exclusive Islamic society and it is illegal to leave Islam. If someone becomes a Christian, the measures taken against them by their own families can range from being admitted as a psychiatric patient, to being beaten and even killed.

Local and national government institutions are highly antagonistic toward Christians.

In addition extremist groups, including the Taliban and Islamic State (ISIS), are active, and believers are persecuted by them too.

Afghanistan

If found that a person is so much as even 'exploring' Christianity, their families, employees and community will immediately take action to re-introduce them to Islam, and this process can even include torture unless they comply.

1 www.opendpprsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020_World_Watch_List.pdf

2 www.persecution.com/globalprayerguide/afghanistan

3 www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/afghanistan/

Afghanistan

- Pray for God's protection over Afghan Christians.
 - That communities will be more tolerant and receptive, despite religious and cultural expectations
- Pray that God will strengthen the faith of Afghan Christians. That the trouble and persecution faced by them will not weaken their faith in Him.
- Pray for the testimony of professing Afghan Christians. That even as they face the threat of persecution, their lives will captivate the glorious freedom of being set right with God, that Jesus Christ purchased on our behalf.
- Pray for radical groups like ISIS and Taliban that target young minds via social media and education institutes to spread their ideology. Pray for the protection of Afghan youth from such. Pray for discernment over parents, teachers and caregivers to protect youth from such influences.
- Pray that as a country, Afghanistan will become more tolerant and receptive of other religions and views.

Burkina Faso

An influx of violent Islamic extremist groups into West Africa's Sahel region has led to an increase in attacks in Burkina Faso, killing at least 40 Christians in 2019.

Many churches were burnt to the ground during and after worship services while believers were threatened to convert or die.

Christians of Muslim background are the most persecuted Christian group in the country. Family and community members reject them and attempt to force them to renounce their Christian faith.

Believers are afraid to express their faith in public because of such threats

Burkina Faso

Many Christians are too scared to attend church services or send their children to school.

Over 3300 schools in Burkina Faso were shut down by Islamic extremist groups. These groups hope to make youth more susceptible to violent extremism by depriving children of formal education.

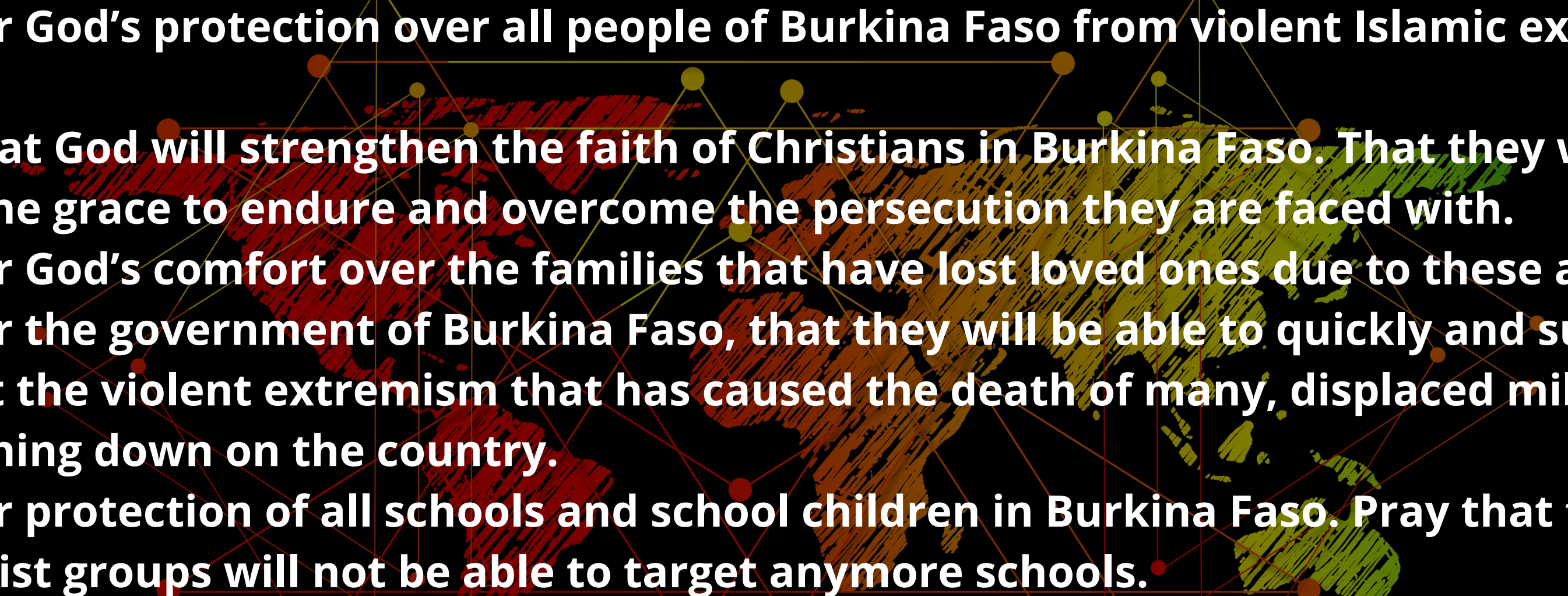
Some of these groups attacking Christians want to create an Islamic state opposing the very existence of Christianity.

