

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

March 2012

China

Colombia

Comoros

Cuba

An Introduction to China (People's Republic of China)

China is the world's fourth largest country (after Russia, Canada, and US)



Area: 9.6m square km (slightly smaller than the US)

Coastline: 14,500 km

Climate: extremely diverse, ranging from tropical in the south to subarctic in the north

Terrain: mostly mountains, high plateaus, deserts in west; plains, deltas, and hills in east

Highest point: Mount Everest 8,850 m (world's tallest mountain)

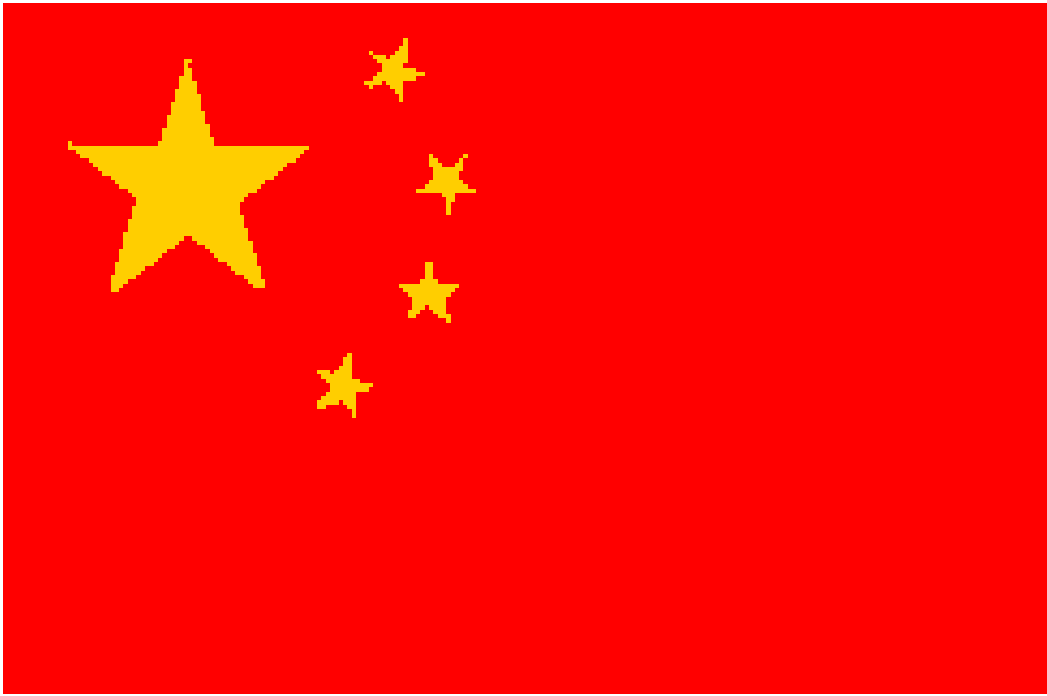
Natural hazards: frequent typhoons (about five per year along southern and eastern coasts), floods, earthquakes

Population: 1,321,851,888 (July 2007)

Language: The official language is Mandarin

Government: Communist

Capital: Beijing



China's national flag was adopted in September, 1949. This flag was first flown in Tiananmen Square on October 1, 1949 - the day of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The rectangular flag has a red field with five golden-yellow stars (each with five points) in the upper left corner. The star on the left is larger than the other four.

The red color of the flag symbolizes revolution. The large star symbolizes the Communist Party (which rules China) and the smaller stars represent the people of China.

A Special Sister and Brother

(from www.kidsofcourage.com, May 1, 2008)



Before the 2008 Olympics, weather officials in China practiced shooting weapons at clouds to control the rain. Officials shut down factories to control pollution. They removed people from their homes to make more space for Olympics activities.

China's government likes to control things. They even try to control the public worship of God by making rules for Christians and churches about what they can and cannot do.

China's government wants families to have only one child. They hope to control the population so that it quits growing. China has more than 1 billion people.

Donna lives in China. She has something none of her friends have. She has a brother!

When Donna was 2 years old, she tried to climb a ladder that led to the roof of her house. She fell and hurt her head. Her brain was damaged in the fall.

The government allowed Donna's parents to have another child because no one thought Donna would ever be able to do the things other children do. The family happily welcomed a new baby boy into their lives.

Then something unusual happened. Donna's brain healed from the injury! She grew strong, healthy, and very smart.

Donna and her brother had a special relationship. They knew they were blessed to have each other as brother and sister.

Donna still loves her brother. But now he is upset and confused. Donna learned about Jesus from one of her school teachers. She was happy to find forgiveness for her sins and to follow Jesus as her Lord. Her brother does not understand her new faith. Most people in China are not Christians.

Donna is praying that her brother will want to follow Jesus, too. Thank God for healing Donna and pray her life and good example will bring her brother, her parents, and others to Him.

Ling Gets a Bible

(from www.kidsofcourage.com, January 27, 2012)

Ling left her home in China at the age of 17. She believed that God had called her to share the message of Jesus with people in the villages of China. When she left home, she had no food, very little money, and no Bible.

