



# 30 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

*May 15-June 14*  
**2018**

# Welcome to the North American edition of the 2018

## 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

**G**od is Good! As we celebrate a 25-year milestone this year, let us not grow weary but continue to learn about and pray with Faith, Hope and Love for our world's Muslim neighbors. Let us remember that the daily newsbytes about extremism in the name of Islam is just one part of the story; the rest of the

story is that an unprecedented number of Muslims have embraced Jesus in our time.

Additional Booklets (including, for the first time, a Spanish version, and the Just for Kids version) See Order Form on page 56

*"We are in the midst of the greatest turning of Muslims to Christ in 14 centuries of Muslim-Christian interaction. More than 80% of all the Muslim movements to Christ in*

*history have occurred in the past two to three decades, a time period that coincides with the modern prayer movement for Muslims. At the heart of this modern prayer movement is 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim*

*World. Come, join us, and be a part of shaping salvation history!"—David Garrison, Mission strategist and author of A Wind in the House of Islam (available from our online bookstore at WorldChristian.com)*

Let us also be grateful (and pray) for the growing number of Muslims who have either stood up against extremism in their midst, and paid with their lives, or are choosing a moderate stance, willing to revisit their faith and cultural traditions, and engage our modern world as good neighbors.

Last year, we had requests for just about 100,000 booklets here in North America—more than ever. While we are very grateful, we also know that there are still many churches unaware of this prayer movement. Please help us to get the word out!

### North American Coordinator

Please join us not only in prayer for our world's Muslim neighbors, but also through your financial giving. Your donations help us to significantly support ministry opportunities among the unreached, AND develop additional Prayer Guides. Donate securely online: [www.worldchristianconcern.org/donate](http://www.worldchristianconcern.org/donate) By check: payable to WorldChristian Concern (Address on back cover).

### ABOUT US

This annual worldwide call to prayer began in 1993. International coordination during that period has occurred from different countries (e.g. Australia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom). Other editions of this material are distributed by coordinators in different language- and geographic regions (see: <https://www.pray30days.org/directory>).

### OUR SPONSORS

Ministries and organizations whose advertising significantly contributes toward the North American edition of this prayer guide are featured starting on page 41. We encourage you to peruse those pages; they provide opportunities for further involvement.

# Hindu World Prayer Guide

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**OCT 28–NOV 11 2018**

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# A word from the International Editors



**I**t has been 25 years since this prayer guide first appeared as a tool to encourage Christians to pray for Muslims. Since then, many circumstances have influenced its production. Communications technology developments have made it much easier to acquire contributions from all over the world and publish in over 30 languages. We can promote *30 Days of Prayer* widely through social media, yet also carefully in many sensitive places via secure messaging apps. We started with a few missionaries and the supporting churches they could persuade to join, but now you'll find a million Christians praying through the guide in the most remote parts of the world, in languages you didn't know existed!

The last 25 years have also seen the rise of Islamic extremism, devastating natural disasters and relentless warfare in Muslim communities around the globe. It has also seen, as featured in the 2015 and 2016 guides, the largest number of Muslim movements to Christ in history.

Your prayers have changed you, too. We receive feedback every year from readers who have had revelations about Muslims that have widened their hearts to better understand and reflect the matchless love of Christ. The 30 Days team of volunteers who produce the guide have updated the design this year. Not everyone loves change, but our audience keeps growing, so we need to keep growing too.

We'd love to hear what you think! Send us your thoughts and tell us how 30 Days has been a part of your faith over the last 25 years!

Thank you for praying,  
**The 30 Days International Team**



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# Looking at symbols of faith



One of the aims of 30 Days is to help our readers have a greater insight into Muslim faith and culture. Understanding helps us to pray, to love and to engage more effectively with Muslim people and to be a positive influence on others in our own faith community.

This year, we asked our contributors to consider symbols of faith in the Muslim communities they were writing about. In every culture and subculture, symbols surround us—some we relate to, others we are not even aware of. We are excited to share with you the fascinating variety of symbols that have been introduced to us from around the world and what meaning they have for different Muslim people groups.

Christians universally acknowledge many symbols—the cross, the fish, salt, and light—images that have meanings we recognize and connect with. There are not so many universally acknowledged symbols in Islam, and they tend to be more localized. Here are some more common symbols:

**Calligraphy:** Because the representation of living creatures is discouraged in Islam, due to the belief that such creation is for God alone, calligraphic representations of verses from the Quran have been important.

**The color green:** Green has some traditional associations in Islam—in the Quran, for example, it is associated with paradise. It was also the chosen color of a powerful ninth-century Arab Shiite dynasty, the Fatimids.

**The star and crescent:** This symbol is found in some medieval representations of Islam, but was also used in Roman and Christian symbolism. As the emblem of the Ottoman Empire, it became more popularly associated with Islam in the late 19th century.

Symbols serve to remind us of important things, give us a sense of connection and help us to define our beliefs. Use the symbols you learn about over the next 30 days as inspiration for your prayers.

# *Where are we praying?*



The numbered pins on the map correspond to the day on which we are praying.

# *Frequently asked questions about*

# 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

## **How did 30 Days get started?**

A group of mission leaders was praying at a meeting in the Middle East. They were convicted of the need to focus prayer on the Muslim world and be more proactive in demonstrating God's love for Muslim people. The prayer guide was one way they responded.

## **Who writes the articles and produces the guide?**

The team that produces *30 Days* is a diverse, global group made of those who have lived among and worked with Muslims for many years. They voluntarily give their time in research, writing, translation, design and distribution of the prayer guide.

## **How do you decide who to pray for?**

We receive submissions from all over the world, so our selection is based on what we receive. We produce a writing guide each year for anyone who is interested in mobilizing prayer for a particular need. Contact us if you'd like to write for *30 Days*!

## **How do you decide which prayer points to include?**

Jesus appointed His followers to be His representatives on earth. We are the ones who will share the message of Christ to Muslims through our words and deeds. Praying for the physical and emotional needs of others helps us to grow in love for Muslim people and inspires us to care for them as Jesus cared for the people He encountered on earth.

The prayer points should be a starting point for you to be led by the Holy Spirit, as He prompts and challenges you.

# On symbols

In building bridges and communicating meaningfully to those of another faith, identifying their important symbols (as well as ours) is vitally important. But identifying a symbol, and not knowing the meaning that it represents, is like hearing a foreign language and expecting to communicate in it.

Culture, as well as religious faith (often overlapping), is full of symbols. According to Clifford Geertz, culture is “a historically transmitted pattern of meanings embodied in symbols”, a system of “inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of which people communicate, perpetuate, and develop their knowledge”. (Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures*, (1973), p 89) Beneath symbols are meanings. Beneath those meanings are values. These are “the values by which a community understands itself, from which it takes its aims.” (Edward Farley, *Deep Symbols* (1996), p 3)

If it sounds complex, it is. A religious faith, like Christianity or Islam, and the people who follow it are not one-dimensional. It is not that we have to understand fully the levels of symbols, meaning and values before we communicate in love, or before we pray for our Muslim friends and neighbors. But love involves a willingness to ask questions, desiring to

learn not only what the “other” believes doctrinally, but to understand deeper levels as well. This loving engagement comes because of belief in a still deeper foundation of shared longings.

These shared longings help us to understanding how a symbol for Muslims—like washing before prayer—can represent more than the surface, leading to a deeper meaning of cleansing and a value of presenting oneself righteous before Allah. How do followers of Jesus bring His cleansing blood as a bridge of understanding and revelation?

## PRAY FOR THEM

For Christians to have revelations about key symbols, meanings and values to use in communicating the gospel.

For repentance where Christians have been quick to judge our Muslim neighbors’ practices, not seeing the opportunities to share redemptive grace.

For further insight as we pray over the next 30 days.



# The Comoros and the shiromani

## PRAY FOR THEM

The Comoros have endured various rulers, from sultans, pirates and slave traders to colonial states. Pray that they would find freedom and life in Jesus.

Pray especially for women, who wear the *shiromani*, and who are a key to opening this culture to the gospel.

Island family life is strongly characterized by jealousy. Pray for mutual trust and commitment in these large families, and for healthy models of family life.

The nation of Comoros extends over four tropical islands in the Indian Ocean, west of Madagascar. The Sultanate of Anjouan (one of the four islands) was founded around 1500, but Arabian merchants, who grew rich here through slavery and the spice trade, had already introduced Islam to the islands. French colonials took power in the late 19th century and the Comoros became independent in 1975 after a long series of dictatorships and coups. Today, 99 percent of the population follows an African-influenced form of folk Islam.

