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LAOS

TOTAL POPULATION
7,262,000

POPULATION CHRISTIANS
203,000

MAIN RELIGION
Buddhism

Why is Laos on the 2022 World Watch List?

Despite Laos dropping four places on the World Watch List, an increasing number of converts are being displaced from their homes as they face rejection by their villages. In certain provinces, local authorities remain determined to silence any Christian witness.

What is life like for Christians?

Christian freedom in Laos is severely curtailed by intense monitoring of the Communist authorities. Anyone who belongs to a house church must worship in secret because unregistered house churches are considered “illegal gatherings.” Even the majority of registered churches do not have permanent church structures and must conduct worship services in homes.



Laos is one of the world's five remaining Communist countries. The red flag with hammer and sickle can be seen flying on official buildings.



Converts to Christianity take the brunt of persecution in Laos—seen as guilty of betraying their community's Buddhist-animist traditions. New believers frequently face pressure and violence from their families and the local authorities, who often stir up opposition from the local community or religious leaders. Too often, this kind of conflict can lead to converts being expelled from the village and losing their homes and families.

Where is God at work in Laos?

Recently, 250 Lao believers received their very first Bibles—a day they had been praying would come. One believer said she never had a chance to own a Bible. “I now realize that God's Word can comfort and encourage anyone,” she says, sharing that when she was 14, she was imprisoned for a week because she had accepted Christ.

“I can do things now I have never done before. I now share and preach His Word, which I've never done in the past.”



MEET 14-YEAR-OLD “SOY:”

“After I accepted Jesus Christ, I felt like a normal person. My heart and soul were completely healed! However, my happiness was crushed because of harsh persecution. My friends and my non-believing cousins hate me and say mean things to me.”

How can I pray with Christians in Laos?

Day 1: Pray for Christians imprisoned in Laos—that they will be strengthened in body, mind and spirit.

Day 2: Pray for the imminent release of those who are detained and behind bars for their faith.

Day 3: Pray that Christians will find increasing favor with local religious leaders and government officials.

Day 4: Pray for the protection of Open Doors partners and wisdom as they serve our family in Laos.

Day 5: Pray for new believers who, right now, are experiencing persecution for their decision to follow Jesus.

Day 6: Pray that God would bring an end to the trafficking of Lao girls to China and give those who have been sold a way to escape their situation.

Day 7: Pray for house churches and pastors. Ask God to hide them from surveillance, attack and detainment and embolden them as His faithful witnesses.