

Chapter 1 : World Watch List by Open Doors - Exposure

The World Watch List Prayer Updates focuses on the different countries on the Open Doors World Watch List. The weekly email provides a short overview of a country and relevant prayer points.

This year, no score was below 10. The lowest score was 10. We can see from year to year that when we look at the scores, things are progressively getting worse for our brothers and sisters around the world. However, a score gives the level of persecution for the country. A rural church in Bangladesh. So, we can see that the conditions may remain the same, but the rankings have changed a bit. Pakistan, on the other hand, has shown a slight improvement. It was bumped down in ranking from at number 4 to at number 5. But the scores have only negligible difference, the score of 86 versus 88 last year. Christian Persecution Worsening Just in the World Watch List Allen says half of the countries it listed had moderate persecution levels. Yet, the following year changed that. In 2017, none of the countries could be placed in moderate persecution level category because the persecution levels were just too severe. And in the 2018, 2019, and World Watch Lists, all 50 countries listed have high, very high, or extreme levels of Christian persecution. With that said, persecution is progressively getting worst for Christians around the world, particularly in Africa and Asia, but also the Americas, specifically Latin America. The World Watch List also measures the driving force behind Christian persecution. The majority of incidents of persecution in two-thirds of the countries on the list are fueled by Islamic oppression. However, there have been exceptions like Kenya, Ethiopia, and others. In these outliers, the main religion is Christianity. Allen says in these countries, the Muslim minorities are on the attack. Attacks can range from forced marriages to rape to family members throwing their Christian sibling or child off the top of a building to try and kill them. It can mean being poisoned or even being stripped naked and watching as the family burns all their possessions, barring the person from leaving the home. Persecution can even be drawn into the courts as a legal battle, like what is currently happening with Ahmed Raza Khan, a highly influential and strategic co-laborer for the Gospel in Pakistan. Pray and Act So please, pray for Christians facing persecution to be encouraged and to have perseverance and the strength to not just endure but to thrive. Ask God to give these same Christians creativity, wisdom, and the resources needed to teach literacy and share the Gospel. Pray for God to move amongst the governments and municipal leaders to eliminate discrimination against Christians. Another way to help is by coming alongside these persecuted Christians and providing them with the funds for necessary resources. FMI helps provide tangible resources and supplemental support to pastors and church planters in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Pakistan. Will you help support your brothers and sisters in Christ? To give through FMI, [click here!](#) To access the World Watch List, [click here!](#)

Chapter 2 : World Watch List India on Vimeo

Open Doors World Watch List.

Nepal vaulted to 25th on the World Watch List after having been unmentioned a year ago. This is because of the passage of anti-conversion laws. But our mindset and often our prayers for persecuted people may be wrong. Let our brothers and sisters in Christ, let those who have been honored by God to be like Jesus Matthew

The complete World Watch List Extreme persecution 1. North Korea 1 last year; source of persecution: Afghanistan 3; Islamic oppression 3. Somalia 2; Islamic oppression 4. Sudan 5; Islamic oppression 5. Pakistan 4; Islamic oppression 6. Eritrea 10; dictatorial paranoia 7. Libya 11; Islamic oppression 8. Iraq 8; Islamic oppression 9. Yemen 9; Islamic oppression Iran 7; Islamic oppression India 15; religious nationalism Very high persecution Saudi Arabia 14; Islamic oppression Maldives 13; Islamic oppression Nigeria 12; Islamic oppression Syria 6; Islamic oppression Uzbekistan 16; dictatorial paranoia Egypt 21; Islamic oppression Vietnam 17; communist and post-communist oppression Turkmenistan 19; dictatorial paranoia Laos 24; communist and post-communist oppression Jordan 27; Islamic oppression Tajikistan 35; dictatorial paranoia Malaysia 31; Islamic oppression Myanmar 28; religious nationalism Nepal unranked; religious nationalism Brunei 25; Islamic oppression Qatar 20; Islamic oppression Kazakhstan 43; dictatorial paranoia Ethiopia 22; Islamic oppression Tunisia 29; Islamic oppression Turkey 37; Islamic oppression Kenya 18; Islamic oppression Bhutan 30; religious nationalism Kuwait 38; Islamic oppression Central African Republic 34; Islamic oppression High persecution Palestinian Territories 23; Islamic oppression Mali 32; Islamic oppression Indonesia 46; Islamic oppression Mexico 41; organized crime and corruption United Arab Emirates 44; Islamic oppression Bangladesh 26; Islamic oppression Algeria 36; Islamic oppression China 39; communist and post-communist oppression Sri Lanka 45; religious nationalism Azerbaijan unranked; dictatorial paranoia Oman 49; Islamic oppression Mauritania 47; Islamic oppression Bahrain 48; Islamic oppression Colombia 50; organized crime and corruption Djibouti 40; Islamic oppression

