

Pray for the world in 2012!

The following pages of maps and flags and other information were compiled in December 2011 and January 2012. The information was accurate at the time of compilation, but details (names of presidents, kings, etc.) may change during the course of the year.

Sources include www.worldatlas.com, <http://education.nationalgeographic.com>, www.persecution.com, and www.kidsofcourage.com.

The prayer requests are from the 2012 VOM Prayer Calendar. You can use this information to pray for the world with or without the calendar.

WILL YOU PRAY?

The 2012 VOM Prayer Calendar

The Voice of the Martyrs' 2012 Prayer Calendar will help you fellowship with and pray for these persecuted believers, sharing in their trials and being encouraged by their tremendous faith. The calendar features photos and brief stories of persecuted Christians, many of them youths, who exhibit an unwavering trust in Christ despite persecution.

The prayer calendar makes an excellent gift for family and friends, serving as a daily reminder to pray for the persecuted church. For as little as \$4, you can give the gift of prayer to the persecuted church while giving family and friends the opportunity to fellowship with those persecuted for their faith.

But Jesus called them unto Him, and said,
"Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not:
for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16 (KJV)

Visit

http://etools.vomusa.org/a/vomso/bg_vomso_wdbm-20111205-PrayerCalendar_443.html
to request your 2012 Voice of the Martyrs Prayer Calendar.

www.scripturemelodies.com



After the defeat of the Taliban, this Afghanistan flag is the latest one to fly over this long-embattled country. It displays the *Pan-Arab* colors of red, green and black. The yellow coat of arms centered features a golden mosque ringed by sheaves of wheat. The Arabic inscription at the top reads, "*There is no God but Allah and Muhammed is his messenger.*"

Afghanistan (from www.kidsofcourage.com)

Interesting Fact Afghanistan is a land with no church buildings. Christians meet secretly in small house churches.

History After terrorists bombed buildings in the U.S. in 2001, the U.S. led a “war on terrorism.” As part of that fight, the U.S. got rid of the radical Muslim “Taliban” government of Afghanistan and helped the country set up a different government. This brought new hope, but Afghanistan still does not have freedom of religion.

Religion More than 95 percent of the people in Afghanistan are Muslims. Radical Muslim Taliban soldiers ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. Under Taliban rule, music, television, games, and videos were against the law. Any Muslim who became a Christian could be executed. Even without the Taliban, Afghanistan is still a very Muslim nation, with about 48,000 mosques. (A mosque is a Muslim place of worship.) Some Afghans learn about Jesus through radio programs that are broadcast from other countries. Muslims who decide to follow Christ risk persecution from their own families and other Muslims.

Persecution If someone in Afghanistan says they are a follower of Jesus, they risk serious persecution. Family members and neighbors may attack them. The police and government officials do not stop people from persecuting Christians.

Radical Muslims do not want missionaries and Christians workers who share their faith with Muslims to come to Afghanistan. They have kidnapped Christians who came to Afghanistan to help people.

Shanashah: An Afghan Christian Refugee

Shanashah is an Afghan Christian boy. Workers from The Voice of the Martyrs talked to him in Pakistan. Shanashah appeared to be about 10 years old, but he was not sure of his age. Many Afghan children have had very difficult lives. They have not been able to keep track of their birthdays.

Like other boys and men in his part of the world, Shanashah often wears a shalwar kamiz, which includes baggy pants and a long shirt. His favorite game is cricket. He likes to eat mutton and apples. In school, his favorite subject is English.

Shanashah has three sisters and four brothers. Every day his family reads the Bible together. But they did not always do so. They used to be Muslims. After someone shared the gospel with them, they received a Bible in their own language, Pashto. They read the stories in the Bible, and soon they gave their lives to Jesus!

Shanashah's family came to Pakistan from Afghanistan on a bus. Nineteen other families came with them. Now they live in a refugee camp where they sell vegetables to earn a living.

Many Afghans left their country when Taliban Muslims took over much of Afghanistan. Their life is "very rough," said a VOM worker who visited Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan. "Some refugee camps are just tents," the worker said. "Others have houses made of cement. Cooking and a lot of other activities are done outside. Cattle dung is often used for fuel. They make patties from the dung and stick them to the walls of a house to dry."

Shanashah told the VOM workers that he wants to be a doctor when he grows up. He said that he likes to witness to his friends about Jesus. His family loves Afghanistan and hopes to return there someday soon. In the meantime, they meet with other Afghans in their small homes for worship. It will not be easy to be Christians in a Muslim Afghanistan when they return. Ask God to help Shanashah continue to be a strong witness to those around him throughout his life.

Pray for Afghanistan.

1 – Pray that the 71 unreached people groups will hear the gospel.

2 – Pray for Christian converts from Islam. A parliamentary secretary has called for their execution.

3 – Corruption is widespread. Pray for righteousness and justice.

4 – Pray for VOM's radio and television outreaches to new believers.

5 – Evangelists risk their lives to disciple new believers. Pray for their protection.

6 – Pray that new believers in this Islamic nation will boldly share the love of Christ.

7 – Pray for President Hamid Karzai.

Link to map:

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/?map=Afghanistan&ar_a=1