The first Sultan of Anjouan chose a red flag. Red was considered a sign of power and kingship. This color played a decisive role in the clothing of the women of that time. It was reserved for women of high rank. In public, women were to be veiled with a red cloth.

In the 20th century, these red fabrics have taken on patterns and other colors, but red is still considered the classic symbol of Anjouani culture and is worn by all women.

Six squares of fabric are sewn together to make a modern *shiromani*. When worn, the seams of the fabric squares come together to form a large and distinctive cross on the body. The *shiromani* is worn on religious festivals, political occasions, weddings and in everyday life. An Anjouani woman can be recognized by her *shiromani* worldwide. It is symbolic of their culture and they wear it with pride.



# Peoples of the Caucasus *The fear of the fearless*

## PRAY FOR THEM

The fear of shame leads to violence—and suffering. Pray for transformation in this cultural belief.

Jesus came to set us free. Pray for Caucasians to be “perfected in love” that casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

Pray for opportunities for the Caucasian community to be introduced to the teaching of Jesus.

The beautiful mountain region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea partly belongs to Europe. Nevertheless, some of the least reached Muslim people groups live here. They speak 45 different languages, some of which are among the most complex in the world. The isolation of the mountains has helped keep age-old traditions such as blood vengeance alive to this day. The people mistrust all strangers and resist any change. The cultural and political situation makes it extremely difficult for foreigners to live in the region and serve Christ.

If asked what they are afraid of, the average Caucasian may say “Nothing.” However, in an honest moment, they may mention three distinct things, all deeply tied to cultural symbols:

**1. Fear of losing one’s honor:** The Caucasian dagger is always at hand to defend one’s own or the family’s honor. This is one reason for the frequency of conflict and violence seen in Caucasian culture.

**2. Fear of evil spirits:** Caucasians are afraid of being cursed by other people or haunted by *djinns* (spiritual beings). To keep spirits from finding the entrance to their homes, they hang a teapot upside down over their front door.

**3. Fear of being expelled from the *Umma* (the Muslim community):** Just as a single thread in one of the many beautiful carpets woven here is nothing on its own, the individual is negligible in comparison with the community as a whole. That’s why it is devastating to be barred from the *Umma*.





## Muslims of the East Arabian Peninsula



### PRAY FOR THEM

Pray that just as frankincense found its way to Jesus, that the message of Jesus would find its way into the hearts and lives of those living in the land where frankincense grows.

Pray that the aroma of Christ would emanate from the lives of expatriate believers living in this region.

Pray for wise men and women in the Arabian Peninsula—that in their wisdom, they would seek the way of Jesus.

Long ago, wise men in Eastern Arabia noticed a beautiful star burning brightly in the night sky and set out on an adventure to see where it would lead them. At the end of their journey they found Jesus, and presented him with costly gifts—one of which was frankincense.

Frankincense trees still bloom today, particularly in the southern region of the Arabian Peninsula. At the center of this region is a city that is home to six unreached people groups—each with their own specific language or dialect, with unique customs and traditions, divided into tribes and families. As different as each group is, they hold certain things in common—their unifying faith in Islam, their abiding love of camels and the daily use of frankincense.

Every day after evening prayers, the city is permeated by the sweet smell of frankincense as families heat it in burners and carry it throughout their homes. They do it to mask the smells of a hot day, to “disinfect” the house from bacteria, and to scare away any demons that may have crept into their houses from the night before. They offer this local treasure day after day as recognition of a felt need for cleansing, healing, and deliverance.

Wise men from Arabia once offered Jesus similar treasures when they traveled to meet Him in Bethlehem. Today, He is offering the lasting healing, cleansing and deliverance they seek.

# The Dagombas of Northern Ghana

## *Bad news medicine*

### PRAY FOR THEM

For God's blessing on Dagomba families, for good harvests and improved opportunities for quality healthcare and education in the many rural communities.

For many of the approximately 1.2 million Dagomba Muslims to discover the power of the cross of Jesus.

For the few Dagomba believers to be a light in their communities as they put their faith in the cross of Christ alone for their protection.

As a family head and elder of his village in northern Ghana, Abdulai is a well-respected member of his community. However, he still lives in fear of those who may want to harm his family through witchcraft. One form of protection he uses is *nangbantotim*, which can be translated as “bad news medicine”. This practice was inherited from African traditional religion but

is widely practiced in the almost entirely Muslim community of Dagbon, the kingdom of the Dagombas.

Before anyone sees a newborn child for the first time, burnt ground herbs obtained from a powerful magic man are mixed with shea butter in broken pottery, then a cross is painted above the room's door and on the infant's foot. A little of the medicine is put in the child's mouth or inside an amulet for them to wear. This serves as an antidote against any curses put on the child, with the symbol of the cross representing protection in all four directions.

Abdulai has also painted this symbol of a cross on each of the four walls of his room, to protect from damage during the strong storms common in the rainy season. Indeed, this symbol of protection can be painted anywhere. In these predominantly farming communities, *nangbantotim* can be seen on stones in the middle of people's farms.

Abdulai is proud to have the *nangbantotim* herbs and plans for his children to inherit them one day. He believes that just being known to possess them is deterrence for those who may wish him harm.



DAY  
06

MAY 20

### PRAY FOR THEM

Pray that Pattani Malay would become dedicated fishers of men.

Pray for opportunities for the Pattani to increase their income, develop their traditional trades and create employment for others.

Pray for lasting peace in the far southern provinces of Thailand.

### Learn more

Find out more about the Pattani Malay and how to pray at [www.MuslimsofThailand.org](http://www.MuslimsofThailand.org)

The Pattani Malay are a tight-knit ethnic community in the southern provinces of Thailand. A devout Muslim people, they are the descendants of Malays who embraced Islam as far back as the 14th century. Because of their Islamic faith, the Pattani have a distinct identity in Thailand, a nation primarily comprised of Buddhists and animists.

Many of the three million Pattani Malay live in rural villages where they pursue the traditional trade of fishing. As skilled craftsmen, they are very gifted at producing colorful fishing boats called *kolae*, which are not just for decoration but also form the basis of their livelihood. Their rich cultural heritage additionally includes the production of bright batik cloths and *silat*, a Malay martial art. Local food has a unique, often spicy flavor, and a meal can be a real culinary adventure.

Very few Pattani Malay are known to follow Jesus. Most of them struggle with poverty and concerns about unemployment, ongoing unrest in their region, and drug addiction among young people.

Seeing Pattani fishermen at work is reminiscent of the culture in Jesus' time. Just as He called several fishermen to become His disciples and follow Him wherever he went, we long to see the Pattani also follow Jesus and become fishers of men themselves.

## The Pattani Malay





# The Wolof of West Africa

## PRAY FOR THEM

It is a challenge to grow sufficient food during the short rainy season, and the modern Wolof diet is not a healthy one. Pray for community development projects that aim to improve agricultural techniques and maximize crop production.

Healthcare is a big concern, and many Wolof worry about what will happen if a family member gets sick. Few have extra money for medicine, and medical help is not readily available.

Pray for peace in their land, their relationships and their hearts. (Matt 11:28–29)

The homeland of the Wolof people is in West Africa—primarily Senegal and Gambia—just south of the Sahara Desert. Many live in rural, semi-desert bushland where they work as subsistence farmers, coaxing millet, corn and groundnuts out of the dry earth. They are famous for their hospitality and sense of fun. Teasing guests is a common way of making everyone laugh and feel at ease. Food is always offered and Wolof people will share even when they barely have enough for themselves.

In Wolof tradition, *kola* nuts are a symbol of relationship and respect. If a man would like to marry a certain Wolof woman, he will bring *kola* nuts to her father and uncles. The nuts are smooth and reddish and taste quite bitter, yet they contain caffeine and are an energizing snack. Whenever someone moves to a village or enters a new business arrangement, *kola* nuts are given to the chief or the host to convey honor and indicate a desire for peace and unity.

Among the five million Wolof people, there are only estimated to be about 150 Christians. Thus most Wolof have never met a Christian. Villages are entirely Muslim and Islam influences every aspect of life. Yet, if you were to spend a day with this warm, generous people, you would certainly come to love them!





# The Chiwars\* of Central Asia

*"Hurry up, the truck will be here in a few minutes!"*

The whole village runs to the place where a huge truck stops. Here in the mountains of Central Asia, where the food supply mainly consists of self-produced wheat, there are no shops and very little infrastructure, schools or medical care.