Few people in the region where she lived had Bibles. Some people borrowed Bibles and copied verses from them by hand or memorized the verses. The few Bibles available had been smuggled into the area at great risk to the smugglers.

Ling walked from village to village telling people about Jesus. Sometimes she met someone who owned a Bible. She memorized verses from their Bible to share in the next village. Ling prayed that God would provide her with a Bible of her own.

One day, Ling heard about a woman four miles away who had some Bibles. The Bibles had been smuggled to China by missionaries. Ling hurried to find the woman. "No!" said the woman when Ling asked her for a Bible. "These Bibles are very valuable. How do I know you are even a Christian?"

Ling pleaded with the woman. Finally the woman said she would give Ling a Bible if Ling could say the Lord's Prayer without making any mistakes. Ling went to another village to visit a man with a Bible. The man had copied his entire Bible by hand. His hands were bent from the thousands of hours he spent copying the treasured words.

Ling memorized the Lord's Prayer from the handwritten Bible and returned to the woman's house. The woman gave Ling a Bible! She told Ling that some Christians had died getting the precious books to Chinese Christians.

Thank You Note from China

(from www.kidsofcourage.com, January 10, 2012)

A Christian from China recently sent the following thank you note to The Voice of the Martyrs after receiving a Bible from a VOM contact in their country. "To tell you the truth, we live in a mountain area which has inconvenient traffic. We used to constantly pray for Bibles which we lack. I even thought we were forgotten by the love of God. I am grateful that God heard our prayers. Everyone has their own Bibles by your loving dedication. When I hold this brand new precious Bible, you can tell my thanks from my heart. Firstly, I want to thank God for hearing our prayers. Secondly, I want to give thanks to you for your loving help. We will use these Bibles a lot to re-know God and work for him. Thanks for your dedication and may blessing be with you!"

Learn more about VOM's Bibles Unbound program at www.biblesunbound.com.
Find out about VOM's Bibles for Captive Nations project at VOMBooks.com.

Pray for China.

1 – Pray for Brother Yang and other Christians blessed through Voice of the Martyrs' Bibles Unbound program.

2 – Pray that house church leaders will resist the pressure to join the state-run church.

3 – House churches account for about 90 percent of China's Christians. Pray for trained pastors.

4 – Pray for Alimujiang Yimiti, imprisoned since 2008 for preaching to ethnic Uyghurs.

5 – Pray for the families of Christian prisoners arrested for their faith.

6 – More Christians are imprisoned for their faith in China than in any other country.

7 – The unregistered Linfen Fushan Church was raided in 2009. Pray for church leaders who remain in prison.

8 – Pray for Christian lawyers who work for justice.

9 – Pray for Christian outreaches to the Chinese military.

10 – Pray for President Hu Jintao.

Link to map:

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



There is no official meaning of the Colombian flag; however there are two popular theories on the meaning behind Colombia's flag's colors. One states that the yellow symbolizes sovereignty and justice; the blue stands for nobility, loyalty and vigilance; while the red represents valor, honor, generosity and victory through bloodshed. The second interpretation states the yellow stands for universal liberty; the blue for the equality of all races and social classes before God and the law; and red means fraternity. There is also a popular Colombian children's song which resonates - "yellow is our gold, blue is our vast seas, and red is the blood that gave us our freedom."

The Colombian flag was adopted on November 26, 1861, making it one of the world's oldest flags. Colombia declared independence from Spain on July 20, 1810.

The Jungle Bible

(from www.kidsofcourage.com, January 31, 2012)



Rolo is a Christian in Colombia. He used to belong to a guerrilla group that committed violent acts against the government and others. (Guerrillas are people who carry out acts of war, even though they are not part of a regular army.)

Happily, Rolo became a Christian and left the guerrillas. He wanted to share the good news of Jesus with people who were still trapped in unbiblical beliefs. So he returned many times to take Bibles to people in war zones of Colombia.

The work was dangerous, and Rolo had other problems getting Bibles up rivers to reach jungle areas. "The Bibles got wet," he said. "They are also damaged by rough conditions and mud in the jungle."

A Christian from Brazil showed Rolo a special Bible printed on a type of plastic that feels almost like paper. "When we put the Bible in the sink and turned the water on, Rolo's face fell. He thought we had ruined it," said a Voice of the Martyrs worker. "Then we held it up dripping wet, with water beading off the plastic paper. Rolo was delighted."

VOM plans to provide Rolo with jungle Bibles in Spanish when he needs them.

Pray for Colombia.

1 – Pray for “Rolo,” Gloria and others who take the gospel into FARC-controlled areas.

2 – Pray for Christians caught in the crossfire between guerrillas and government forces.

3 – VOM provides Bibles, Christian materials, transportation and financial support to believers in Colombia.

4 – Bibles and radios preset to Christian messages are dropped into Colombian jungles by parachute.

5 – Pray that many members of the FARC guerrilla movement will come to know Christ.

6 – Violence and persecution have intensified in Puerto Lleras and the surrounding region. Pray for peace.

7 – Pray that more churches will be planted in remote villages.

8 – Pray for President Juan Manuel Santos.

