

# Iran

## **The Key to the Middle East**

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The situation in Iran is very unique and critical. Iran is a country where Muslim converts to Christianity are persecuted, and yet millions of Iranian Muslims are spiritually ready to give their lives to Christ. The spiritual and political climate of Iran has made it spiritually fertile soil. Now is the time to have a major impact with minimal investment in the country of Iran.

### **1) Spiritual Climate**

Iranians have proven to be the most open Muslim group to the Gospel in the Middle East. The Holy Spirit has opened the hearts and minds of millions of Iranians to the message of the Gospel. Through personal witnessing by family members and friends, and also through Christian radio and satellite TV broadcasts into Iran, there are now over 100,000 converted Muslim Christians in Iran and this number is growing rapidly. Most of them are new Christians who are in need of encouragement, fellowship, basic teaching, and equipping to reach out to millions of other Iranian Muslims who are spiritually ready to respond to the message of the Gospel.

Due to the current spiritual hunger in Iran, any evangelistic effort will bring much fruit. Christian TV broadcasts during the last two years have been instrumental in bringing thousands of Muslims in Iran to Christ. Furthermore, by providing a minimum of foundational tools and training to these Christians they will be able to win literally millions of others to Christ. By producing effective training videos and literature, and also through satellite TV broadcasts, these Christians can be equipped in the privacy of their homes to win their friends and relatives to Christ.

## **2) Political Situation**

According to Islamic Law enforced by the Islamic Republic of Iran, conversion from Islam to Christianity is punishable by death. In addition to the martyrdom of several well-known Christian leaders in Iran during the past few years, there have been numerous new Christians who have also been killed for their faith. Unprecedented spiritual hunger and the number of new Muslim converts are so great that the few churches in Iran that are allowed to function are filled with these converts who attend knowing that their lives are in danger every time they are there. Furthermore, there are thousands of new converts who dare not attend church at all. They have become Christians in the privacy of their homes through Christian radio and satellite TV broadcasts, through their friends and family members in Iran and abroad, or through reading of the Bible. Many do not even have a Bible. These new converts desperately need teaching, training, and encouragement to grow in their faith and win others to Christ.

This is the time to have a major impact on the lives of these thousands of hungry but isolated new believers by starting and strengthening house churches, by producing teaching and training literature, audio tapes, video tapes, and by broadcasting satellite TV programs directly into their homes.