

# 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 Iran 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](https://jesusfilm.org/pray).



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|-------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Bangladesh</i> | <i>Japan</i>    |
| <i>China</i>      | <i>Pakistan</i> |
| <i>Egypt</i>      | <i>Russia</i>   |
| <i>India</i>      | <i>Thailand</i> |
| <i>Iran</i>       | <i>Turkey</i>   |
| <i>Indonesia</i>  | <i>Vietnam</i>  |

Nearly

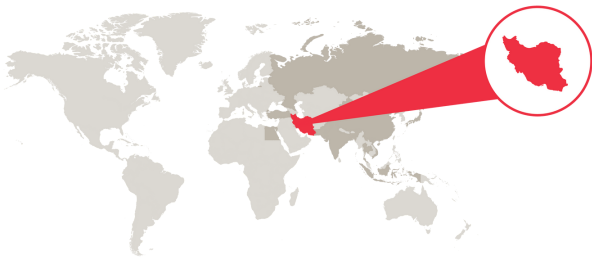
75%

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!



Photo by Sajad Nori on Unsplash.com



Iran is a land rich with diversity. Ancient palaces and bustling modern cities exist side by side. The country's geography contains beautiful mountain ranges, volcanoes and unique deserts.

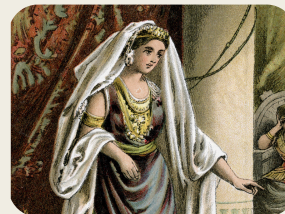
Many Iranians cherish traditions while embracing the present. Our prayer is that they will also embrace the love of Christ and that there will be flourishing churches within walking distance of every person.



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?

- ▶ The biblical book of Esther is set in the kingdom of Persia, which is modern-day Iran.
- ▶ Iran is home to some remarkable engineering feats from ancient times. One example is the qanat, an underground water management system (called an aqueduct) that dates back over a thousand years and is still in use today.
- ▶ Love skiing? Iran has several well-equipped ski resorts in the Alborz mountain range.
- ▶ The city of Nashtifan in Iran is home to some of the world's oldest windmills. These traditional windmills, known as "wind catchers" or "windmills of Nashtifan," have been used for centuries to turn grain into flour, and *still* spin today!
- ▶ Persians helped spread the game of chess to the Arab world and later to Europe. The Persian word "shah mat" (meaning the king is helpless) is most likely the origin of the term "checkmate."



# Praying for Iran

What comes to mind when you think of prayer? Is it a daily habit for you? Do you think of it as a task to accomplish or as a privilege? Prayer is, at its most basic level, communication with God. Take a moment to think about what prayer means to you.

There are many ways to communicate with God. Here are some methods of prayer that we see in Scripture:

**Asking God** for something (for yourself or for others)—this kind of prayer makes up the majority of requests in this guide.

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”*

— 1 John 5:14, New International Version

**Thanking God** for something specific

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”*

— 1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV

**Praising God** for who He is

*“I will praise You, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your name forever.”*

— Psalm 86:12, NIV

**Confessing** what we have done wrong

*“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

**Listening** to what He wants to say to you (often in response to our seeking His guidance)

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”*

— James 1:5, NIV

**Praying Scripture**—We included one Scripture-based prayer per week in this guide.

When you pray, do you focus on just one or two of these methods? It’s very easy to fall into that habit. Each prayer method has a particular purpose and is important. As you grow in your walk with God, try to incorporate each kind of prayer into the course of your day.

Throughout this guide, you’ll find a prayer request for each day of the month. This lets you pray for the needs that our ministry partners around the world have shared with us. What a privilege to join together, united in our desire to see God move in Iran for His glory and for the furtherance of the gospel.