The monthly

visits of trucks that bring necessary items like tea, salt, oil, shoes, fabric and soap in exchange for sheep is always a huge attraction!

Because of randomly set borders, the 70,000 Chiwar people live in four different countries. In each of those countries, they belong to the poorest minority groups, adjusting their lives to survive the difficult conditions in high mountain areas. Mortality rates for infants and mothers are some of the world's highest, while the literacy rate is one of the lowest.

Today, Bibi Juma goes to a bush that is covered with red fabric strips to pray. Many years ago a holy man had died at this place, and by praying at this holy place she hopes that God will heal her sick child.

Like most other Chiwars she belongs to the Ismaili Muslim sect, part of the Shia branch of Islam. Ismaili Muslims love quietness and peace, and hospitality is very important to them. They have many superstitions and rituals, such as this one, to counter their fear of evil spirits.

In recent years, many Chiwars have experienced how God answers prayers in Jesus' name, and a few have started to put their trust in Him.

## PRAY FOR THEM

Pray for efforts to provide educational and job opportunities in these remote areas.

Pray blessings on those who are looking to improve community health among the Chiwars.

Pray for those who follow Jesus to have joy, strength and courage. And for more Chiwar to be transformed by the Good News.

*\* name changed for security*

# Cairo and the Arab film industry

## PRAY FOR THEM

Modern entertainment has a huge influence on popular culture. Pray that these series will be used to promote positive change in Egyptian society.

Pray for peace between Muslim and Christian communities in Cairo and for Christians to be courageous in loving their Muslim neighbors.

Pray for Muslims and Christians working in the film industry in Cairo.

Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is home to a booming film and television industry, earning it the nickname, “The Hollywood of the Arab World.” This is an aspect of culture of which Egyptians are extremely proud.

Each Ramadan, Egyptian families gather nightly to watch some of the dozens of TV series produced by the country’s thriving film industry.

Last year, 38 Ramadan *mosalsalat* (TV series) kept Egyptians glued to their televisions for hours, with genres ranging from dramas to comedies to thrillers, and even horror.

Throughout the year, one cannot travel on a main highway in Cairo without seeing massive billboards advertising all manner of products and services. During Ramadan, these billboards primarily advertise

these highly-anticipated TV series, enticing families to clear the tables after breaking their Ramadan fasts and settle in for an evening of entertainment.

The appearance of these advertisements is a sign that Ramadan is drawing near. It’s a symbol of the season, reminding Egyptians that it’s almost time to fulfill their obligations to Islam—going without food and drink from dawn to dusk in the hope of drawing near to God and obtaining forgiveness for their sins.

What heralds the start of a special holiday in your culture? The appearance of certain types of decorations, food and drink in stores? The advertising of seasonal events? Many industries benefit from the promotion of religious holidays, sometimes distracting from their purpose.

# The Soninke of West Africa

A thousand years ago, the Soninke were the dominant people group in the part of West Africa now known as Mali, Senegal and Mauritania. However, as they spread to other regions they became less concentrated and now live alongside many other groups.

## PRAY FOR THEM

Pray for those working to sow seeds among the Soninke to be effective.

Pray for the scattered believers, for strength and encouragement.

Pray that believers will have wisdom in living in their communities so that there is no need to fear persecution, but instead they will have the opportunity to share their faith.

The Soninke have a myth about a giant snake called Bida. Bida oppressed the Soninke people for centuries but was also the protectress of their kingdom. Bida was finally defeated by a young Soninke, which led to the doom of the Soninke kingdom.

The Soninke people have their own language, but many also speak one or more of the other regional languages. They were one of the first sub-Saharan people groups to embrace Islam and are proud of this fact.

Mission work among Soninke people is relatively new, having only started in the early 1980s. There are very few known Soninke believers—approximately 100 people among a population of 2.5 million. The believers are scattered in various places and there is no known Soninke

church. Encouraging stories do emerge, but mostly the goal of field workers is to encourage those who are seeking the Truth, and to equip those who already follow Jesus to spread the gospel among their family and friends.

A decision to follow Christ might lead to suffering and persecution. A Soninke believer recently told us: “Pray that I don’t get into the difficult situation where I have to choose between loyalty to Jesus and my family.”



# The Riau Melayu

“We are so glad you are visiting! Come to our friends’ wedding with us!”

## PRAY FOR THEM

The Riau Islands have been heavily deforested, causing high danger of wildfires and economic distress. Pray for wise management of their natural resources.

Pray that the Riau Malay language will be used by many to share the story of Jesus.

Pray that followers of Christ will multiply throughout the islands through the strong community network already built into the fabric of this beautifully hospitable culture.

Weddings and funerals are almost a weekly event in the villages of the Riau Archipelago in Indonesia, and the whole village is usually invited. Life and death, celebration and mourning intermingle as the villagers connect through these rituals.

The Riau Melayu are spread throughout 3,000 Sumatran islands and into mainland Sumatra. Community and solidarity binds the villagers together. At any given house, one of the first items a visitor sees after calling out, “*Assalamualaikum*” (“Peace be upon you”), is a large picture of Mecca hanging on the wall.

The Riau Melayu are over 99 percent Muslim. How this looks on each island differs depending on the local religious teacher and the villagers, but practice of Islamic rituals is often limited, while the cultural identity of being a Muslim is interwoven into every part of the culture.

An interesting point about the local language is that the dialect of Malay spoken in Riau Province is considered by linguists to have one of the least



complex grammars among the languages of the world. This may be a result of its use as a trade language between the different people who have converged in this area throughout history. The language is used to express the story of these people through poetry, proverbs and legends.

Some of those stories are of God’s goodness, and a few Riau Melayu tell them to others, leading people in their communities to Jesus.

# Religious Turks

## PRAY FOR THEM

Pray for peace in Turkey and the preservation of religious freedom.

Turkey faces complex political situations at home and in the surrounding regions. Pray for government leaders to act with wisdom, for the peace and stability of this nation and the surrounding nations.

Very few Turks from a conservative background follow Jesus, perhaps due to a lack of Bible translations in their heart language. Recently, a colloquial language New Testament ([www.halkdilinde.com](http://www.halkdilinde.com)) was published. Pray that this will have influence among this group.

On May 29 1453, Constantinople, the capital city of the Byzantine Empire, was conquered by the Ottoman army. Immediately, Sultan Mehmet, the Conqueror, performed *namaz* (a Persian word describing traditional Islamic prayers) in the Hagia Sophia, the monumental Byzantine church in the center of the city. This act, at a place which represented the heart of the Eastern Church, was a symbol to many Muslims that implied the victory of Islam over Christianity.

The conquest and the prayers have both significantly impacted Turkish identity. Attending the Friday prayers is essential in the life of more than 60 percent of Turkish men, while women usually pray at home. Many perform their prayers during the week as well. Keeping the Ramadan fast and religious holidays are as much part of life as circumcising their sons. And anyone who can possibly afford it tries to perform the Mecca pilgrimage once in a lifetime.

However, recent political and societal upheavals within Turkey clearly show that the practice of religion and the ideals of Ottoman times are not sufficient to create the strong national identity religious Turks are longing for. Religious freedom is increasingly under threat as secular and religious leaders struggle for power.

It is unclear what the next chapter of Turkey's history will bring to the people or the region. This is why we must not cease praying.





**DAY**  
**13** **MAY 27**

### PRAY FOR THEM

Pray for Tunisia to continue as a leading example of peace, freedom and prosperity in the region.

Pray that Tunisians would overcome social pressures and that interest in Jesus would become common.

Pray for Christ-followers who are trying to understand how to follow Jesus in the culture they belong to.

### Learn more

Visit [pray4tunisia.com](http://pray4tunisia.com) for more info, stories and prayer ideas for all of Tunisia's unreached peoples.

## Tunisia *Home of the minaret*

A minaret is a tower located next to a mosque, from which the call to prayer is traditionally delivered. Mosques can have one or several minarets and their various shapes are influenced by local taste.

The oldest standing minaret in the world is in the grand mosque of Kairouan, Tunisia. Its shape was inspired by the famous lighthouse of Alexandria, Egypt, and it became a prototype copied all over the Muslim world. (Note: the English word minaret derives from *manara*, or “light tower” in Arabic.)

