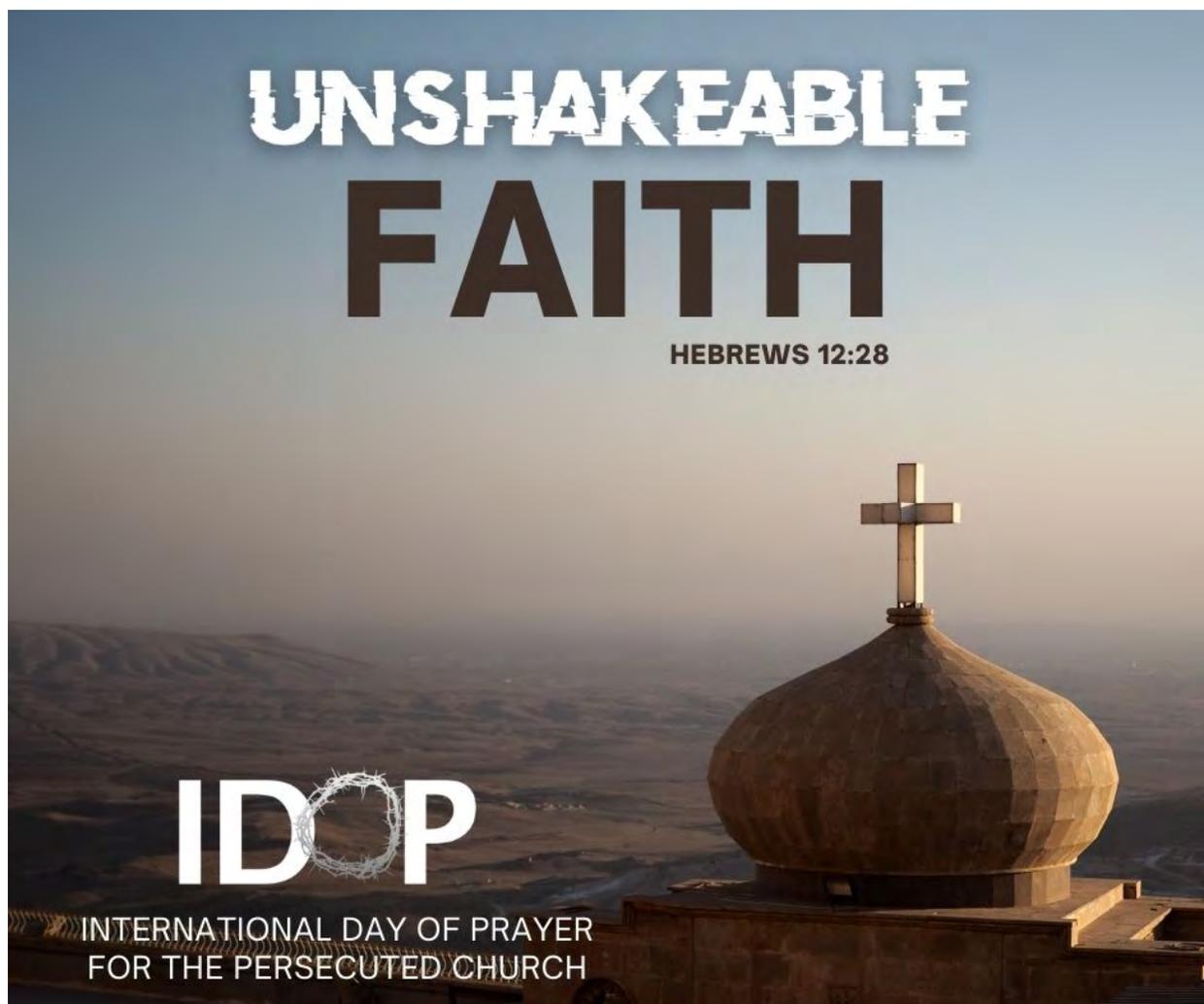


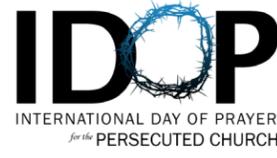
2021 IDOP RESOURCE KIT



Contact us for more information:

Email: prayer@odcan.org

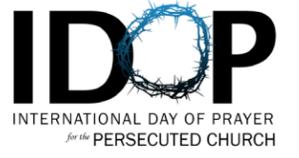
Phone: (905) 636-0944



RESOURCE KIT CONTENTS

1. Leader's Checklist
2. 2021 IDOP video
3. Bulletin Insert
4. Country in Focus: India, Algeria and Cuba
5. Sermon Themes and Scripture
6. Children's Resources
7. Creative Ideas
8. Additional Resources

The graphics for all materials included in this resource kit are print-ready and can be found in the Resource Kit folder. If you require changes or assistance with these resources, please contact us: prayer@odcan.org or call (905) 636-0944.



LEADER'S CHECKLIST

Are you ready to make an incredible difference for our suffering brothers and sisters? It's easier than you might think! Just follow these simple steps to make your church's participation in the International Day of Prayer rewarding and memorable.

1. Spend a few minutes watching the eye-opening IDOP video online. We recommend previewing the video to determine its suitability for your congregation.
2. Spend some time going through the IDOP resources and choose the items you wish to use for your IDOP service.
3. Announce your church's participation in IDOP. The 2021 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church date is November 7, but you can observe it on whatever day you choose.
4. Let your church members know about IDOP, and share about it on social media. We have a few social posts that you can use included in this kit.

Thank you and your church for choosing to take part in this year's International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

2021 IDOP VIDEO

This year's IDOP video gives powerful testimonies of Christians that have suffered much for the sake of Christ. Their stories are real-life examples of what many Christians around the world endure for their faith.

Please be aware that the content of this video may be heavy and graphic for some. Please preview the video before showing the church to determine if it is appropriate for your congregation.

We recommend downloading the video if you choose to use the video for your church service. It can also be found on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/fSo60mwSLA8>



BULLETIN INSERT (FRONT)

**UNSHAKEABLE
FAITH**
HEBREWS 12:28

NOVEMBER 7, 2021
WWW.OPENDOORSCA.ORG/IDOP

**FEATURING: INDIA,
ALGERIA AND CUBA**

IDOP
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



2021
WORLD
WATCH
LIST

EXTREME LEVELS OF PERSECUTION

- 1 North Korea
- 2 Afghanistan
- 3 Somalia
- 4 Libya
- 5 Pakistan
- 6 Eritrea
- 7 Yemen
- 8 Iran
- 9 Nigeria
- 10 India
- 11 Iraq
- 12 Syria

VERY HIGH LEVELS OF PERSECUTION

- 13 Sudan
- 14 Saudi Arabia
- 15 Maldives
- 16 Egypt
- 17 China
- 18 Myanmar
- 19 Vietnam
- 20 Mauritania
- 21 Uzbekistan
- 22 Laos
- 23 Turkmenistan
- 24 Algeria

- 25 Turkey
- 26 Tunisia
- 27 Morocco
- 28 Mali
- 29 Qatar
- 30 Colombia
- 31 Bangladesh
- 32 Burkina Faso
- 33 Tajikistan
- 34 Nepal
- 35 Central African Republic
- 36 Ethiopia
- 37 Mexico

- 38 Jordan
- 39 Brunei
- 40 Congo DC
- 41 Kazakhstan
- 42 Cameroon
- 43 Bhutan
- 44 Oman
- 45 Mozambique
- 46 Malaysia
- 47 Indonesia
- 48 Kuwait
- 49 Kenya
- 50 Comoros

PERSECUTION IS REAL. IT IS A DAILY REALITY FOR MORE THAN 340 MILLION CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE.