Link to map:

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



The current flag of the Union of the Comoros was designed in 2001 and officially adopted on January 7, 2002. It continues to display the crescent and four stars, which is a motif that has been in use in slightly various forms since 1975 during the independence movement.

The horizontal stripes and the four stars represent the country's main islands of Mwali, Njazidja, Nzwai and Mayotte. Note that Mayotte is a territory of France, but claimed by Comoros.

Comoros

(from www.kidsofcourage.com, July 6, 2011)

Comoros is a country located on three islands north of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. French and Arabic are two of the country's main languages. Many people in Comoros are poor. Most of the people in Comoros are Muslims. Christians are not allowed to share the good news of Jesus with Muslims.

Comoros was ruled by France until it became an independent country in 1975. Since then, there have been many struggles by different people to take over the government. Comoros celebrates its independence from France on July 6. Recently, a new president, Ikililou Dhoinine, took office. Pray he will rule widely, and that Comoros will enjoy peace. Ask God to open their hearts to his son, the Prince of Peace.

Capital

Moroni

Size

Slightly more than 12 times the size of Washington, DC.

Main Languages

Arabic and French

Time

At 6:00 a.m. U.S. Central Standard Time, it is 2:00 p.m. in Comoros.

History

Before Comoros became an independent country in 1975, it was ruled by France. Since then, there have been many struggles by different people to take over the government.

Religion

Mostly Muslim.

Persecution

The government does not allow anyone to teach Muslims about a different religion. In parts of Comoros, local officials limit Christian activities. Police sometimes give Christians a hard time. At some times and places, Christians do not have the same rights and freedoms as Muslims.

Pray for Comoros.

1 – Pray that the tiny number of Christians will grow among the population of 770,000 people.

2 – Only noncitizens may attend the three official churches. Pray for those gathering in secret.

3 – Christians face widespread discrimination. Pray for their perseverance.

4 – Pray for the availability of resources and trained leaders as the Christian population grows.

5 – Pray that youth in this Muslim majority country will have opportunities to hear the gospel.

6 – Pray for President Ikililou Dhoinine.

Link to map:

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



The flag of Cuba was adopted on May 20, 1902, containing a field with three blue stripes and two white stripes, and a red equilateral triangle at the hoist with a white 5-pointed star. The flag of Cuba was designed in 1848 for the liberation movement, which sought independence from Spain. The flag was briefly hoisted in 1850 at Cardenas but was not officially adopted until 1902.

The overall design is modeled after the U.S. flag. The red triangle is from the Masonic symbol for equality. *La Estrella Solitaria*, or the white Lone Star, is centered on the red triangle.

Scripture Soap

(from www.kidsofcourage.com, May 7, 2011)

Dr. Tom White is the director of The Voice of the Martyrs in the United States. When he was a boy, his mother made sure that he heard about Christian martyrs. As he grew up, he learned more about Christians who take risks for Christ.

Dr. White took a risk by dropping Christian pamphlets out of an airplane while flying over Cuba. Cuba is a communist country, and the government did not allow any Christian witnessing.

The airplane accidentally crashed in Cuba. Dr. White and the pilot were taken to a Cuban prison where they stayed for almost two years. They were not treated well, but they continued to trust in God.

The prison guards let Dr. White have a Bible because he was an American. Cuban prisoners were not allowed to have Bibles. So Dr. White cut a bar of soap in half, hollowed out part of one of the halves, and put a page of his Bible in the hole. Then he put the soap back together and used some water to seal it. When the guards weren't looking, he slid the soap under his cell bars, past a guard's office, and under more bars into the wing of the prison that held Cuban prisoners.

Make Scripture Soap

To make your own "Scripture soap," you will need to purchase glycerin soap base. Write or print Bible verses on small pieces of paper. You can laminate the verses if you prefer greater durability. Put blocks of the soap base in a large measuring cup and heat in a microwave for about 1 minute. Remove the soap from the microwave, and stir. If the soap is not completely melted, heat it for 30 more seconds in the microwave. Repeat until melted.

Let the soap stand for 30 seconds, stirring occasionally. Add fragrance if desired, using instructions on the soap-base package. Put the Bible verses in a soap mold or into containers such as muffin tins or aluminum baking cups. Pour the melted soap base on top of the verses. If the verse floats to the top, push it down gently with a plastic fork or knife. To dissolve any bubbles on top of the soap, spray the top with rubbing alcohol from a spray bottle as soon as the soap forms. Let stand for 2 hours, then pop the soap out of the molds.

Pray for Cuba.

- 1 – Pray for house churches, which find ways to meet despite government restrictions.
- 2 – Pray for church leaders, who now seem to be the government's primary targets.
- 3 – Pray that God will place Christians within the Religious Affairs Office.
- 4 – Pray for VOM's work in Cuba, providing Christian materials and supporting Christian printing presses.
- 5 – Thank God for increasing the size of the church in Cuba nearly eightfold since the 1960's.
- 6 – Pray that Cubans will turn from Communism to Christ.
- 7 – Pray for President Raul Castro Ruz.

Link to map:

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