Tunisians may not immediately come to mind as the greatest inventors, but this small country of 11 million has generated many other lasting concepts—from the word “trinity” (coined by Tertullian in Carthage around AD200), to a theological reinterpretation of Muslim tradition to abolish polygamy in law and fact (spearheaded by Tahar Haddad around 1930).

Politically, when Tunisians showed in 2011 that autocrats could be ousted peacefully, the Arab,

Kurdish and Turkish world orders were tossed upside down by this concept. Tunisia offered the unlikely example that a somewhat secular democracy could be wrestled back from political Islamists without a coup (the 2015 Nobel Prize rewarded this “proof of concept”).

Spiritually, some 21st-century Tunisian scholars have collaborated or publicly endorsed Bible translation efforts, which has had a great impact in many nations, encouraging Muslims to engage with the Bible.



# Chechens in Berlin

## PRAY FOR THEM

Pray for peace in the  
Caucasus.

Pray for Christians in Berlin  
to proclaim life to Chechens  
in their city. (1 John 1:2)

Pray for more freedom of  
religion in Chechnya.



*A*slan grew up at the edge of a small Chechen city in the Caucasus mountains. He loved the beautiful, remote mountains, which, for him, represented both freedom and strength.

After the break-up of the Soviet Union, the Chechen Republic declared independence from Russia. Aslan was too young to fight in the terrible war that followed but his family lost their home and had to flee to live with relatives.

As a Chechen, he was not required to serve in the Russian Army so he married young and started a car repair shop. While his wife was expecting their second child, Aslan was visited by the Secret Service, who wanted to hire him as a spy. He was given three days to join a Chechen brigade and publicly declare himself to be a radical. Knowing it to be a trap, Aslan fled with his family to Berlin, Germany.

There are about 1.5 million Chechens, and about 10,000 of them live in Berlin. They are a close community with strict social control, which preserves their reputation as the most devout Muslims of the former Soviet Union. Aslan and his family found refuge in Berlin. He started a small construction company and attends a Chechen mosque. However, he longs for peace in Chechnya and the opportunity to return home to the mountains.

It is nearly impossible for Christians to start churches in the Caucasus Republic of Chechnya because of legal restrictions and the threat of violence. In Berlin, Christians have the freedom to share the gospel with Chechens, but so far there are no known efforts to do so.

# The Java Pesisir Lor of Indonesia



## PRAY FOR THEM

Educational opportunities are a great need for the young people of village families, especially for girls.

Wise, honest leadership is needed in this region, particularly to carefully steward the natural resources that provide for the people who live there.

This region has very little opportunity to hear of Jesus. Pray for Indonesian believers to be bold in witness and for miraculous revelations of Christ among this people.

**F**ive times a day the call to prayer sounds in the central region of the island of Java in the country of Indonesia. As the call echoes through the villages, most of the population stop their activity to go and pray. With their faces bowed toward Mecca, they repeat their prayers. Then they rise and go back to their normal activities.

These people, identified as the Java Pesisir Lor, have a population of 36 million and live in a densely populated area known for its friendly people and lush rice paddies. This is an agricultural community, with many of the men working in the fields. However, many young people have moved to surrounding cities, looking for greater opportunity for their futures.

Even amid this culture-shift the idea of family and honoring elders is extremely important. The Java Pesisir Lor value community and time together, and no financial or personal sacrifice is too great for a family member. Nothing is worse than displeasing or shaming one's family.

Because of this, many young people continue in the religious ways of their parents whether they feel personal conviction or not. They continue to fast, to pray five times a day and to give to the poor, but their motivations may stem from obligation as opposed to true belief.

### PRAY FOR THEM

Pray for believers in Libya who face persecution for their faith in Christ.

Pray for Libyans to be able to establish the nation they dream of, with freedom, peace and prosperity.

Hope is powerful. Pray for hope to be restored so that Libyans can rise to make their nation a place where the bells can ring again.

In Tripoli, Libya, the landscape and people are marked by fighting that has occurred over the past six years. Dilapidated buildings and litter emphasize the sense of frustration that has grown as the efforts of the revolution to remove an abusive dictator have spiraled into chaos.

Far from the desired outcome they'd hoped for, Libyans have less hope than ever before. Although they are a resilient and passionate people, many have been worn down by the destruction of their country in recent years. They were passionate enough to lay down their lives in an attempt to gain freedom. Yet, at this stage, it is difficult to find someone who has not lost friends or family in the revolution. And many are left wondering if the suffering they've faced is worth it.

While Libya's people seem very religious, it is often due to fear of religious leaders rather than sincere devotion. The void of law and order has created a vacuum that has often been filled by Islamic teaching. Although Libyans proudly believe their nation is 100 percent Muslim, there is a small number of Jesus-followers who stand firm despite the struggles they face.

Recently, a local man entered a small international church in Tripoli, saying he had heard the bells and wanted to come in. Yet the bells of the church have not worked for years—a powerful reminder that God is drawing the people of Libya to Himself.

## Libyan Muslims



## Albanians in Switzerland

### PRAY FOR THEM

There is no ethnically Albanian church in Switzerland and there are few Swiss Albanian believers. Pray for these believers to be a bright witness in their communities.

Pray for deep friendships between Swiss believers and Albanians that allow deep faith conversations.

As migration mixes up ethnic communities in Europe, pray for good to come out of the mingling of cultures.



A first-generation immigrant, Sharif moved to Switzerland in 1988. Like thousands of young Albanian men who had flocked to Europe in the 1980s, he arrived with a dream of a better life. Indeed, many thousands more like him flooded into Switzerland during the years of the war in Kosovo.

Today, Sharif works in an unsatisfying job in a large factory. He dreams of one day returning home to start a business or return to a “better place” that he can only just remember. He has spent much on building the family home in his original village, and he has visited many times, being sure to bring back some money for those in need.

However, Sharif and his wife stay in Switzerland so their boys may attend a Swiss university and make a better life for themselves. With their parents aging and siblings growing apart, they visit home less and less. Slowly, their dream of returning is fading.

About 300,000 Albanians now live in Switzerland. They have a strong community, with most Albanian mosques teaching a moderate form of Sunni Islam. Yet, for most of them, Islam plays a very small role in their daily life. Indeed, most Albanians in Switzerland have many other worries competing for their energies, from work to family to the widespread discrimination they face.



DAY  
18

JUNE 1

PRAY FOR THEM

Pray that more laborers would answer the call to go to the Shia Muslims of Iraq and for Iraqi believers who stay in Iraq to have a bold witness.

Pray for freedom for Iraqis to live peacefully as Christians in their nation.

Pray that the local Iraqi Church would continue to be a light in the darkness of the Iraqi deserts.

## Shias of Iraq

On the tenth day of the first month of the Islamic calendar, Shia Muslims commemorate the death of one of their most revered figures, Hussain, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad. He and his tribe were massacred in the Iraqi city of Karbala. Every year, Shia Muslims pour into the streets and beat themselves in remembrance of the suffering of their people. Some might say that Shia Muslims are in a constant state of mourning as this theology of suffering runs deep in their religious culture.

Shia Muslims pray prostrate just like Sunni Muslims, but in contrast they place their foreheads on a small clay tablet called a *turbah*. The *turbah* is composed of dirt from the city of Karbala where Hussein and

his family were massacred. The *turbah*, as well as the mark it leaves on the Shia Muslim's forehead, serves as a symbol of honor and remembrance of what their ancestors suffered.

Over half of the population of the Republic of Iraq is made up of Shia Muslims. As the local Christian population in Iraq continues to dwindle, it leaves only a handful of churches in the entire country. With such minimal access to Christians, how will Iraqi Shia Muslims hear of the One who will break their chains of everlasting suffering? Who will tell them that Christ has suffered for them and that hope is here?



# Muslims in Nepal

Sabir was born into a Muslim family in Nepal and was devoted to his religion and his community. However, he felt that something was missing in his life. One day, Sabir went to a respected Muslim teacher for assurance. “Will this way lead me to heaven?” he asked. “If Allah wills it”, was the answer.

## PRAY FOR THEM

Christians in Nepal are surrounded by potential threats. Pray for them to have the great courage that is required to be a light in such a place.

Pray for laws that promote peace and allow freedom for Nepalis to follow the faith of their choosing.

Pray for God’s kingdom to grow in Nepal.

