

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

Iraq



General Information

- Population: 31.5 million
- Capital: Baghdad
- Christianity dates from the 1st Century, when two of Jesus' disciples, Thomas and Jude, preached the Gospel in what was then Assyria. There has been a Christian presence in Iraq ever since.
- Iraq is a Muslim-majority country; Islam accounts for an estimated 97% of the population, while non-Muslims account for just 3%.
- Most recently, the unfolding events of ISIS and this terror network's atrocities.

Challenges

- Strife between ethnic groups: Most sources estimate that around 65% of Muslims in Iraq are Shia, and around 35% are Sunni.
- The current situation is creating a refugee crisis.
- 62% of Iraq is unreached with the gospel.
- Fragmentation among people groups.

Prayer

- Protection of Christians within Iraq from Islamic extremists.
- The Middle East is overflowing with refugees. Millions of displaced Syrians (most of them Christians fleeing from the war) are living in tents and shacks, particularly along the borders of Turkey and Jordan. Thousands of Syria's Armenian Christians have been relocated to Yerevan and its surrounding communities.
- Kurdish peoples to the north have shown openness to the gospel.
- From Operation World: Pray for unity among believers, with a Christ-centered front that responds to hatred and persecution with boldness, forgiveness and love.

Reference

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq>
- <http://www.operationworld.org/iraq>
- <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/06/20/religious-cleansing-iraq-christians/>