The trends in Christian persecution, according to Open Doors , are 1. The spread of radical Islam; 2. The rise of religious nationalism, and 3. Intense persecution in Central Asia. Fear is the No.

Chapter 3 : World Watch List - Open Doors

Get the World Watch List! The most comprehensive, authoritative report of the top 50 countries where Christian persecution is most severe.

In these situations, early action, driven or supported by the EU and its member states, would generate stronger prospects for peace. It includes a global overview, regional summaries, and detailed analysis on select countries and conflicts. Global Overview For Europeans who have chafed at the embrace of U. Disengaged from some areas, dangerously engaged in others, and disconcertingly engaged overall, the U. The challenge is doing so without either gratuitously antagonising or needlessly deferring to Washington. Its reaffirmation of the Paris climate accord and the vigorous defence by the likes of French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel of a more tolerant, less nativist form of politics and a rules-based international order were the right form of push-back. They require European leaders to balance foreign priorities with those at home. The threat they pose remains, yet the wave many feared was only beginning to gather force with Brexit and Trump, for now at least, appears to have crested. This has created space for several European leaders to speak out in support of norms the U. On a second set of issues U. The wise response would be to simultaneously encourage Washington to stick to the deal, reject any attempt to make Europe an accomplice to its breach, while preparing for a U. That means immunising as much as possible economic relations between Europe and Iran from the re-imposition of U. A similar dynamic is at play in the Israeli-Palestinian arena. That is reason enough for European governments " which already have moved to plug a separate gap left by the U. In the two instances, there may be only so much Europeans can do. But they should do it. The third category is trickiest, for it entails Europe at times breaking not solely with the U. Over the past several years, European foreign policy progressively has defined itself as an extension of domestic anxieties " mostly about terrorism and migration. Political leaders can ill afford to come across as divorced from public opinion " however revved-up and exploited for partisan purposes its apprehensions. They must make public angst at least partly their own. But carried too far, this runs the risk of producing a narrow and short-sighted approach. Indeed, it risks replicating in some places the U. Examples of what the EU and its member states can do to counter this trend are legion, and developed in some detail in the entries of this Watch List. But to mention a few: Certainly, they should ensure that the African counter-terrorism force deploying across parts of the Sahel the G5 Sahel joint force " which is backed by European powers " comes hand-in-hand with local mediation efforts, lest it further militarise the region and empower non-state proxies whose rivalries aggravate intercommunal conflicts. In other areas, Europe could give diplomacy a shot in the arm where the U. European leaders could press Saudi Arabia and Iran to open a channel of communication, even as the U. Standing up to the U. But the European Union and its member states ought to pay little heed. To forge a more independent and forceful European foreign policy focused on diplomacy, de-escalation and conflict prevention at a time of uncertainty and confusion in Washington is not to undermine the U.

Chapter 4 : World Watch List | Countries Where Christianity is Illegal & Oppressed

3 The Open Doors World Watch Report The Open Doors World Watch List is the product of year-round field and desk research, providing insight.