This left Sabir unsatisfied, and when he met some Christians in college he was attracted by their faith and their certainty of salvation. Putting his faith in Jesus, Sabir went on to lead eight other friends to Christ and was baptized. Soon after, the local Muslim community confronted Sabir, considering his conversion to be punishable by death. The eight believers were beaten but Sabir escaped to Kathmandu where he has been able to study the Bible further. He also secretly travels to visit other believers in remote parts of Nepal where he encourages them to share his faith in “the existence of a living God, His kingdom and His unfailing love.”

Muslims make up only 7 percent of the population of Nepal, but this percentage is growing, partly through conversion from the Hindu majority despite strict laws against any kind of religious proselytization or conversion in Nepal. As Nepal seeks to create even stricter laws about religious freedom there are concerns about the impact of this on individual freedom, but also about the risk to religious minority communities. While the Muslim community may violently defend their identity, the majority Hindu population has also been known to violently defend theirs, and religious laws can be used as a weapon in personal conflicts.



**PRAY FOR THEM**

Life is centered around the mosque. Pray that the mosques will promote efforts to live peaceably in this diverse nation and provide wise leadership to young people who could be drawn towards extremism.

Pray for those tempted by drug addiction and for the families who love them.

Pray that the Swahili Bajun will have opportunities to better understand the love of Jesus and respond to His message.

**M**any hundreds of years ago, Arab traders living along the East Africa coast married local women and introduced their Islamic religion and way of life to what is now known as the Swahili Bajun people.

A coastal people, the Swahili Bajun traditionally worked as fishermen, though many are now also in trade. Everything from their spicy food to their family and social structure has been influenced by Arab culture, making this one of the most devoutly Islamic tribes in East Africa.

Men are expected to provide for their families, but the local economy is reliant on the unpredictable tourist industry, and recent attacks by terror groups have had a negative impact on the economy. Many women supplement the family income by cooking, sewing or trading from home. There is also a growing concern about the rising use of illicit drugs among young men.

The symbol of the Islamic Party of Kenya is prevalent around this area, along with the white flag with a red moon and star, representing the struggle between Christianity and Islam. Though surrounded by a large Christian population in Kenya, the Bajun are uncomfortable associating with them and may regard them as enemies.

## *The Swahili Bajun of Kenya*



# *The Brunei Malay*

*T*he Brunei Malay live in Brunei on the island of Borneo in South-east Asia.

## **PRAY FOR THEM**

Pray for Brunei Malays who study abroad—they have opportunities to see things in new ways. Loving Christian friends could show them a new way.

Perhaps there are those who wonder about what God is like, outside what is prescribed by the government. Pray for miraculous encounters.

Jesus calls us to come to Him with our burdens (Matthew 11:28). Pray for Brunei Malays struggling silently to find Him.

Brunei is a tiny, tropical country surrounded by two Malaysian states and the China Sea. It has been made wealthy by an abundance of oil and a small population of about 250,000 people. It has been a Muslim nation since at least the 15th century, when Arab traders introduced Islam, and it has been influential in spreading Islam across South-east Asia—Spain invaded Brunei in the 15th century to stop their proselytization of the Philippines.

Islamic rituals dominate everyday life for the Malay of Brunei, whose culture is otherwise similar to the larger Malay population. They value harmony and conformity, and the practice of Islam is highly controlled by the government to prevent deviance from traditional teachings. The same sermon is preached in every mosque weekly, issued by the department of religion. Legally, Muslim males can

be fined for missing Friday prayers, or failing to meet any of the host of other religious requirements.

Two very ornate mosques, named for the sultans who commissioned and funded them, reflect the nation—wealthy, but authoritarian, with most of the population content to enjoy the benefits of peace and prosperity. But what concerns dwell beneath the calm exterior? Employment for the younger generation, social pressure to conform, and hidden family problems are some that will not be acknowledged by a people who will not speak negatively about anything.





# Resources for 2018



## Hindu World Prayer Guide

Our annual Hindu World Prayer Focus calls Christians and churches worldwide to take 15 days (October 28–November 11, 2018) to learn about and pray for our world's over one billion Hindu neighbors. That time period also encompasses the significant Hindu Festival of Light (Diwali). The informative prayer guide booklets (available July; preorder now) will help Christians to pray for the people(s) within this major and very diverse world religion.

**\$3 each (orders of 10–49:  
\$2.25 each; 50–249: \$1.75 ea;  
250–499: \$1.45 ea)**



## Just for Kids

This is the family/children's edition of the prayer booklet you hold in your hand. It follows the same daily prayer topics (shortened and simplified for elementary school-age kids), and also includes some fun activities. Involve the younger members of your church and family!

**\$3.50 each (10–49: \$3 each;  
50–249: \$2.25 each;  
250–499: \$1.75)**



## 30 días guía de oración musulmana

For the first time in nearly 20 years we are able to offer a Spanish language edition of the 30 Days Muslim Prayer Guide (adult version) to the North American market; please help get the word out.

**\$3 each (orders of 10–49:  
\$2.25 each; 50–249: \$1.75 ea;  
250–499: \$1.45 ea)**

**WORLD  
CHRISTIAN.COM**  
Resources and Ministry that Impact Our World

## WorldChristian Greeting Cards (Whosoever)

Illustrated by Mary Filidis, this Greeting Card appropriately features John 4:14 on the front of the card. The cards (4.5" x 6.25") are blank on the inside, and come in sets of ten with envelopes.

**\$10.00; Sale: \$8.50**



## Hiding in the Light *Rifqa Bary*

This is the story of Rifqa's journey from Islam to Jesus,



and how she ran from her father's threats to find refuge with strangers in Florida, only to face a court case that

**Order Now** See page 56 for full ordering details.



reached national headlines. It is the story of a young girl who made sacrifices to follow Jesus and who inspires us to do the same. **\$15.99; Sale: \$14.39**

### Two-DVD Special

*David Garrison, Rick Love and Carl Medearis*



Become informed, inspired, and challenged to join God in the unprecedented movement of Muslims to faith in Jesus Christ around the world and in your own community, with this two-DVD product special.

**\$52.98; Sale: \$21.19**



### 2019 Personal Prayer Diary/Planner

*YWAM Publishing*

Pre-order and join a 38-year legacy, a powerful prayer chain that extends around the globe! Over 40,000 Christians worldwide use this product to organize their schedules, journal their prayer times and Bible reading, and systematically pray for the nations (will ship in October).

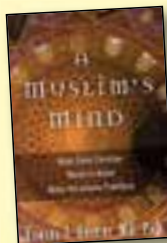
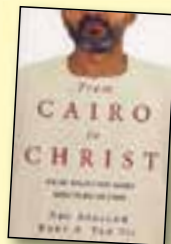
**\$17.99; Sale Price: \$11.69**  
**(Sale on 2018 version: \$8.00)**

### From Cairo to Christ

*Abu Atallah*

This remarkable story of how one Muslim man was drawn to Christ, sheds light on Islamic cultural dynamics we need to understand. Despite the challenges believers from Muslim backgrounds face, surprising numbers have begun to embrace Christ.

**\$16.00; Sale: \$13.60**



### A Muslim's Mind

*Edward Hoskins*

Most Christian workers rely on the Quran as their primary source for understanding Muslims. But it is actually the so-called Hadiths (Islamic Traditions)

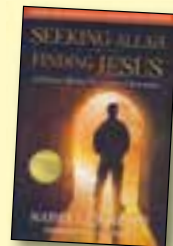
that influence Muslim thought and behavior more than anything else. The author spent years going through some 35,000 respected Arab Islamic traditions, condensing and organizing them into helpful topics. **\$12.99; Sale: \$9.09**

### Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus

*Nabeel Qureshi*

In this New York Times bestseller and Christian Book Award winner, the late Dr. Qureshi recounts his journey from a passion for Islam within a loving Muslim home to a growing understanding of the claims of Christ. Unable to deny the arguments but not wanting to deny his family, Qureshi's inner turmoil challenges Christians and Muslims alike.

**\$17.99; Sale: \$15.29**



## PRAY FOR THEM

The Dom have many physical needs—for improved living conditions, healthcare, better education and job opportunities.

Pray for more efforts to help the Dom thrive in the places they find themselves living.

You may have noticed that we have featured the Dom two years in a row in the prayer guide! That's due to the enthusiastic efforts of field workers who are working among them. Pray for these teams!

