

PRAYERS
FOR
CHURCHES
AND SMALL
GROUPS

PRAYING
FOR IRAN IN
CHURCHES AND
SMALL GROUPS

WHERE FAITH COSTS

THE MOST



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A PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED BELIEVERS IN IRAN

Sovereign Lord, King of Kings,

We praise you that your Spirit is at work amongst the people of Iran. Thank you that your church is growing and that many people are finding Christ. We pray that many more would meet Jesus, in dreams and visions, and through the witness of your people.

Thank you that there is a growing hunger for your Word. Bless those who are seeking to meet this need by providing Bibles and discipleship training. Give wisdom to those involved in Christian satellite TV and radio programmes being transmitted across Iran.

Thank you that your church is standing firm despite opposition. Give strength to those who face pressure from the authorities or from society to return to Islam. Sustain those who have been arrested and imprisoned for choosing to follow you.

Gracious Lord, we pray that you would strengthen your church to take your gospel to those who are still in darkness – for the extension of your kingdom and the praise of your glory.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

This prayer is offered to help you, your group and your church pray for persecuted believers in Iran. It can be reproduced as needed; additional prayer points can be added as appropriate.



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PRAY FOR MUSLIM- BACKGROUND BELIEVERS

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On her 16th birthday, Soheila prayed for a special gift from God. She was given a dream about Jesus on the cross. Soheila was crying at the foot of this cross but then Jesus came down, gave her a big hug and said, "I love you. Do not worry."

Soheila scoured the internet to find out more about Jesus and found a Christian couple who were able to tell her more. "Jesus has changed my life," she told us. He has also given her peace and helped her to forgive people who had hurt her. Many of her friends have also become Christians, but they have to worship in whispers for fear of arrest and imprisonment.

Please pray:

- For the thousands of Iranians searching for God and for those who have given their lives to Christ despite the dangers.
- For perseverance for isolated believers. Pray that they will have access to Christian fellowship and will grow in wisdom and courage as they share the love of Jesus.
- For protection from the authorities, colleagues or family members who would seek to harm them because of their faith.

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PRAY FOR THOSE SHARING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

PRAYER CARD FOR SMALL GROUPS

Evangelism

Farah, a believer from a Muslim background, was able to show the Jesus film to her family and has even been able to invite interested Muslims to an Alpha course in her house church.

Please pray:

- Thank God that the church in Iran is growing rapidly.
- For boldness and safety for those who are sharing their faith in Jesus.
- That colleagues, families and friends of believers from a Muslim background will be understanding and open to their faith.

Christian media

Zary used to earn her living by selling handwritten prayer leaflets with verses from the Quran to people who wanted to be blessed. Then she became a Christian through watching a preacher on satellite TV. When she received a Bible two years later, she began to sell verses from the Bible.

Please pray:

- For wisdom for those involved in Christian satellite TV and radio programmes being transmitted across Iran.
- That many Iranians would be exposed to the message of the gospel and would respond to the love of God.

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PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS IN PRISON

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Revd Wilson Issavi, an Assyrian pastor, was accused of 'converting Muslims' and arrested at a house meeting at a friend's home in Isfahan. Wilson was imprisoned, tortured and threatened with execution. He contracted a life-threatening infection as a result of the filthy conditions in his cell. He was taken to hospital for treatment but is still not well.

Wilson was released from prison on bail at the end of March and is awaiting trial. His family's joy at his release is tinged with fear of retaliation by Islamic extremists. "Sometimes they release you just to kill you," an anonymous Christian source explained.

Please pray:

- That God would heal those who have been tortured or suffered ill-health in prison – physically, mentally and spiritually.
- For wisdom and justice for those who face ongoing legal trials.
- For safety of and provision for those released from prison and their families.

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PRAY FOR THE IRANIAN CHURCH

Bibles

Bible translation and distribution is challenging and risky, but it is vital for the fledgling and fast-growing house churches especially.

Please pray:

- For protection for those distributing Bibles and resources in the Farsi language.
- For more workers to translate, produce and distribute Bibles and training materials in the Farsi language.

Discipleship courses

Open Doors co-worker Sandra* says, "Many are in great need of discipleship courses. For example, one man came to faith through a dream about Jesus. For one year he did not know any other Christians and did not have a Bible. He just prayed to the man he had seen in his dream."

Please pray:

- Praise God for the great number of participants in discipleship courses and for the trainers who come mostly from abroad.
- Pray that these courses may encourage them and help them grow in faith.

**Name changed for security reasons*

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