
NOTES

1. A. W. Tozer, “Mediocre Christianity,” in *Mornings with Tozer: Daily Devotional Readings*, comp. Gerald B. Smith (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2008), April 15.
2. *The Voice of the Martyrs* magazine, June, 2001.
3. Excerpt(s) from RADICAL: TAKING BACK YOUR FAITH FROM THE AMERICAN DREAM by David Platt, copyright © 2010 by David Platt. Used by permission of WaterBrook Multnomah, an imprint of Random House, a division of Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved.
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6. Charles H. Spurgeon, “Separating the Precious from the Vile,” sermon delivered March 25, 1860, in *The New Park Street Pulpit*, vol. 6 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1964), 154.
7. Taken from *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers, edited by James Reimann, © 1992 by Oswald Chambers Publications Assn., Ltd., and used by permission of Discovery House Publishers, Grand Rapids MI 49501. All rights reserved.
8. A. W. Tozer, “Moral Determination,” SermonIndex.net, accessed October 27, 2020, <http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=4693>.
9. John Foxe and The Voice of the Martyrs, *Foxe: Voices of the Martyrs* (Washington, DC: Salem Books, 2019).

Pray

SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR PERSECUTED CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Prayer Guide

AZERBAIJAN

DESIGNATION: Restricted

OVERVIEW: As a former Soviet satellite on the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan's churches have developed amid the ruins of the Soviet Union. It is rich in oil and gas reserves, but the country's authoritarian government has been reluctant and the country's infrastructure is gradually improving and 2 percent are Christians.

MAJOR RELIGION: 85 percent of Azerbaijan are Shia Muslims.

PERSECUTION: Russia is the main persecutor of Christians. Islam is considered to have brought shame on the family. The government also pressures Christians with heavy fines.



WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN AZERBAIJAN: To register legally, Soviet police asked and sometimes told in 2015, the government published a list of banned religious books that included the Old Testament. Those caught with religious materials, and often with church leaders to inform an attempt to gather information for law enforcement, church members or pastors. Many Christians feel that this is an attempt to silence and family members despite legal pressure.

ACCESS TO BIBLES: Bibles are difficult to obtain. Churches can purchase them, but they cannot be printed locally.

VOM WORK: VOM brings Bibles, including children's Bibles, prayer and churches.

BAHRAIN

DESIGNATION: Restricted

OVERVIEW: This small island nation is located in one of the world's chief oil-producing regions, though Bahrain has relatively small petroleum resources. Therefore, its economy has long relied on services outside of oil. Bahrain has a diverse economy, including significant religious, political and economic tensions, resulting mostly from the Sunni-Shia global economy. This comes, coupled with the faithful witness of indigenous Muslims and immigrant Christian workers, has led to a series of repression and some response to the gospel among those indigenous to Bahrain.

MAJOR RELIGION: Less than one percent are Christians. In practice of the population, including 2 percent evangelicals, persecution, but the government occasionally imprisons or harasses a new Christian.

PERSECUTION: Families and local communities are the main persecutors.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN BAHRAIN: Christians come from Bahrain often lose their jobs and social status, and many are rejected by their families. However, some will still go to worship in secret.

ACCESS TO BIBLES: Bibles have access to the Bible through the internet. Bibles are sold in churches.

VOM WORK: VOM supports evangelists who work throughout the Arabian Peninsula. We distribute Bibles of media resources that engage with violence and underground believers.

OMAN

DESIGNATION: Restricted

OVERVIEW: The Sultanate of Oman is a low economic than its neighbors on the Arabian Peninsula. There are a limited number of church buildings, and the few Omani Christians in the country meet secretly and only occasionally in public. There is a risk of persecution from family, community and government.

MAJOR RELIGION: Nearly all Omani are Muslim, including those who convert from Islam to Christianity, and the government is viewed as a source of shame in their community.

PERSECUTION: Family, neighbors and communities pressure those who convert from Islam to Christianity, and the government is viewed as a source of shame in their community.



WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN OMAN: Leaving Islam is a criminal act in Oman. For Christians converts, there are legal challenges in several other ways. There are no known Christian converts and the risk of persecution is so high that but they are not allowed to meet in homes or in evangelistic sites.

ACCESS TO BIBLES: The government allows the Bible. Society is full of Bibles and Christians because of religious freedom in the country, but not in Oman. There is only one Christian publisher, in Oman capital, but Christians can easily access digital and audio Bibles online. But Christians can easily distribute Bibles in the country and help with the training of local believers in evangelism and discipleship.

VOM WORK: VOM provides Christian materials to workers of local believers in evangelism and discipleship.

God Is Moving MIDDLE EAST

In an Islamic country heavily affected by the coronavirus, Christians distributed masks and food to those in need. In their homes and churches, they held prayer and Bible studies. They provided a great opportunity for all who want to know God and His love for His people.

Request your FREE Global Prayer Guide today at VOM.org/prayer.