

For the Least Reached

Prayer Guide



“Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.”

— Psalm 2:8, New American Standard Bible 1995

Thank you for praying with us!



Welcome to the August Prayer Guide.
This monthly prayer guide forms part of
For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer,
our one-year prayer initiative.

Each month we unite with the body of Christ in prayer for one least-reached country around the world. Many of the people in these countries have never heard the message of the gospel, or it's difficult for them to learn about Jesus or worship Him.

Learn more at jesusfilm.org/pray.



- Bangladesh*
- China*
- Egypt*
- India*
- Iran*
- Indonesia*
- Japan*
- Pakistan*
- Russia*
- Thailand*
- Turkey*
- Vietnam*

Nearly

75%

of all the world's unreached people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in the 12 countries that we will pray for this year.

WELCOME TO Iran!



The Islamic Republic of Iran was established in 1979 following the Iranian Revolution. The vast majority of the population follows Islam, and the nation's 84 unreached people groups make up 99.6% of the population. Ask God to make a way for all people in Iran to hear about His love for them and for churches to be started within reach of every person.



Iran is the second largest country in the Middle East. It shares borders with seven countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Iraq.

Did you know?

- ▶ Iran used to be called Persia. In 1972, in honor of the 2500th year of the Persian Empire, construction began on the Azadi Tower.
- ▶ Farsi, also known as Persian, is the official language of Iran. It is one of the oldest languages still spoken in a form very close to the original. Persians can read writings from over 1,500 years ago with less difficulty than an English speaker reading Shakespeare.
- ▶ Iran is a major exporter of caviar, or fish eggs, an extremely expensive delicacy. Iran sources their caviar from a fish in the Caspian Sea called beluga sturgeon, which can reach 15-feet-long, weigh nearly 3,000 pounds and produce the most sought-after caviar.
- ▶ The story of Daniel in the lions' den (from the book of Daniel) took place in Persia, which is modern-day Iran. Daniel was cast into the lions' den because he prayed to God rather than the Persian king, but upon Daniel's miraculous rescue, King Darius issued a decree that every part of his kingdom should fear and reverence Daniel's God moving forward (Daniel 6:26, New International Version).
- ▶ The national instrument of Iran is the tar. Tradition says, when played, this multi-stringed instrument calms and induces sleep.



Praying for Iran

Thank you for joining us as we visit a least-reached country each month. Iran is our focus this month.

Many of our requests each month talk about people experiencing Jesus' love and forgiveness. Jesus Film Project's mission—working alongside pastors, churches and believers around the world—is to help everyone, everywhere hear about Jesus and have the opportunity to receive Christ as Lord.

Have you placed your trust in Him? Have you confessed your sin and need for a Savior? If you haven't, take a moment to read through this webpage to learn how and why it's important: [How to Know God Personally.](#)

What's next after this first step? Asking Jesus to be the Lord of our lives is a one-time act, but as humans we will constantly fall short. Trying to live in a way that pleases God will be an ongoing process, and although the Holy Spirit is there to help us, you can be sure we'll mess up. That's why it's so important we make time to pray, read the Bible and confess any new sins or acts of disobedience toward God regularly. God won't leave us when we do wrong. When we bring our shortcomings to Him He can help us, and that constant contact helps us build and maintain a close and healthy relationship with Him. We can experience Jesus' love and forgiveness every day.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” —1 John 1:9, NIV

God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for sin for all of us. Is there a friend or family member you can share this truth with?

As you pray for the requests in this guide, remember to thank God for the forgiveness He has given you. Praying for others reminds us of what God has done for us.

Lucinda Mason

**Jesus Film Project
Prayer Mobilization, Team Leader**



Week 1: August 1-7, 2023



*"All the nations You have made will come and worship before You, Lord;
they will bring glory to Your name."*

— Psalm 86:9, NIV



Week 1 Prayers

- Day 1** There are 84 unreached people groups in Iran and they make up 99.6% of the country's population. Ask God to make a way for all people in Iran to hear about His love for them and for churches to be started within reach of every person.

- Day 2** Every Sunday millions of Iranians meet discreetly to worship the Lord. Please pray that all of Iran will discover God's plan of salvation, so that all believers can openly praise His name!

- Day 3** Major government projects regularly get delayed by years or even decades. Pray that Iranians would realize that the Lord honors His every promise, and for their hearts to ultimately trust Him, not man.

- Day 4** One town in Iran hasn't recorded a single birth for the past 18 years! Please ask the Lord to establish many healthy marriages and families in their nation.

- Day 5** Pray this verse for every Christian in Iran:


"Teach me Your way, Lord, that I may rely on Your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name." —Psalm 86:11, NIV

Add names or whole groups of people into the verse to make it more specific. For example: "Lord, teach Christians in Iran what You want them to do. May they rely on You. Teach them to fear (respect) You completely."

- Day 6** Due to disillusionment with the majority religion, some in Iran are turning to a former traditional religion. Lord Jesus, shine Your light in the hearts of those who are in the dark, so that they will come to know You—the way, the truth and the life.

- Day 7** As one- to two-million Afghans flee crisis and economic devastation in their homeland, please pray that they would be introduced to the hope of the gospel through believers living in Iran.

Week 2: August 8-14, 2023



"Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision ... but born of God."

— John 1:12-13, NIV



Week 2 Prayers

- Day 8** Iran, like many other nations, has a serious problem with dangerous crime. Pray that the Lord will protect the nation from all evil. May people make good choices and desire to live in a way that follows God's truth.
- Day 9** Domestic violence occurs in many Iranian homes. Pray that husbands would treat their families with respect and trust. And pray that whole households throughout Iran would experience salvation and the love and forgiveness of Jesus.
- Day 10** In the verse below, the apostle Paul clearly encourages us to pray for everyone. Let's pray for every Iranian person to know what is true and be saved!