1 www.opendpprsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020_World_Watch_List.pdf

2 www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/burkina-faso/

3 <https://www.persecution.org/2020/09/03/schools-burkina-faso-suffering-jihadist-insurgency/>

Burkina Faso

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- Pray for God's protection over all people of Burkina Faso from violent Islamic extremist attacks
 - Pray that God will strengthen the faith of Christians in Burkina Faso. That they will be given the grace to endure and overcome the persecution they are faced with.
 - Pray for God's comfort over the families that have lost loved ones due to these attacks.
 - Pray for the government of Burkina Faso, that they will be able to quickly and successfully combat the violent extremism that has caused the death of many, displaced millions and is weighing down on the country.
 - Pray for protection of all schools and school children in Burkina Faso. Pray that the extremist groups will not be able to target anymore schools.

Nepal

Nepal has a predominantly Hindu population. Religious nationalism in the country has led to persecution of Christians over the years, many stemming from radical Hindu groups that hope to see Nepal become an exclusively Hindu state.

Approximately 65% of Christians are from the country's low caste communities, which deepens the stigma surrounding them.

In 2015, the new Nepalese constitution resulted in limitations to religious freedom while in 2017, the government of Nepal passed an anti-conversion law that further facilitated the persecution of Christians by extremists.

Nepal

The situation for Nepalese Christians is worsening as Hindu extremists take advantage of political instability and attack Christians. Most of these offenses go unpunished.

In 2019 there were several incidents where church buildings were attacked, Christians were beaten, arrested and sentenced to prison.

Some Nepalese Christians have also had to flee their homes and villages due to threats.

1 www.opendpprsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020_World_Watch_List.pdf

2 www.persecution.org/2020/01/02/new-challenges-christianitys-growth-nepal/

3 www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/nepal

Nepal

- Pray for God's protection over all Nepalese Christians. Pray that despite being faced with the threat of persecution they will be humble, wise and courageous in living out their faith.
- Pray that the Nepalese Christians being persecuted will be given the grace to forgive their oppressor and trust God to ensure justice is carried out.
- Pray that Nepalese Christians will be able to testify about Christ through their lives
- Pray for Nepalese Christians falsely arrested and punished due to their faith. Pray that God would intervene in such situations
- Pray for the families of new Christian converts.
- Pray that families will not oppress, ridicule, disown or persecute them.
- Pray for the law enforcing authorities in Nepal. That they would rightfully enforce the law against those persecuting Christians and not discriminate against Christians.
- Pray for the extremists Hindu groups. That they would be touched by Jesus' love.

Colombia

Although Christianity is the main religion of Colombia, church leaders, missionaries and Christian workers are increasingly being harassed, extorted and even murdered by guerrilla and other criminal groups.

This violence is due to Christian leaders supporting and working in the defense of human rights, supporting a peace agreement that would restrict illegal activities of militant groups, and working for environmental rights, working with youth and denouncing corruption and violence.

Much of the persecution is inflicted by local authorities who are under the protection of militant groups.

Colombia

In addition, indigenous communities oppose Christianity. Converts and missionaries working with indigenous communities face imprisonment, physical abuse and the confiscation of property .

Apart from the rising secularism and rejection of Christianity in Colombia, targeted violence is directed toward the church leaders' families and entire communities to discourage anyone wanting to convert to Christianity.

1 www.opendpprsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020_World_Watch_List.pdf

2 www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/colombia/

Colombia

- Pray for the protection of church leaders, missionaries and church workers who are persecuted by the different groups.
- Pray that God would give them wisdom and discernment when dealing with those who oppose them.
- Pray that the church in Colombia will prevail though persecuted. Pray that the faith of Christians will be strengthened. That God will protect His people and His church from the oppressors. Pray specially for the Christian communities in areas with a high guerrilla presence.
- Pray that God will give courage to Christian leaders, priests, and missionaries so that the preaching of His word will not cease.
- Pray that God will touch indigenous communities through the work of the missionaries. Pray that God will make them receptive of the missionaries and the message of Christ they bring.

Colombia

- Pray that God will comfort those who have suffered loss and harm due to persecution. Pray that God will guard and strengthen their faith.
- Pray for revival in Colombian society, that as a nation they will repent and turn to Jesus.
- Pray for guerrilla and militant leaders and members. That God will touch them and bring them to repentance.

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