They are beaten, killed, forcibly detained, denied education or job opportunities, their churches and homes bombed and burned, their children abducted. For over 60 years, Open Doors has been on the ground with persecuted Christians. In over 50 countries around the world, our underground networks are equipping them with Bibles and training, providing them with practical and spiritual support, and sharing their lives. It is this first-hand knowledge and experience that makes the World Watch List such a unique window into the world of persecuted Christians. Extreme persecution is increasing and so are the needs of our brothers and sisters. As you read about the plight of persecuted Christians around the world, we pray that you will be not only informed, but inspired to see how your support can make a real difference to Christians facing extreme persecution. We only pray that God will reward you for this great work. Thank you so much. These are the places where followers of Christ must keep their beliefs hidden and where living the gospel means facing beatings, imprisonment, discrimination and abuse. Resources A range of World Watch List resources to inspire prayer and action on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world. Open Doors experts look at what factors are shaping Christian persecution at the moment and how, despite the darkness, persecuted Christians are continuing to share the light and life of Jesus. But how is it put together? How do you measure persecution? Four responses to persecution When persecution strikes, how do Christians respond? For persecuted Christians around the world there are four main options: The Faces behind the Figures The World Watch List is about the big picture the facts and figures, the global trends. But the big picture is made up of millions of individual faces. Here are six representatives of persecuted Christians from around the world who really need your prayers and support. Read the stories of the persecuted church "We are not afraid but strong and hopeful. We know He will come again. That is why there is so much pain and suffering. That is why there is persecution. He is coming back and those who do not know Him need Him in their lives. For now, we His followers need to live with thankful, prayerful hearts. We supply Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services.

Chapter 5 : Open Doors World Watch List reveals disturbing trends - Mission Network News

I am really thankful to the owner of this site whî¿ haÑ• shÉ'rĐud this enormous piece of writing at at tÕ»is place.

Conversations on Faith and Culture. Now our listeners may have picked up a bit of an accent, so tell us a little bit about where you grew up, and sort of what your heritage is. We are actually all Scots, but where I was raised in Northern Ireland, in Belfast, actually, at the height of the troubles in the 60s and 70s. So my accent is all over the place, really. Can you tell us just for a brief moment, I know this is not the subject of our discussion today, but I think our listeners would be very interested to know what that was like to be raised in Northern Ireland in the 70s, and during that time of such tumult and uproar. As a teenager, I think you sleepwalk through history. It was a world of total segregation. I went to a Protestant school. I only started to meet them when I traveled around. You just lived in a ghetto, and of course, anything that was said about those outside the ghetto, you just believed. It was the air you breathed. It felt strange really, looking back. My father was a minister in a big church, a big independent church Big for Belfast anyway, about people. It was a wonderful formation for me because it was a very working class church. Most of the people worked in the shipyard. These were hard drinking, hard living men, and they had basically, they were drunkards and they beat their wives. They would get wonderfully saved. You would hear them give their testimony pretty much every week, and you just always saw Christianity works. It manages to be a kind of effective mess. My expectations are not so high that everybody has to be just right. You experienced, from what you saw, redemption being partial? You have written a lot on the persecuted church. Your book, that I like to make sure our listeners have brought to their attention, World Watch List as well. I was trying to give the biggest possible picture in terms of understanding persecution, so the book was answering certain key questions. Where is it going on? How do you do something about it? Perhaps the most significant question of them all is, what can we learn from the persecuted? I was conscious that particularity western Christians see the persecuted as needing their resources. We do have to send them help. But we also, I believe, have to receive their treasure, because they have discovered something about God in their experience that we need in our own. And so I wanted to build that, a kind of umbilical and discipleship connection between the life of the persecuted church and the life of western church. Sounds rather grand, but that was one of the reasons for writing the book. Be a little more specific, what specific things have you discovered that the western church, especially needs to learn from our brothers and sisters who are in other parts of the world where persecution is pretty rampant? Once I had an interaction with the great Wang Ming-Dao. He was perhaps the most significant figure of Chinese Christianity of the 20th century. He had spent 23 years in jail for his faith, in solitary confinement, much of it. How many people do you have to see? I thought, "I need to get out of here right now, get back and do all this. I was a famous Evangelist, I wanted to have meetings all around the country, I wanted to make records, I had a wonderful singing voice, I wanted to write books. He was my emperor, but he was not my friend. He said, "Build yourself a cell. I was pushed into one. And I said, "Why? That was his grace. They develop a level of intimacy with Christ that we find a lot harder to replicate here. A lot of people give up and are weary by it all. It means to be pursued. And so he says, "Look out for it, accept it, and maybe even receive it as an honor. You contribute significantly to the research that goes into the World Watch List. Tell our listeners a little bit about what exactly is the World watch List and what are the criteria that you use to identify the levels of persecution. Who places different countries in the positions they are on that list? We use a certain questionnaire with a methodology that expresses our broad understanding of persecution. We talk about squeeze and smash. Most people when they think of persecution, they think of a violent incident. We talk about squeeze and we say, "How much freedom do you have to express your faith in say your private life or your church life or your community life or your community life or your national life? Are you allowed to have a cross on the wall? Could you have a Christian poster in your home? Could you have a Bible in your home? The squeeze is ten times more effective than the violence; we measure that. We put those two scales together to come up with how difficult it is to live out a Christian faith in a particular context. So would it be fair to say that many of the governments and organizations that persecute the church