Every year, the World Watch List is produced which ranks the top 50 most dangerous countries to live in as a Christian. The World Watch List is based on a comprehensive scoring system that measures the degree of freedom Christians have in five key areas of life – private, family, community,

national and church life. These are then added to the amount of violence they experience to provide a final ranking.

Receive a free copy of the guide to learn more about each country on the list, with country specific prayer points.

Contact us for your free copy!
Phone: (905) 636-0944
Email: prayer@odcan.org
Download online: www.opendoorsca.org/WorldWatchList



INDIA

Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindu, and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam. To achieve this goal, they use extensive violence, particularly targeting Christians from a Hindu background. In their villages, Christians are accused of following a “foreign faith” and often physically attacked. If they don’t “re-convert,” their community may boycott them, with a devastating effect on their ability to earn income and buy food.

When Christians are attacked, they often drop charges against their attackers to show

forgiveness as a witness for Christ. Churches have been demolished and burned, worship gatherings have been disrupted, crosses in graveyards have been vandalized, and Bibles and other Christian literature have been confiscated and burned. Many pastors have been beaten and jailed, and several are martyred each year. Christians are often arrested and held for up to three weeks after being falsely accused of forcing Hindus to convert to Christianity. With legal assistance, they are normally able to post bail or show that the charges are unfounded.

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God that many are coming to faith in India through miraculous healings and the witness of India’s Christians. Pray many more will come to know Jesus.
- Pray for church planters and pastors taking the gospel to unreached people groups.
- Pray that God will soften the hearts of government leaders and they will come to know Christ.
- Pray for new converts who are experiencing persecution.
- Pray that God will change the hearts of persecutors and that they will turn to Christ.
- Pray for protection for our brothers and sisters, especially new Christians and those in rural areas living in isolation.



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ALGERIA

The majority of Christians in Algeria are converts from Islam. They are most at risk of persecution, not just from their family and extended family, but from the wider community which includes local ethnic leaders and elders. This can involve harassment, beatings, threats and imprisonment, as well as pressure to adhere to Islamic customs.

Pressure is also exerted by state officials receptive to the teachings of radical Islamic teachers. They use their influence to limit the freedoms of converts, including preventing them from expressing their views in public. Those living in the rural and religiously more conservative parts of Algeria—which acted as a stronghold for Islamist insurgents in the fight

against the government in the 1990s—are particularly exposed to pressure and danger.

Laws regulating non-Muslim worship prohibit anything that would “shake the faith of a Muslim” or be used as “a means of seduction intending to convert a Muslim to another religion.”

And in the past three years, authorities in Algeria have engaged in a systematic campaign against EPA churches (Protestant Church of Algeria), which has seen 13 churches forcibly closed by the authorities. Others have received orders to cease all activities.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that all recently closed churches will reopen, and the 2006 law regulating worship will be repealed.
- Request that converts who have counted the cost for following Jesus will have access to a community of Christians to support and build them up.
- Pray for the establishment of strategic relationships between Christians and local leaders of influence, which will inspire greater respect among communities towards Christianity.



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CUBA

Unlike the overt violence Christians faced during the Communist revolution, more subtle methods of persecution are now used by the Cuban government, largely out of concern for its global reputation. Christian leaders are often summoned by government officials for questioning or held for up to 48 hours to pressure them, and churches are demolished by hired gangs so the government can deny responsibility. Legal church buildings are seized, and no new church buildings have been legally built in the country since the revolution. Many believers meet in illegal house churches, often extensions of the pastor’s home or shaded structures in the backyard of a family’s home. Churches continue to grow through active evangelistic activity, but some believers have never

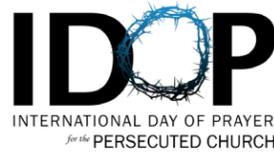
owned a Bible because of government oppression. Though no Christians are known to be imprisoned in Cuba, many are closely watched so that they are effectively under house arrest. In addition, Christians are often denied jobs and educational opportunities.

