

# Syria

- **Leader:** President Bashar al-Assad
- **Government:** Republic
- **Population:** 18,907,000 (794,000 Christians)
- **Main Religion:** Islam
- **Persecution Level:** Extreme
- **Source of Persecution:** Islamic Oppression, Ethnic Antagonism

The overall situation in Syria is characterized by heavy persecution of all types of Christians in areas held by IS and other Islamic militants.

Many Christians have already fled areas that are held by Islamic militants (including IS) or that were destroyed during the conflict. The Syrian opposition is becoming increasingly “Islamized” and the civil war is morphing into a form of jihad against the Syrian government.

The geographical concentration of remaining Christians in strategic areas is an important factor in their vulnerability to attack, as is their alleged support for the government.

Most churches are in ruins, yet some Christians make a deliberate choice to stay and reach out to their fellow countrymen with the gospel.

## **PLEASE PRAY:**

- for believers in Syria who haven’t fled the country.
- that they would be used as strong witnesses of Christ’s love to fellow Syrians.
- for the justice of Christ to draw the oppressed people of Syria to Him.
- for the government to seek peace.