around the world would actually be content with a strictly private faith? Not everyone, North Korea for example, you really have to be worshipping the cult of Kim Il-sung. But in a lot of other countries, yes, the church is allowed to exist, but keep it to yourself. Keep it underground, keep it quiet. You can stay in the land on one condition only: The danger is over time, over centuries, it then results in Christians who feel second class. Because they can never really belong in that society. They say if you think of Islamic extremism, it has always had what they call two taproots. It is funded by Saudi money. The Saudis are the most extremist Islamic regime in the world. They have all the money to push it, to sponsor it. More So than Iran or Somalia or They will only give aid around the world insofar as it must come with a mosque and we have to send a teacher for that mosque and this kind of thing. They tend to fund extremism. But if you want to learn to be a violent extremist you have to go to Pakistan, in the madrassas in the North of the country particularly. Those are the two taproots of Islamic extremism. That was never really the main pressure on Christians. It was really Islamic extremism funded by the Saudis, and the Pakistani arena is the place where you learn to be violent. It will just, in your view, it will just manifest itself in a different form and different organizations regardless of what else comes and goes in the region. So that, for example, if you were a Saudi and you became a Christian in Saudi Arabia, you had better keep that entirely secret. If it is known, you will either lose your head or you will have to leave the country. There may be Christians who are Muslim but they will never, ever, express that. These people are not martyrs, but they have no religious freedom whatsoever. You were saying in Saudi Arabia not even a private Christian faith would be allowed? If they are Saudi, yes. In Saudi Arabia you have a lot of guest workers there who would be Christian. A lot of them would be Pakistanis, Indians, and that sort of thing. They get a kind of special dispensation to have their own private views. Yes, we are seeing something quite remarkable around the world. Muslims are coming to the Christian faith probably in the most significant numbers than ever before. But it is a fact that what we have seen in the Middle East is that where Islamism has increased its power, and it has significantly since the end of the Arab spring, a lot of Muslims have been looking at Islamism and saying, "Is that my faith? Do you make a distinction between Islam and Islamism? Yes, I think we do. I think there is a point in which Islam tips over into a level of intolerance that just almost refuses to even accept any rights for religious minorities in the territory and is very prone to What percentage do you estimate of that 1. What is the mullah going to say? You teach Practical Theology in a seminary in Pakistan. What is that like teaching, equipping pastors to pastor in a place like Pakistan where persecution is so significant?