Access to Bibles:

Though great strides have been made in Bible distribution, access remains restricted. In 2017, Cuba allowed the purchase and sale of Bibles only to members of the ecumenical Protestant church organization, but most Christian literature remains illegal. There are no Christian bookstores in Cuba. There is a shortage of Bibles, which even when available can cost a third of a worker’s monthly income.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for Christian leaders being threatened with imprisonment by their oppressive government.
- Pray for parents who were arrested for trying to remove their children from Communist indoctrination at school.
- Pray for a recently demolished unregistered church and the more than 2,000 others at risk.
- Pray for pastors pressured to provide the government with information about church leaders.
- Pray for the encouragement and wisdom of Christian pastors.
- Pray that God’s Word will reach the most remote areas of the island.



SERMON THEMES AND SCRIPTURE

You may want to deepen your church's IDOP experience by preaching on a topic that relates to the persecuted church. The Bible is full of suffering and persecution. We've selected some themes and Bible verses you might want to use with a little thought on why it might be good to preach on. Whether you choose one of these or select one of your own, we'd love to hear from you about your sermon for IDOP – send us an email at IDOP@odcan.org.

TEXTS

2 Timothy 3: 12, Hebrews 13: 3, 1 Peter 2: 21-23, 1 Peter 1: 6-7, 1 Peter 4: 12-13, 1 Thessalonians 3, Romans 5: 1-5

OUTLINES

An Other-Focused Life

Hebrews 13: 1-6

The author encourages a selfless lifestyle which will result in confidence when pressures come.

1. Be other-focused in your worship (v. 1-2)
2. Be other-focused in your mission (v. 3)
3. Be other-focused in your relationships (v. 4-6)

Perspective in Persecution

2 Timothy 3: 10-17

After warning Timothy of perilous times to come (v. 1-5), Paul offers survival strategies in verses 10-17.

1. Seek out Godly leaders (v. 10-13)
2. Don't get sidetracked (v. 14-15)
3. Allow God's Word to form you (v. 16-17)

Faith Under Fire

1 Peter 1: 6-9

The power of God kept the Christians in Asia steadfast when their faith was tested.

1. A faith tried (v. 6-7)
2. A faith sustained (v. 8)
3. A faith rewarded (v. 9)

The Work of Suffering

Romans 5: 1-5

Although we have peace with God and access to His grace, God allows suffering in our lives for a purpose. In suffering we are reminded that God does work all things for the good of His children.