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people... This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."
– 1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4, NIV
- Day 11** Iran's military has great influence and power in the country. Ask the Lord to help this institution fulfill its purpose, helping and protecting the Iranian people well.
- Day 12** Drug abuse and addiction in Iran are among the highest in the world. Father God, please have mercy on Iran. May drug addicts be drawn to the hope of the gospel and experience true freedom. Pray that every Iranian would be drawn to the Lord.
- Day 13** Some communities have a very high unemployment rate, leading to a low quality of life and despair. Please ask the Lord to restore the local economy, and for Iranians to long for the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, who will meet their every need.
- Day 14** In provinces rich with oil, most local people live in severe poverty. Father, please grant Iranians a more equitable distribution of wealth, so that Your justice may flow like water.

Week 3: August 15-21, 2023

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you."

— John 14:16-17, NIV



Week 3 Prayers

- Day 15** Some towns in Iran don't have Internet access, making it difficult to share the good news and train new believers in the ways of the Lord. Please pray for the provision of reliable Internet in each village, so that everyone will know the name of Jesus!
- Day 16** Ask the Lord to open every campus to the good news of Jesus so that Iran's students come to know Him. Pray that they in turn can become influential leaders who help others also discover and come to faith in Him.
- Day 17** Recent events in Iran have led to protests, grieving and disillusionment across all segments of Iranian society. May Iran's people seek the Lord in response to times of unrest.
- Day 18** Join with me in praying this prayer written by Paul for the Christians in Ephesus. Today, pray this for Christians in Iran.

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better."
—Ephesians 1:17, NIV
- Day 19** Many cities in Iran contain major religious shrines. The people within these cities generally don't know about Jesus, and they may not know the truth about the one true God. Please ask Jesus to reveal Himself to those who need Him in these places, drawing them to worship Him.
- Day 20** Parts of our country still only have dirt roads. Please pray for roads to be paved and repaired, so that God's message of hope can spread broadly and rapidly throughout Iran!
- Day 21** People with disabilities and rare diseases are often treated poorly and ignored by some in Iran. Please pray for provision for each of their needs and for compassionate and fair treatment in Iranian society. May they be powerfully drawn to the Lord who loves them and laid down His life for them.

Week 4: August 22–28, 2023



*“May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face shine on us—
so that Your ways may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.”*

— Psalm 67:1–2, NIV



Week 4 Prayers

- Day 22** There are major irrigation and water pollution problems throughout Iran. Ask the Lord to draw people to Himself, the only source of living water, and to grant wisdom to those resolving these problems, which greatly affect the health of the people.

- Day 23** Join me in praying that all Iranian Christians will faithfully read the Bible, learn what God wants them to do, then do it.

"And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by His decrees and obey His commands, as at this time." —1 Kings 8:61, NIV

- Day 24** As gospel-themed clips are posted online, please pray that many would be drawn to the life-changing message they watch. Pray that online follow-up and discipleship will be very fruitful, helping people take their next steps towards knowing the biblical Jesus.

- Day 25** Pray that Iran's leaders would fear the Lord, not man. May they humbly realize their need for God's wisdom, strength, and grace, so that they can lead the nation well.

- Day 26** Many Iranians travel to neighboring countries during holidays and vacations and hear the gospel message from Christians while they are there. Please pray that the seeds of God's truth will bear fruit in their hearts.

- Day 27** God may call people to move to another country, especially one where there are few believers, so they can tell others about Jesus. Pray that those taking this step will quickly learn the new language so they can clearly communicate with their neighbors in their heart language.

- Day 28** Residential buildings regularly collapse because of improper materials, poor construction and lack of inspections. Please pray for community and business leaders to long for integrity and an honest spirit. May they be drawn powerfully to the Lord's commitment to truth and justice.



Week 5: August 29–31, 2023

Week 5 Prayers

- Day 29** A team of people is working on a short film specifically for Iranians who may misunderstand Jesus and what Christianity is all about. These beliefs may keep them from believing in Jesus. Pray that Iranians will see this film and choose to put their faith in Jesus.

- Day 30** Due to tough economic sanctions, poor Iranians desperately take out loans with very high interest rates. Father God, please help the poor and underprivileged receive true financial help from banks and government agencies. Pray that they would ultimately commit their needs to the Lord and see Him faithfully provide.

- Day 31** Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for Iran each day this month. We believe You will continue Your work there until everyone has heard clearly about Jesus and been invited to follow Him. Someday we'll see how You answered our prayers. May heaven be filled with Iranians who started to follow Jesus in part due to our prayers this month. We give you all honor and praise.



Resources

You can see these requests and others in our [Prayer Experience](#), a web based app.

Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to information about Iran. <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/IR>

Prayercast has great prayer videos: <https://www.prayercast.com/iran.html>

A great way to help someone learn more about Jesus is to share the *JESUS* film in their heart language. We have over 2,000 languages available on our website. <https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html>

We also have multiple other films and short videos available. <https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch.html>

For more Jesus Film Project® prayer resources—including access to each month’s family prayer guide—visit the prayer page on the Jesus Film Project website: jesusfilm.org/pray



The Jesus Film Project app is completely free and available on iOS and Android devices. Get the app now and start watching and sharing a huge library of Jesus-centered films.



Each month we will focus on a different least-reached country. Many of the people in these countries have never heard the message of the gospel, or it's difficult for them to learn about Jesus or worship Him. Nearly 75% of all the world's unreached people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in the 12 countries that we will pray for this year.

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