

Prayer for Iraq&Iran

الله أكبر

(4th ~ 10th Nov.)



	Iraq	Iran
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area: 438,317 sq km • Population: 31,466,698 • Annual Growth: 2.19% • Capital: Baghdad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area: 1,648,196 sq km • Population: 75,077,547 • Annual Growth: 1.19% • Capital: Tehran
Peoples/ Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoples: 34 (62% unreached) • Official language: Arabic; Kurdish • Languages: 26 • Christians: 500,320 (1.59%) • Evangelicals: 53,371 (0.2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoples: 103 (90% unreached) • Official language: Persian (Farsi); Dari and Tajik are major dialects; almost all Iranians speak some form of Persian as a mother tongue or second language • Languages: 79 • Christians: 384,897 (0.51%) • Evangelicals: 117,054,491 (98.64%)
Prayer	<p>The Church is characterized by fragmentation – denominationally, ethnically and politically, despite the great opposition all Christians face. The majority are in the Catholic-linked Chaldean Church, but others are part of the Assyrian Church of the East, Syriac Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, Protestant denominations or even a Muslim-background believers' network. Some in the historic denominations are being impacted by revival; others resent and oppose what they perceive to be aggressive proselytism and a money-spinning focus of the newer Protestant groups. Outreach to the Muslim majority remains a terrifying prospect to most, although compassionate ministry by some Christians to all in need sees many Muslims profoundly touched. Pray for unity among believers, with a Christ-centred front that responds to hatred and persecution with boldness, forgiveness and love. Evangelicals are growing at an unprecedented rate. Many are coming from Muslim and even extremist backgrounds, touched by the peace, love and hope Christ offers. They are Arab and Kurd, in the north and south, within Iraq and scattered abroad. However, they come nowhere near offsetting the loss endured by Christianity as a result of the flight of the ancient confessions from Iraq. Pray for these believers, for their witness to non-Christians and for their faith to endure despite many difficulties.</p>	<p>The Iranian Diaspora is around four million. Most have found refuge in the USA, Canada, Western Europe, Turkey, Gulf States and other lands – where they can be evangelized. Western countries are making it harder for Iranians to immigrate. Pray for: a) Diaspora churches. There are probably about 800 Persian-speaking Iranian churches and house fellowships, totalling around 200,000 people. Unity is frequently a challenge. Yet these diaspora Christians are highly active and generous regarding ministry into Iran and among other Iranians abroad; their contribution in this regard is crucial. b) Ministries reaching out to the diaspora, providing not only evangelism tools and outreach but also church planting, discipleship and leadership training, so that Iranians living abroad will be reached and hopefully then reach other Iranians. Christian refugees fleeing from persecution are also assisted. Many diaspora Christians visit Iran and powerfully minister to their countrymen. Significant ministries include Elam Ministries, 222 Ministries, Persian World Outreach, Iran Alive Ministries and Iranian Christians International. Young people are particularly responsive to the gospel. With nearly two-thirds of the population under age 30, with disillusionment at an all-time high and with frustrated desires for freedom, there is a unique window of opportunity to impact this generation with the liberating good news about Jesus. Political, economic and social frustrations are often expressed in resentment against the regime and in increasing hedonism and materialism. Pray that the unmet longings of their hearts might be fulfilled as they meet Christ. Already, much of the underground church is made up of this younger generation.</p>
Alumni	0 alumni of ACTS are currently in ministry in Iraq.	1 alumni of ACTS are currently in ministry in Iran.