Chapter 6 : Open Doors World Watch List for Persecution of Christians

Open Doors USA, a ministry that works with persecuted Christians around the world, released its 25th annual World Watch List at the National Press Club Wednesday in Washington, D.C.

For 15 years, North Korea has topped the list as the most dangerous place to be a Christian. Since this list was just announced and fit good for Travel Thursday, I figured I would do this list for Travel Thursday instead. Kristina Arriaga, vice chair of the U. Christians from India, Egypt and Vietnam will be available for interviews following the press conference. With more than 50, people in prison or labor camps, such a ranking is little surprise for the totalitarian regime that controls every aspect of life in the country and forces worship of the Kim family. But the new report reveals an alarming trend as countries driven by Islamic extremism, such as Afghanistan No. Of the 50 countries on the Open Doors World Watch List, 30 saw an increase in persecution during the reporting period. Trends show that countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East are intensifying persecution against Christians, and perhaps the most vulnerable are Christian women, who often face double persecution for faith and gender. Every day six women are raped, sexually harassed or forced into marriage to a Muslim under threat of death due to their Christian faith. The Open Doors World Watch List documented 2, such incidences against women—a number that only covers those who had the courage to report such an incident, and is estimated to be a mere fraction of those actually raped and harassed in this way. This is the 26th year of the Open Doors World Watch List, and it remains the only comprehensive, annual survey to rank the 50 countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian. Quick Facts One in every 12 Christians in the world lives in an area, or in a culture, in which Christianity is illegal, forbidden or punished. North Korea tops the list for the 16th year in a row. Nepal and Azerbaijan are newcomers to the list. Comoros and Tanzania fell off the list. Pakistan had the most violence recorded against Christians. Islamic extremism remains the global, dominant driver of persecution, responsible for initiating oppression and conflict in 35 of the 50 countries on the list. Middle East Dramatically increasing persecution against Christians in all areas of their lives, Afghanistan models alarming trends that reverberate through the top 10 on the list: Never before have the top two countries been so close in incidents. Both countries are extreme in intolerance and outright persecution of Christians in every area Open Doors monitors. Afghanistan now meets the same level of persecution as North Korea in five out of the six areas. It is hard for westerners to imagine a second country could nearly meet the levels of persecution seen in North Korea, but Afghanistan has reached that level this year. Asia Twenty-two of the 50 countries on the list are in Asia. India experienced a dramatic rise in persecution, moving from No. Radical Hinduism and Indian nationalism are driving factors in the increasing levels of unrest and instability Christians face. In , India scored only 55 points, while during the reporting period, Open Doors World Watch List researchers assigned 81 points to the nation—one of the fastest and most intense increases seen. Nepal appears on the list for the first time and lands stunningly at No. Africa Ethnic cleansing based on religious affiliation is becoming common in a number of sub-Saharan African countries like Somalia No. Terrorism connected with extreme Islam continues to plague many African nations, resulting in increased persecution of Christians. Both experienced increases in persecution, primarily attributed to organized crime, corruption and governmental instability. North Korea 94 points.

Chapter 7 : World Watch List: Christian Women Persecuted Most

The Open Doors World Watch List shines a light on the suffering of Coptic Christians in Egypt, ranked 17 th on this year's list. Last year Egyptian Christians were killed in religiously motivated attacks; many others had to flee their homes for other parts of the country.