1. Suffering builds endurance (v. 3)
2. Suffering develops character (v. 4a)
3. Suffering sustains hope (v. 4b-5)

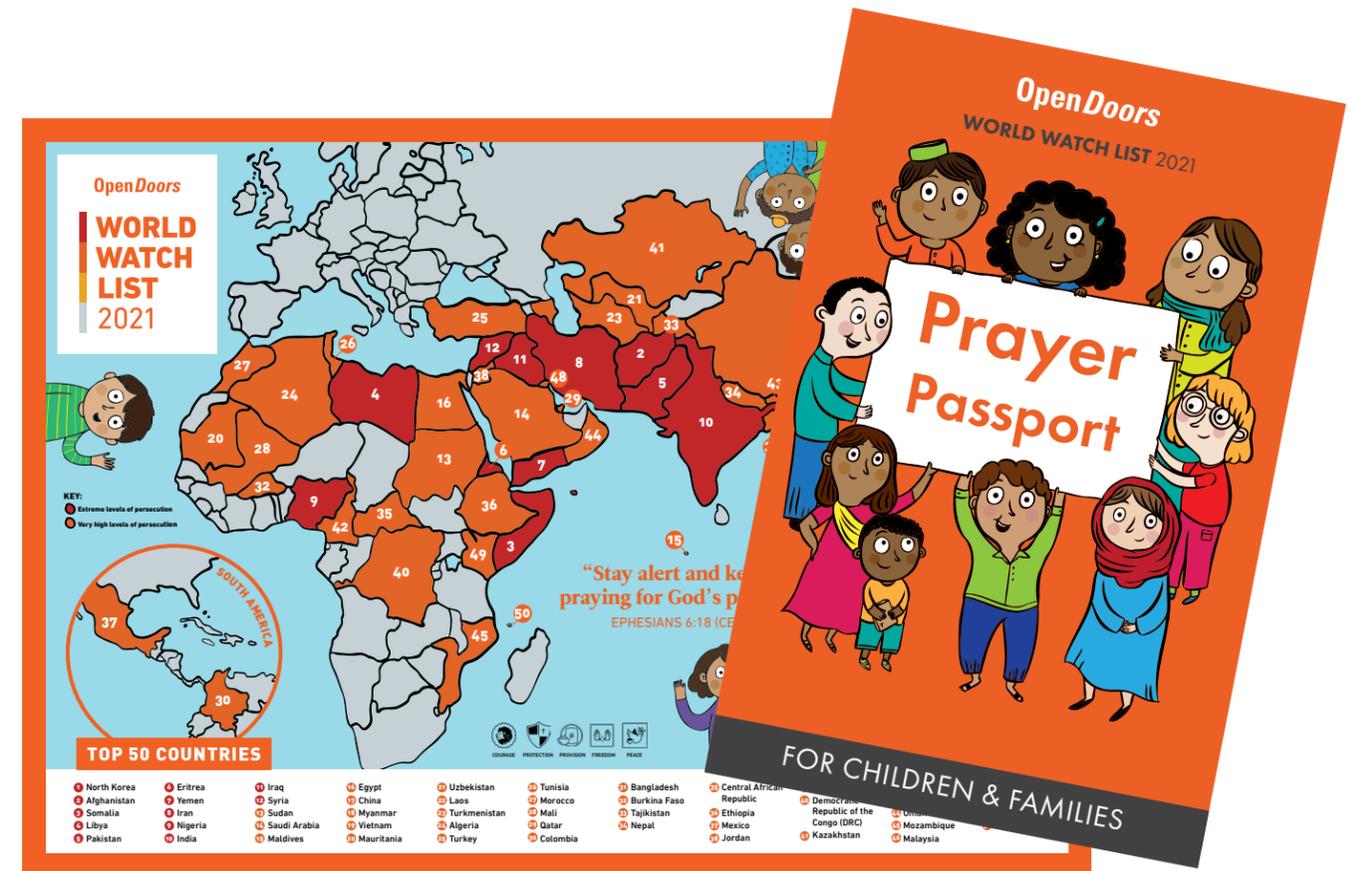
CHILDREN'S RESOURCES

Children can be powerful prayer warriors. Invite children to pray with you for the persecuted church with these great resources created for kids.

Included in the resource kit is a 2021 World Watch List map, as well as a "Prayer Passport" that gives prayer requests for each of the top 50 countries on the World Watch List.

Helpful tips for printing the Prayer Passport

Open the pdf file. Print the document as a "booklet", double-sided if your printer has that option. When the booklet is printed, fold it in half (to become 5.5" x 8.5") and staple at the fold.



CREATIVE IDEAS

How to Use the IDOP Resources at your church:

1

The Basics

Show a video that highlights persecution and take time to pray for our persecuted family.

A Little Deeper

In addition to showing the video and praying, make your sermon focused on persecution. You can use the sermon themes and ideas in this kit to help you get started.

2

3

Get Creative

- Simulate an underground church service by turning off the lights, using candlelight, doing your worship set with no instruments, or just acoustically.
- Hold an adopt-a-country prayer time where congregants adopt a country of persecution to pray for once a week. Try to cover all 50 countries on the World Watch List.
- Create prayer stations in your church to pray for persecuted Christians. Encourage your congregants to visit each one during the music portion of your service.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are more resources available in the Resource Kit for download, including:

- Powerpoint slides with prayer points
- Social media posts
- Theme poster

Have another creative way to commemorate IDOP? We'd love to hear it. Drop us an email at prayer@odcan.org.