# The Domari Gypsy people

*I met "Tara" in the Dom tent when she was 12 years old. She asked me on our first meeting: "Do you pray?" and I regarded her as one who took matters of faith seriously. Initially there was resistance to any mention of the cross, but when she read about the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, she said, "I want to become a disciple of Jesus." She has many questions, but we eagerly await the first fruit of faith after years of prayer and labor.—a worker's account in the Middle East.*

Tara is but one of three million Dom residing throughout the Middle East, in countries such as Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine. Better known as "Gypsies," the Dom people are originally from northern India. They speak Domari and the local language, such as Arabic.

For centuries the Domari have been socially excluded and prefer to hide their identity due to their bad reputation associated with begging or stealing. Being nomadic and poor, education is not easily accessible and there is high unemployment, although many Dom are talented blacksmiths and excellent musicians. Poor living conditions also cause widespread illness among them. Many gypsy cultures recognize the symbol of the wheel, which represents this nomadic lifestyle and, for some, the cycle of poverty in which they are trapped.

The Dom have adopted the major religion where they live and many are of Muslim background. However, this is intermingled with folklore and superstitions. New acts of love among this largely unreachable group have started to open doors for the gospel.



## PRAY FOR THEM

For peaceful agreement between Fulbe and indigenous farmers to share resources.

For opportunities for Fulbe young people to have a more secure and happy future.

For the Church in Ghana to reach out in love and compassion to be a blessing to the Fulbe and thereby show them the love of Christ.

# The Fulbe of Ghana

The Muslim people who call themselves *Fulbe* in Ghana are more popularly known as the Fulani. They have a population estimated to be about 300,000, but it's uncertain as they are a nomadic, pastoral society. They move frequently with their herds of cows, which supply milk for the Fulbe's main source of food and dung for their fuel.

The general Fulani worldview is termed as *pulaaku*, which is defined as the "right conduct and behavior of a Fulani," or rules and regulations that they accept as uniquely Fulbe. A cultured Fulani is expected to be patient, wise, modest, respectful and reserved.

Marriage and naming ceremonies are the most cherished customs in these communities. Children are often engaged well before they reach the age for marriage. Newborn babies are confined in a room for seven days before their naming on the eighth day. On the same day the boys are circumcised.

The difficulties that Fulbe people face in Ghana are numerous, but key among them is a perennial conflict with indigenous farmers. Land and water feuds sometimes lead to the destruction of properties and loss of lives. Many of them are

living in poverty and serve as hired herdsman for local cattle owners. They hope for a better future for their children so that they don't continue to live miserable lives. Many Fulbe children are not in school and some are malnourished with little chance of becoming anything other than herders.



# Chinese Muslims

*Yearning for a mediator*

## PRAY FOR THEM

1 Timothy 2:4–6 describes Christ as our mediator with God. Pray for Chinese Muslims to know Jesus Christ as mediator.

Pray for Chinese Muslims who come to the *Gong Bei* to have a revelation of Christ's love for them.

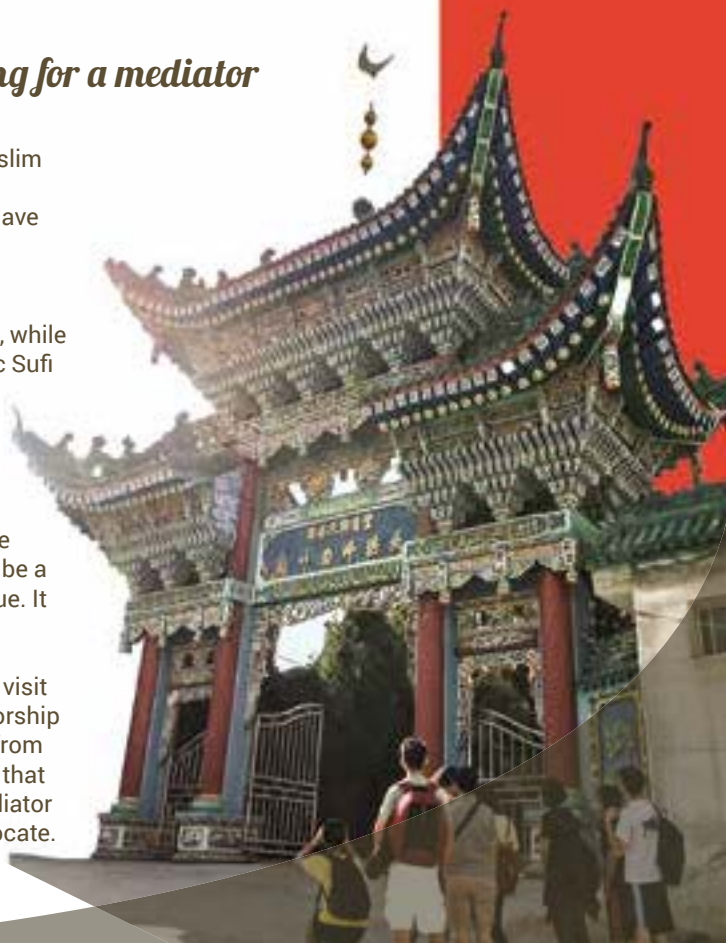
Pray for Christians in China to be a bold and loving testimony to the One they follow.

**I**n the far north-west corner of China lives a Muslim people with a colorful tradition. Chinese Sufi Muslims—a small minority of Islamic mystics—have left behind a number of architectural features.

This construction is called *Gong Bei* by Chinese Muslims such as the Hui, Dongxiang and Bao'an, while in Xinjiang it is known as *Ma Za*. This is an Arabic Sufi term, which refers to a memorial for Sufi saints.

The original meaning of *Gong Bei* is a domed building or a round, arched pavilion. A long time ago in Xinjiang, when a Sufi leader passed away, his followers and believers built a *Gong Bei* shrine in the graveyard. Muslims consider this grave to be a place where the living meet the dead and dialogue. It also serves as a community meeting center.

On special occasions a large crowd will come to visit the *Gong Bei*. They chant, praise the dead and worship the leader together. Followers will recite verses from the Quran or pray to the dead. They even believe that their deceased religious leader could be the mediator between them and Allah and speak as their advocate.





## PRAY FOR THEM

For freedom of religion in Eritrea, and for citizens and government to work together for justice for all.

For Eritrean prisoners to be treated humanely and mercifully.

For Christians in the Middle East to be reminded of their duty to visit those in prison and bring comfort to them.

# Eritrean prisoners

There is a symbol that is universal to every language and geographic location: Coca-Cola! Across the Middle East, bottles of this familiar symbol of refreshment are sometimes brought to prisoners as a small comfort from workers who want to let them know they are not forgotten.

Many prisoners in this region are arrested for immigration violations. They come from Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, fleeing their countries in the hope of finding somewhere better. Eritrea is a tiny nation on the Horn of Africa with about five-and-

a-half million people almost evenly split between Muslims and Christians. The Eritrean government's human rights record is considered one of the worst in the world. Most of these prisoners are escaping brutal conditions in their home countries, but end up in prison elsewhere without the proper documentation.

"Omer" is an Eritrean Muslim man who escaped a brutal mandatory military service in his country. He fled from Eritrea to Ethiopia, then to Sudan and finally to Egypt where he was picked up with no passport or visa. When he was in Ethiopia, he was shot on the right side of his body, which has left him so crippled that he cannot use the toilet properly.

Immigration prisoners like Omer have no definite sentences. Many languish for years in prison with little recourse or help in defending their cause.

As you see the familiar Coca-Cola symbol in your everyday world, make it a reminder to "Remember those in prison as though imprisoned with them" (Hebrews 13:3) and pray for them.







# The fibula of the Berber of Southern Morocco

## PRAY FOR THEM

Pray that Berbers in the south of Morocco would come to know Jesus the Messiah in a relevant, life-changing manner—maybe by pointers in their own context and culture!

Pray that those few who know and follow Jesus already would be strengthened in their faith and be enabled to bless their kin.