But just how big of a problem is it? Every year, Open Doors develops a list that helps us understand the status of Christian persecution. The World Watch List ranks nations according to the level of persecution its Christians face. Ministries and individuals alike use this list not just to know, but to act. The report estimates that one out of every 12 Christians about million people lives under extreme persecution. Out of the 50 countries included on the list, 30 saw an increase in persecution over the last year. Notable changes from last year For the most part, the top ten is as expected. One major change is that Syria dropped from sixth to fifteenth on the list. Photo and header graphic courtesy of Open Doors USA Perhaps the biggest surprise in the top ten is the fact that Afghanistan nearly displaced North Korea, which has headed the list for the last 16 years. The nations were only separated by one point. Regardless, North Korea continues to be the worst place to live as a Christian, and it sets itself apart by being the only nation in the top ten where communism is the main source of persecution. And that leads us to a trend that was heavily affirmed by the list—that often, the culprit behind Christian persecution is Islamic extremism. So, a lot of the names are going to be familiar to people. You have places like Somalia and Sudan where you have extremists. The characteristic of each of these countries is different, but Islamic extremism dominates the top ten, and North Korea is number one. Among them are Kenya and Ethiopia. Vietnam also moved down a space, and Tanzania fell off the list completely. Open Doors notes that these are cases where the persecution has either dropped or leveled off. Unfortunately, not all cases where a country dropped in rank were a good sign. Open Doors found that the most violent acts against Christians were committed here. They blew themselves up, and nine Christians were killed, and dozens others injured. Responding to the World Watch List Christian persecution comes from a variety sources, but whatever the source, Curry reminds us that it really is a spiritual battle taking place. And then we need to support each other. We need to find those places where our brothers and sisters in Christ are hurting, where they need help. Curry says it seems that many Christians have withdrawn their mission focus in places like the Middle East because of the immense challenges ministries face there. He hopes that as we learn more about the Persecuted Church, we might have a renewed desire to reach out in support so that our persecuted brothers and sisters can remain a strong witness to their neighbors. Study it, pray through it. Take the list and ask yourself, where is justice for Christians, where is support for Christians most needed?

Chapter 8 : World Watch List Nepal on Vimeo

International (MNN) - There are more than million persecuted Christians worldwide, according to the "World Watch List. " This is Open Doors USA's annual ranking of the 50 worst countries for violence and persecution against Christians.

From the series 3 Questions Each year the World Watch List ranks the top 50 countries where Christians face persecution—whether political, social, religious, or otherwise. The WWL provides a valuable gauge of how much freedom Christians in a given country have to practice their faith. Yet, as the WWR team points out, the case of China highlights the importance of delving into the myriad factors underlying the rankings in order to understand the real picture. How does this compare with previous years? China ranks 43rd with a score of 57 points. Last year, China ranked 37th with a score of 57 points as well. This shows that the WWL is a relative ranking list as China was overtaken by several countries where the situation is deteriorating faster than in China itself. It has to be kept in mind, however, that we implemented a change in scoring from the territory to the population of a country. In the case of China, this led to a lower score as far as Muslim and Tibetan converts in Xinjiang and Tibet are concerned. If it would not be for this change, the score of China would have increased by three points ranking around 36th 2. Apart from the already mentioned change in methodology, there is a second point which needs to be kept in mind: However, those rules will be implemented from 1 February and so any harsher treatment of Christians will only be reflected in the WWL and onwards. What is the current trend in terms of persecution of Christians in China? This question gives me a very important opportunity: China, as arguably the most complex country in the WWL, enjoys having the longest country profile of all countries with 14 pages. One trend to be highlighted is the increasing emphasis on Communist ideology and the fact that the room to maneuver for churches is narrowing. Obeying the Party is key, and the big question is how strictly this is implemented against Christians on the local level. A second question is if churches will increasingly be able to show the government that they can provide help and assistance in the growing social challenges, even if the Party will take all credit for it. Finally, it needs to be seen what the new regulations on religion mean. If authorities offer a way for non-registered churches to get an official status, which strings will be attached to it? And will the unity of the church suffer; will there be splits between churches accepting the offer and others preferring to stay away from it and continue not registered? Prior to assuming his current position, he served from to as the managing director of the Institute for Chinese Studies at Wheaton College. From to he served as founding US director of View Full Bio Related Resources.

Chapter 9 : World Watch List available 10 January - Open Doors

Perhaps for perspective we should instead read Open Door's World Watch List. Just this past Wednesday, the organization released their annual report, which ranks the 50 countries where.