

9/2/2012

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

IRAN

By Alex Murashko, Christian Post

Despite the Iranian government's ongoing crackdown of Christians living in the primarily Islamic country, the number of Muslims converting to become Christians is growing at an explosive rate, according to the persecution watchdog group Open Doors USA. There is even talk of witnessing a Christian revival, especially among young people living in the country, say Open Doors ministry workers in the Middle East.

A house church movement within Iran is part of that revival and has triggered "many secret meetings." The growth in the number of Christians is happening in all regions, but mostly in larger cities, say Open Doors workers in the region. Iran is ranked 5th on the Open Doors 2012 World Watch List of the top 50 worst persecutors of Christians.

As The Christian Post has previously reported, although the established church in countries such as Iran suffers great violence, it is the underground, invisible church that continues to grow. Christians are putting their lives at risk for their continued faith.

According to Open Doors USA President and CEO Carl Moeller, a stream of Christianity has arisen in the Middle East's invisible church, sometimes referred to as the Muslim Background Believer Church. "Men and women, out of emptiness of their current situation spiritually, are turning to faith in Jesus Christ despite the literally lethal risks in doing so," Moeller said. "That's only attributable to the work of the Holy Spirit."

Also, at work is a common personality trait of the Iranian people, says another Open Doors worker from the Middle East region. "Iranians are very outgoing and want to speak about their faith," the ministry worker said. "That is why discipleship training (with elements of outreach and communications) for Iranian believers is successful. If you tell them that a Christian should share, the Iranian Christian shares."

According to the Iranian government, there are about 200,000 Christians living in Iran, Open Doors stated. Now, the number of believers is estimated to be above 370,000.

Read more at <http://www.christianpost.com/news/open-doors-growth-of-christianity-in-iran-explosive-71946/#BecL2HuJYm0gaKjz.99>

Watch Fox News report, Christianity fastest growing religion in Iran:

<http://youtu.be/qhoAZleVJmk>

- Pray for more permissiveness in sharing the gospel.
- Pray for the protection of believers there.
- Pray for the conversion of Muslims living in the darkness of Islam.