

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



The flag of Azerbaijan was officially adopted on February 5, 1991. After gaining its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, this flag, dating back to 1920, was hoisted for all to see. It features three equal horizontal bands of blue, red, and green. A crescent and eight-pointed star, symbols of *Islam*, are centered in the red band. The country had a long alliance with Turkey, and the blue color has long been associated with the Turkic peoples. Green is said to symbolize the strong European influences on local culture.

Azerbaijan (from www.kidsofcourage.com)

Interesting Fact

The C.I.A. reports that in one recent year Azerbaijan had 1.3 million landline phones and 7.7 million cell phones. The population is about 8 million.

History

The U.S.S.R. (often called “The Soviet Union”) was the largest communist country in the world. In the early 1990s, it broke up into many smaller countries. Azerbaijan was one of those countries. Today most of the people are Muslims.

Religion

More than 90% of the people in Azerbaijan say they are Muslim. But many do not take their faith seriously. Fewer than 10% are Christian.

Zoroastrianism was a main religion in Azerbaijan before the Muslims came. Today the people still honor traditions from Zoroastrianism.

Persecution

Even though many people in Azerbaijan are not serious about their Muslim faith, many do not like it when a Muslim becomes a Christian. They think Islam is part of their culture. Friends and relatives discourage Muslims from following Christ. Officials sometimes give churches and Christians a hard time.

It is often difficult for young adult Christians to find someone to marry who also follows Christ. Since marriage is an important part of their culture, they are often urged to marry a Muslim.

Pray for Azerbaijan.

1 – Penalties for violating religion laws have increased dramatically.

2 – Pray for Christians in Kusar and other Christians who continue to meet despite persecution.

3 – Pray for Christians who are persecuted by both the police and their Muslim families.

4 – Pray for efforts to distribute Christian literature, which faces tight restrictions.

5 – Pray that the widespread corruption will turn many to the righteousness of Christ.

6 – Church registration is difficult to obtain. Pray that Christians will devise creative ways to meet.

7 – Pray for President Ilham Aliyev.

Link to map:

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