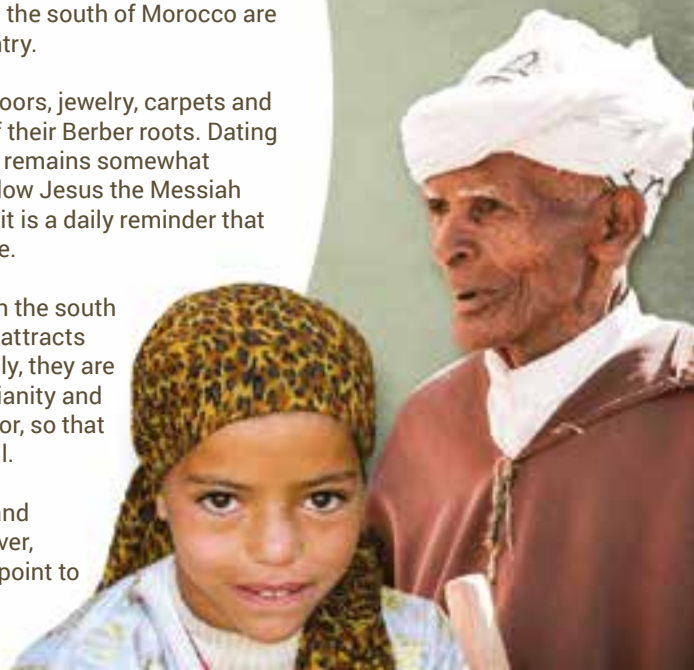
Pray for more gospel workers to come and study the Berber language and culture so that more could hear and experience the Good News.

When travelling through the south of Morocco it is hard to miss this symbol—the Berber fibula, an ancient brooch used in numerous ways in everyday Berber life. The Berber people are the indigenous inhabitants of North Africa, spread from Egypt in the East to Morocco in the West. The Tashelit-speaking Berbers in the south of Morocco are one of three Berber people groups in the country.

Nowadays you can also spot this symbol on front doors, jewelry, carpets and pottery. For some it's just an artefact, a reminder of their Berber roots. Dating back to pre-Islamic times, the meaning of its shape remains somewhat concealed. However, Berbers who have come to follow Jesus the Messiah perceive the cross of Calvary hidden in it. For them it is a daily reminder that there is hope and salvation available for their people.

More than six million Berbers who are Muslim live in the south of Morocco. Being a picturesque country, Morocco attracts more than ten million tourists every year. Regrettably, they are mostly mistaken as being representatives of Christianity and offend many locals by their appearance and behavior, so that the locals are not attracted to this foreign faith at all.

Berbers are proud of their heritage and thus know and identify strongly with symbols like the fibula. However, there are hardly any witnesses of Jesus who could point to the deeper meaning of its shape.



**DAY  
27** JUNE 10

## The Night of Power

### PRAY FOR THEM

During *Laylat al-Qadr*, Muslims are seeking God with real focus. Pray that God will miraculously reveal Himself to them in dreams and visions.

Many Muslims are seeking forgiveness for their sins on this night. Pray that they will have a revelation of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29)

Pray for this Night of Destiny to bring opportunities for Christian workers in the Muslim world to share the gospel.



*Laylat al-Qadr*, the “Night of Power”, celebrates the revelation of the Quran’s first verses to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. It is an exceptionally significant event—prayers and good deeds done on this night are considered to be of greater value than all the prayers and good deeds done in a thousand months.

This night is also known as the “Night of Destiny” when many believe their fate for the following year is determined. Therefore, it is especially important for Muslims to pray for forgiveness and blessings on this night, and many will pray throughout the night—some even stay in the mosque for the whole of the last ten days of Ramadan so as not to miss this time.

There are different opinions about the date for *Laylat al-Qadr* but, in general, it is agreed that it is most likely to fall during the last ten nights of Ramadan, with the odd nights being more likely. Of the odd nights, the night of the 27th (which is the night before the 27th of Ramadan, as the Islamic day starts with nightfall) is most likely, according to many Muslim scholars.

It is also believed that the angels spend this night in constant journey between heaven and earth, dispensing peace and blessings on believers as they pray.

## PRAY FOR THEM

Pray for the discipleship of followers of Christ and the development of new forms of worship that work in Sylheti culture.

Pray for the distribution of existing Scriptures and the expression of the Living Word. (1 Peter 1:22–23)

Pray for believers among the Sylheti to develop into a giving church that supports one another and is a testimony to the community.

# *The Sylheti* *A movement to Christ has begun*

**M**ost of the 11 million Sylheti people live in the north-east of Bangladesh, in the Sylhet district. Some can be found just across the border in India and many have moved to Arab or Western countries.

In the year 2000, there were only one or two followers of Christ among the 11 million Muslim Sylheti. But by 2017, their number had grown to more than one thousand. This is a documented movement to faith in Christ in a strong Muslim community.

More and more Sylheti are following Jesus, but it has

been difficult to establish a strong church fellowship. There are a few traditional Christian churches in Sylhet, but they are mostly made up of former Hindus and their cultural background is very different from that of the believers with a Muslim background. These churches practice Western forms of worship and use religious vocabulary that has a Hindu influence, which is alienating for Muslim-background believers.

The New Testament translation into Sylhet was completed in 2016—a real milestone! But even more important than the ongoing translation work is that the Word of God gets into the hands and the hearts of the believers.

The middle class is growing among the Sylheti, but many of them are still very poor. Any contact with abroad is immediately seen as a source of finances. And, in general, there is much envy towards one other, which prevents true fellowship. But the Holy Spirit can nurture a different attitude, so that people would desire to give, even when they are poor.



## Sacred bread



### PRAY FOR THEM

Thank God for Muslims who are discovering Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Pray that more Muslims would hunger for the only One who gives eternal life.

Ask the Lord to give wisdom and insight to field workers as they share how Jesus alone truly satisfies.

*Adapted from an article originally published by Frontiers USA.*

“I never feel full unless I eat some bread,” a Muslim told Jessica, a Frontiers worker.

Bread plays an important part of life in the Muslim community where Jessica lives. Her neighbors carefully hang tied bags of old bread on dumpsters. They never throw bread away. Even discarding stale or moldy bread would be a sinful waste.

In *Growing Up in an Egyptian Village* author Hamed Ammar writes:

“Bread is not only filling, but also possesses an aura of sacredness, being believed to be the essence of life. The [Arabic] name given to bread is *aish* which literally means life. It is profane to put bread on the ground, and every effort must be made to pick up any crumb that falls to the ground for fear of it being trodden on. ...Children are also enjoined to kiss bread if it falls from their hands on the ground, and if they

find it lying in the street to remove it into a crevice on the wall. They are punished if they throw bread from their hands when angry or annoyed, as this might make the *baraka* [blessing] fly from the house.”

Jessica noticed that, inevitably, those little bags of old bread would be collected by some hungry soul.

But Muslims need more than just physical *aish*. Recently, one of Jessica’s Muslim friends begged her for resources to learn more about Jesus. She is hungry for the Bread that gives eternal life.

“Understanding their sacred view of bread makes me all the more excited to tell my friends about Christ, the true Bread of Life,” (John 6:48–51) Jessica says. “May their hunger be filled by the Living Bread that comes down from heaven!”

**PRAY FOR THEM**

For the longings Christians and Muslims share to be doorways for the gospel.

For creative revelation of how symbols can be door-openers for the love of Jesus.

For the love of Christ to be the deeper meaning and value that we reflect in our relationships with Muslims.

# *The power of symbols*

*A*s mentioned at the beginning of this guide, meanings and values are deeper than symbols and form a foundation of shared longings. These longings are evident in every human being, as all of us are made in God's image, however marred that might be with sin. Christians and Muslims share with people of faith (or no faith) reflections of these longings, however faint.

At a surface level of culture or religion, symbols are like doors to deeper levels of meaning and values. Understanding the power of symbols is like finding the right key to a locked door. Once doors are open, old symbols can be used to express new truths, or new symbols created to express deeper meaning and values.

When we recognize our shared longings, we are more willing to engage sensitively with someone from another faith. What are some of these shared longings?

**1. Peace and security.** Is there any Christian or Muslim, or human being generally, who doesn't long for peace and security for themselves and those they love? It is foundational to being human, but ironically can result in waging war to find peace.

**2. Hope in the future.** Every culture/faith has symbols of hope, whether monuments or skyscrapers, mosques or churches. When a culture/faith destroys symbols of hope, deeper meanings and values can also die. A hopeless future requires reaffirming or creating new symbols of hope.

**3. Right relationship with God.** The commitment to pray is a strong value in both faiths. It is expressed in a variety of symbols. At this symbolic level, how do Christians communicate respect for the longings Muslims have for Allah? What symbols build bridges in prayer rather than alienate?



# Eid al-Fitr

## Pray for Muslims as they mark the end of Ramadan

### Stay involved

#### KEEP LEARNING

Check out our extensive list of Islam-related titles at [worldchristian.com/category/islam](http://worldchristian.com/category/islam)

#### GIVE FINANCIALLY

Please consider giving toward the growing Muslim Prayer ministry, or toward the development of additional prayer guides (e.g. that focus on the Hindu and Buddhist worlds).

