

China

In communist China, persecution comes largely in the form of government restrictions, fines, and imprisonment. Limits are placed on the ways believers can worship, the number of Bibles in country, expression of faith, and evangelism.





"We've been praying for a way to expand beyond our area. By faith, I asked for more materials than usual. Many people said this was dangerous for me to do, but I felt led."

Sister Hannah is a Sunday School coordinator in eastern China who is constantly at risk because she receives Children's Bibles and Sunday School materials and redistributes them to underground house churches in rural China.

Even though Sister Hannah knows she could be arrested and imprisoned for her work, she is more concerned about teaching children about Jesus.

"We were so surprised when we had 76 NEW leaders come forward and ask us to help them start Sunday Schools at their churches. These churches are in the countryside of central China. The potential for reaching these children is enormous. Please pray for us, and continue to send Bibles and materials we need to equip the underground churches."

facts

-  China continues to enforce the old policy that prohibits religious education for children under the age of 18.
-  The publication of Bibles and other Christian materials is restricted by the Communist government.
-  Over 90% of Chinese Christians worship in unregistered house churches, therefore it is hard to know the actual size of the Christian church in China. Estimates range from 60 to 130 million.
-  China continues to repatriate North Korean refugees back to their country, to sure punishment, including harsh labor prisons, interrogation, imprisonment of their family members and death.



Iraq

The fall of Saddam Hussein brought an initial increase in Christian attendance and growth in Iraqi churches. But as Muslim radicals tried to take over the country and enforce fundamentalist views, the church became a prime target. Many Christians have fled the country in fear.

"My daughter begged me to let her take her Bible. I knew if we got caught with it, there might be serious consequences. But she was so insistent, I just couldn't say no."

After much prayer and sorrow, Yusuf was forced to flee his village in Iraq. Violence against Christians has increased. Kidnappings. Threats. Interrogations. His family was now in danger, and he couldn't take any more chances.






"I found a letter on our doorstep that said we had 24 hours to leave the house, otherwise they will bomb it with us inside. We had to make quick decisions about what to take and what to leave," he shares.

"My daughter pleaded with me over her Children's Bible. 'It is the Word of God, and I am willing to leave all my toys, games, and clothes at home if you let me take this one thing,' she said. My heart was anxious and divided."

"My daughter's passion for Scripture inspired me. I was worried about all the checkpoints and armed guards. I want to protect my family from harm."

"In the end, I couldn't say no. I told her that bringing her Bible with us would be an exercise in prayer and faith for both of us. I told her to pray like crazy. And we did."

facts

-  More than a dozen Christian clergymen have been killed or kidnapped since 2006.
-  Iraqi Christians make up less than 1.5% of the population.
-  Radical Muslims are determined to rid the country of its Christian heritage by burning churches, kidnapping, rape, and murder.
-  97% of the 23 million people in Iraq are Muslim.
-  The literacy rate for the male population in Iraq is 70%; it is only 45% for females.

Nigeria

In a country where tribal living still exists, whole Christian villages have been burned down and destroyed by Muslim radicals. Nigerian Christians not only worry about lack of food, education, and resources, but they are also under significant pressure to convert to Islam or be killed.



The Church in Nigeria desperately needs our prayers. A strong movement pushes to Islamicise the country, and Christians are consistently under attack by fundamentalists. Churches are burned, villages are attacked, and Christians are brutally murdered.

Attacks recently occurred at a high school in Sumaila town in Kano State.





“Some Muslims said we were blaspheming Mohammad. When they started to attack, most of us ran for our lives. I was hiding in the principal’s office. I escaped out a window, but they caught us,” said Ahmadu Inuwa.

“They used machetes, knives and stones. They cut me on my neck badly. Even though I was bleeding, I kept running until I found refuge in a nearby village and collapsed,” he shared.

Christian children in all of the government schools in Kano State are afraid of what might happen to them while attending school. They are unable to concentrate in class.

Many parents fear for the safety of their children at school

facts

-  **Shari’a law governs 12 states in Nigeria. Shari’a law is the most strict, oppressive, and dangerous of governments.**
-  **The life expectancy for people living in Nigeria is only 47 years old. The average life expectancy for the world is 66 years old.**
-  **Nigeria is the 9th most populated country in the world with over 13 million inhabitants.**
-  **There is a continuous effort to force Christians to practice Sharia law in many Nigerian states.**

Egypt

The Church in Egypt is growing, despite an anti-conversion law and extreme persecution by the fundamental Muslim majority. Identity cards not only state physical information, but also religious affiliation. Christians are constantly discriminated against at banks, government institutions, and other business offices.



“We thirst for more knowledge of the Bible.”

In Egypt, where illiteracy affects more than 57% of the people, books are in high demand. Books are often passed back and forth between households and shared among neighboring villages.

When 230,000 Egyptian schoolchildren, both Muslim and Christian, received 4-color, hard-backed Children’s Bibles, communities were buzzing with excitement. These Bibles are not only the child’s pride and joy, but that of their whole village!

“We had a few old Bibles, but they were hard for the people to understand. These Open Doors Bibles have simple language and photos to help with the message,” offered an Orthodox priest.

Recently over 170,000 children participated in one of many 10-day summer Christian day camps, where they could learn more about Jesus and the Bible.

“There is a tremendous thirst and hunger among Egypt’s young population to learn about the Jesus of the Bible. Whole families are reached through these day camps. We’ve had parents ask if they can come too, so they can teach the whole family about the Bible,” shared an underground Bible teacher.

“In addition to Bible teaching, the children are taught that they are valuable and loved, something they may not have heard before.”