



# Ethiopia

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On The World Watch List

**“When they kicked me out, life turned dark. What helped me stand strong was the Word of God.”**

– Khalid\*, a believer from Ethiopia.

Score: 65/100

Very High



Region: Africa  
 Leader: Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed  
 Persecution Level: Very High  
 Christian Population: 67,491,000 (59.9%)  
 Main Religion: Christianity  
 Source of Persecution: Denominational Protectionism

### Persecution From The Church

In Ethiopia, persecution is often dependent on what kind of Christian you are or where you live. Because of the government’s special relationship with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, other denominations are persecuted by both the state and the Orthodox Church. Christians who switch denominations and leave the Orthodox Church can face significant mistreatment.

Islamic persecution is also prevalent, particularly in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the country. Converts from Islam can be harassed and oppressed by their families and surrounding communities. In some of these regions, Christians are denied access to community resources, ostracised and discriminated against.

### Women Divorced For Their Faith

Christian women have been forced to marry non-Christians and then recant their faith. If a woman converts to Christianity in a non-Christian area, it is most likely she will be divorced by her husband. She may also lose custody of her children because of her faith in Jesus.

\*Name changed for security purposes.

## How can we pray for Ethiopia?

Pray for the church in Ethiopia to find unity in Jesus, despite their different denominations, and embrace Christians of every kind under the banner of Christ’s kingdom.

Pray believers who are oppressed would stand firm in their faith, despite the cost.

Pray for comfort for women who have had their children taken away because they chose to follow Jesus.

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