Online: [worldchristian.concern.org/donate](http://worldchristian.concern.org/donate)

By mail: see address on back cover  
(Tax-deductible to U.S. tax payers)

Muslims around the world will celebrate the three-day *Eid al-Fitr* holiday this weekend. Though the exact start date depends on the sighting of the moon, Eid will likely begin on Thursday, June 14.

Over the next few days, Muslims will celebrate the end of Ramadan by attending prayers at a local mosque or other gathering place and breaking the fast with a special feast. Most will usually dress in their best new clothes as they visit friends and family, wishing them a happy Eid.

In many countries, Muslims have a tradition of giving money and food to the poor at this time. Many will give gifts of candy or money to children, which is why this holiday is sometimes known as Sweet Eid. It is a happy, joyous occasion somewhat similar to celebrating Christmas.

If you have a Muslim friend, neighbor or co-worker, make sure to greet them with a warm "*Eid Mubarak*" ("Blessed Eid") and ask them how they are celebrating. Or pay them a short visit to their home, a common expression of friendship and celebration during this season.

Finally, please remember that your prayers are vital to the transformation of lives. Not just during this time, but throughout the year.

Thank you for praying!



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1 to 300,000

The largest football stadiums in the US hold over 100,000 people. Imagine three of those stadiums filled with people, and only one person sent to serve them. That is the number of Muslims for every one Christian worker.

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12 lessons on Islam and how to reach Muslims. The Dare to Explore Bible study and companion DVD lessons are a crucial resource. This study helps equip the church to make a positive lasting change among Muslims. Any true Christ follower may facilitate the lessons. The DVD includes over six hours of teaching by Samya Johnson, with testimonies of former Muslims, documentaries, and Q&A bonus sections.

Retail price: \$89 - Additional books: \$19/copy

**Special May-Aug. Offer:** \$59 - Additional books: \$10/copy when buy 10 or more for your group.

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**Bonus:** The Jesus Film in 16 languages.

Orders and contact: [calloflove.org](http://calloflove.org) | 832-220-4040 | [info@calloflove.org](mailto:info@calloflove.org) | P.O. Box 498698, Cincinnati, OH 45249 USA

Call of Love Ministries serves through various media and outreach venues to deliver God's message of HOPE and LIFE to the Muslims in North America and globally. We also disclose the TRUTH about Islam and awaken believers to God's heart for the Muslims by providing practical tools and teachings.

Watch us on Youtube:

**Call of Love Ministries**

(weekly episodes of our English TV program  
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Training workshops for high school and college students.

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HOPE WORTH SHARING



A woman wearing a black niqab stands in the foreground, her back to the camera. She is positioned in front of a wall that is heavily layered with posters, some of which are in Arabic. The wall appears to be in a state of disrepair, with some posters torn or peeling. The overall scene suggests a context of persecution or oppression.

# Hope & Help for the Persecuted Church



Support for the unsupported  
**[ChristianResponse.org](https://ChristianResponse.org)**  
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Fatima attends  
church and loses  
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Get involved practically in  
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**No one should live and die without hearing**

**God's good news.** Convinced of this, we believe He has called us to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known.

**Pray. Give. Go.** Come and see; through prayer and care help us share the best news of hope and life with people in hard places. Opportunities to serve include *short term, midterm, and long term.*

**SIM**

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# Equipping Indigenous Church Planters To Impact Unreached Muslim Communities

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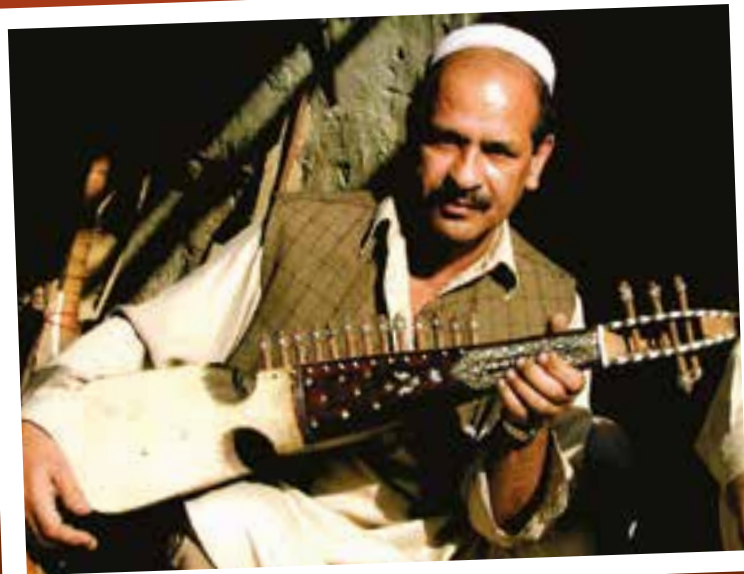


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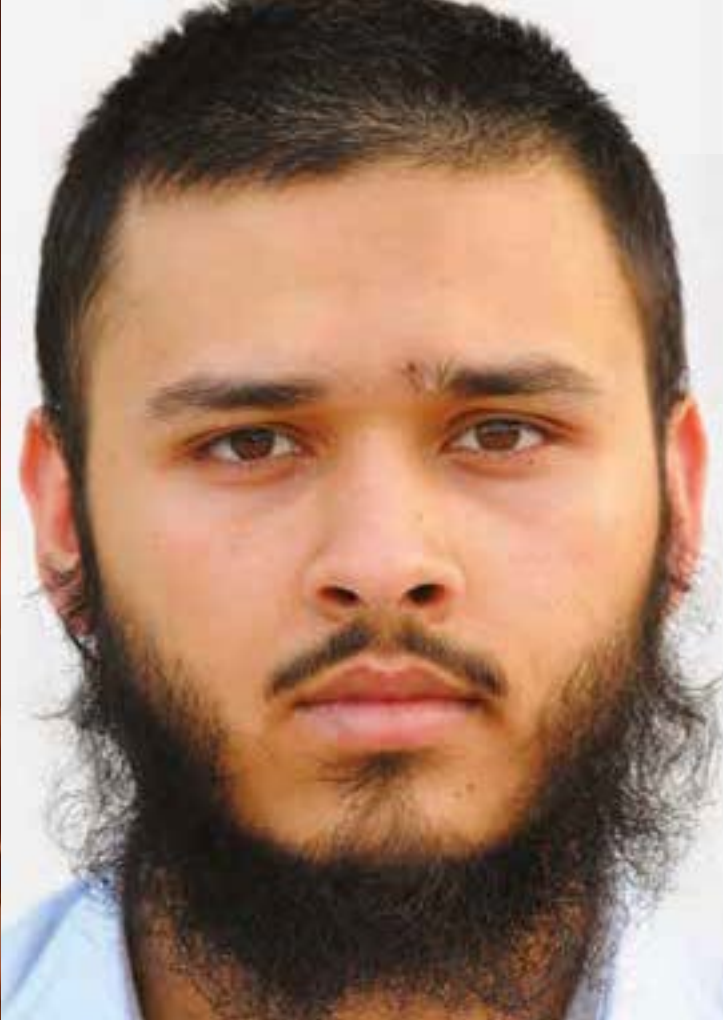
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# Have a heart for Muslim peoples?

We'd love to talk with you about how God could use your professional skills in the Muslim world. Our 160-year history has given us strong networks and deep cultural understanding. We draw from that wisdom as we seek to represent Christ in the places we serve. Come join our community.

## ON TRACK

- Serve from 1 month to 1 year alongside other Christians.
- Use your vocational or marketplace skills for Christ.
- Benefit from mentoring relationships.

## MED SCHOOL ELECTIVE

- Use a fourth year med school elective in overseas ministry.
- Work in a supervised setting in a Christian hospital in South Asia or the Arab world.

## CAREER TRACK

- Commit to learning the language and culture.
- Use your professional skills in integrated ministry serving marginalized people who have little access to the Gospel.

# GO WHERE THE GOSPEL ISN'T



[christar.org](http://christar.org)

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# *Searching for a Father*

A Ramadan prayer guide by  frontiers™



*Searching for a Father* features a short story about Firas and his family—Syrian refugees experiencing Ramadan in a new land—told through a series of emails.

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**Inviting believers across Canada to PRAY for and LOVE Muslims into God's Kingdom!**

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**HELP MEET FELT NEEDS AND FORGE LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS!**

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30 Days of Prayer is a global  
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Muslims with faith, hope and love  
since 1993.

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