*Lucinda Mason*

**Lucinda Mason**  
**Jesus Film Project®**  
**Prayer Mobilization, Team Leader**



A photograph of two men in traditional Arab attire, including white thobes and black ghutras with white agal. The man on the left is younger with a dark beard, and the man on the right is older with a grey beard. Both are smiling warmly. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

Week 1

*“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 Requests



- 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 Christians to plant churches within reach of every person.
- Day 2**      Every Sunday tens of thousands 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 face delays of years or even decades. Pray that Iranians would realize that the Lord honors His every promise, and for their hearts to ultimately trust in Him instead of man.
- Day 4**      Praise God for the recently completed meetings where pastors and leaders were equipped to train and inspire others. Pray that God will raise up ministry apprentices (like Paul's apprentice Timothy; see 2 Timothy 2:2) for each of these pastors to pour into, and that they will plant many new churches.
- Day 5**      Due to disillusionment with the majority religion, some in Iran are turning to a former traditional religion. Lord Jesus, shine the light of Your truth into the hearts of those who are in the dark about who You are, so that they will come to know You: the way, the truth and the life.
- Day 6**      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  
  
You can 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 7**      Pray that God will pour out His Holy Spirit all across Iran. May He remove the places where evil abounds, may He open doors that are closed to the gospel and may the hearts of many turn to the truth of what Jesus has done.

## Week 2



*"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 Requests



## 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

As in many countries, domestic violence occurs in many Iranian homes. Pray that husbands would treat their families with respect and trust. And pray that households throughout Iran would experience salvation and the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

## Day 10

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 11

The levels of 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 the Lord would draw every Iranian to Himself.

## Day 12

Some Iranian communities have a very high unemployment rate, leading to a low quality of life and despair for the people who live in these places. 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 13

In the following verse, the apostle Paul clearly encourages Christians to pray for everyone. Let's pray for every Iranian person to know what is true and to 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 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.



*"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 Requests



## Day 15

Some towns in Iran don't have internet access, which makes it difficult for believers to connect with people seeking to know more about Jesus in these remote locations. 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 the doors of every campus to the good news of Jesus so that Iran's students will 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

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 19

Parts of Iran still only have dirt roads. Please pray for local leaders to pave and repair these roads, so that Christians can spread God's message of hope broadly and rapidly throughout Iran!

## Day 20

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 21

People with disabilities and rare diseases are often treated poorly and ignored by some in Iran. Please pray for provision and compassionate and fair treatment for the needy in Iranian society. May they learn to draw near to the Lord who loves them and laid down His life for them.

## Week 4



*“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 Requests



- 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** As gospel-themed clips are posted online, please pray that those who watch them would be drawn to the life-changing message they see. Pray that online follow-up and discipleship will be very fruitful, helping people take their next steps toward knowing the biblical Jesus.
- Day 24** Pray that Iran's leaders would fear the Lord and not man. May they humbly realize their need for God's wisdom, strength and grace, so that they can lead the nation well.
- Day 25** Many Iranians travel to neighboring countries during holidays and vacations and hear the gospel message from Christians while they are on their travels. Please pray that the seeds of God's truth will bear fruit in their hearts and lead them to know Jesus.
- Day 26** 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 language of the country where they are called, so they can communicate with their neighbors in their heart language.
- Day 27** Join me in praying that all Iranian Christians will faithfully read the Bible, learn what God wants them to do and 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 28** Residential buildings regularly collapse because of improper materials, poor construction and lack of inspections. Please pray for community and business leaders to practice integrity and honesty. May they be drawn powerfully to the Lord's commitment to truth and justice.

# Week 5 Requests



## Day 29

A new short film is in the works that will address a long-held misconception that keeps many Iranians from believing in Jesus. Please pray that many Iranians will be drawn to the Lord through this new film!

## Day 30

Due to tough economic sanctions, many 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. May they ultimately commit their needs to the Lord and see Him faithfully provide.

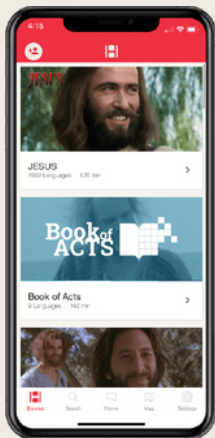
## Day 31

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 has had the opportunity to follow Him. Someday we'll see how You answered our prayers. May heaven be filled with Iranian people 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. [joshuaproject.net/countries/IR](http://joshuaproject.net/countries/IR)
- ▶ Prayercast has great prayer videos: [prayercast.com/iran](http://prayercast.com/iran)
- ▶ 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. [jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html](http://jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html)
- ▶ We also have multiple other films and short videos available. [jesusfilm.org/watch.html](http://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](http://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.



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