

RAMADAN 2018 PRAYER GUIDE

16 May – 14 June



Let us show our love for Muslims by praying for them!

Since 1992, millions of Christians have prayed during the month of [Ramadan](#) for breakthroughs in the gospel amongst Muslims worldwide. With hundreds of thousands of other Christians worldwide, we are also engaging in prayer for 30 days for Muslims through this prayer booklet. The prayer information provided enables Christians to pray for Muslims during Ramadan in an informed and focused way.

Our prayers are an act of love for Muslims - sharing their burdens, understanding their concerns, and petitioning God on their behalf. Pray for Muslims to have a revelation of the love of God the Father for them. Ask for them to realise that Jesus Christ shed His blood for them also, so they too can be cleansed from sin and know God will accept them as His children and be reconciled with them.

You can use the information in this Jericho Walls Prayer Guide to pray during Ramadan. Another prayer guide which is available in a number of languages, known as the 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World Prayer Guide, can be downloaded from www.pray30days.org.

Day 1: Honour killings

16 May

Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and cause them put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:21-22).

[Honour killings](#) (or shame killings) are quite common in Islam. Honour killings occur when someone has violated the principles of a community or religion and brought shame or dishonour on the family. For example, a woman refusing to enter an arranged marriage, or being in a relationship that is disapproved of by the family, having sex outside marriage, being the victim of rape, dressing in inappropriate ways, engaging in non-heterosexual relations, or renouncing Islam.

When a Muslim converts to Christianity, they may be beaten, chased out of the home and ostracised by the family. In the Middle East and Southeast Asia, but increasingly in Western countries also, these honour killings are reported as accidents or suicides.

Pray:

- That the practice of honour killings will come into disrepute amongst Muslims.
- For converts to Christianity to escape beatings and ridicule, and to find new homes in Christian families.
- For Christian converts to not become victims of honour killings.

Day 2: Aleppo is God's paradise

17 May

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Romans 8:35). The following report is from a leader with a ministry to the Persecuted Church: "I am writing this from Lebanon, where we are meeting Christian leaders from different regions in Syria. They are not refugees. For seven years, they have faithfully served the people of their regions through deep despair, severe suffering and extreme sacrifice. But the message we heard was not the one we expected.

There was a contagious excitement among those we met. Without exception, the one message they all shared was simply: NOW IS THE TIME! 'Aleppo is God's paradise', one leader explained, 'this is where souls are coming into the Kingdom and where sower and harvester meet today. The greater the pain, the greater the search for hope. This has made the church the only legitimate solution to what people are searching for.'"

Pray:

- For physical and emotional strength for pastors.
- For Spirit-filled pastors.
- That ministries from the Western world ministering in Syria will not 'contaminate' the Syrian church with their own brand of Christianity and doctrinal preferences.

Day 3: Eritrean Church

18 May

Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (John 15:20). Homes, graveyards and shipping containers are the meeting places of the Eritrean Church. Almost 100 believers were arrested in Eritrea during June 2017. Fifteen years ago, the Evangelical Church in Eritrea was growing, but the government became paranoid and accused the Evangelical Christianity of destabilizing the country, and the Church of an alleged American agenda, causing all sorts of problems.

The government are arresting Evangelical Christians who meet in their homes. Thousands of Christians are being held in shipping containers and military prisons all over the country. Christians, and even non-believers, are leaving the country due to the oppressiveness of government. Even in the midst of the persecution and the shutting down of the visible Evangelical Church, the Church is still growing, however, and people are still coming to know the Lord.

Pray:

- For Eritrean Christians to persevere.
- For international influence to help stem the tide of persecution.
- For ways for Christians to escape the wave of persecution.
- For other nations where they will be able to find safety, and where they can start to live meaningful lives and be witnesses of the grace of God.

Day 4: Algeria

19 May

And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. (Acts 13:49). An entirely local church was born in recent years among the Berber people. Its extraordinary growth in the last few decades is thought to be the fastest in the Arab-speaking world – several thousand new believers are being baptised each year!

However, there are also challenges. Within this 'First-Generation Church', there is a great need for discipleship, strong biblical teaching and encouragement for believers. SAT-7 is responding to this need by broadcasting a variety of programs to encourage and disciple Algerian believers. They broadcast every week from a large, Kabyle-speaking Church in northern Algeria. Recent research of SAT-7's audience has shown the spiritual hunger of this young church in Algeria, with around 1 million viewers.

Pray:

- For an increase in the number of viewers of the SAT-7 programs, and the powerful working of the Holy Spirit through these programs.
- For the establishing of a strong church in Algeria.

Day 5: Syrian Refugee Children

20 May

Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. (Matthew 18:5-6). Lebanon is hosting more than one million Syrian refugees, and many classrooms have more Syrian than Lebanese children. Segregation and separation is a big problem.

By separating the classes based on ethnicity, schools create rifts between the children and add to the tension the nation is already feeling. This separation contributes to the belief many Lebanese citizens hold that there is no need to associate with refugees because they are 'temporary guests'. In separate schools, each group refuses to associate with the other because 'they're dirty'. The rifts are even spreading to parents and other family members. The issue of war-traumatized Syrian children also needs to be addressed.

Pray:

- For funding for schools, and for material to help take care of the educational needs of refugee children.
- For Christian NGOs to help with teachers.
- For Christians with the necessary skills to help the tens of thousands traumatized refugee children.



Day 6: Marriage as strategy to advance Islam (also in South Africa)

21 May

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14). During the second half of the 20th century and into the 21st century, increasing numbers of Western

Christian women converted to Islam after marrying Muslim men. This is partly due to the fact that many Muslim men intentionally target vulnerable Christian women and lure them into Islam via marriage, one of the most effective strategies in the Islamisation of Judeo-Christian Western nations. This problem first emerged in Europe after World War II, when thousands of Muslim men went to Europe to work, married European Christian women and converted them to Islam. In recent decades, this practice has spread all over the world. More Christian women (even in South Africa) are marrying Muslim men, converting to Islam and raising their children as Muslim. In most cases, the Christian women step into these marriages and convert to Islam without really knowing what they are getting into. Some later realise what a big mistake they have made and try to get out of the marriage and Islam with great difficulty.

Pray:

- For women who are lured into Islam via marriage, to turn back to Jesus, and for Jesus to become their first love.
- For the salvation of their children and Muslim husbands, that they shall hear the gospel, learn about Jesus and be ministered to by the Holy Spirit.

Day 7: Brunei

22 May

If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. (John 14:14). In Brunei (located on the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia), government and religion are intermingled. Though only 65% of Bruneians are Muslim, it is illegal to proselytize, and Muslims are forbidden to convert from Islam. These restrictions greatly hinder missionary attempts to establish new Christian communities. Though Christianity is second to Islam, representing 11% of the population, it is not recognised. The church in Brunei is in dire need of bold Spirit-filled leaders, who can rightly teach the Word of Truth and lead Christian communities with sound doctrine.

Pray:

- That the Lord would strengthen and unite Bruneian Christians as they live in a nation that strongly opposes them, being continually shod with the armour of God.
- For the salvation of the royal family, and that they would lead their nation to righteousness.
- For a creative and bold witness to the Muslim majority.
- For spiritual maturity and biblical training for laypersons who lead the underground Church.

Day 8: Maldives

23 May

I will set a sign among them, and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. (Isaiah 66:19). The Maldives is virtually inaccessible. More than 99% of the people are Muslim, all other religions are illegal and occult practices hold many captive. Only the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts are currently available in the Dhivehi language, but even this material is not permitted to enter the nation. No mission work or Christian literature has ever been legally allowed on the islands. Widespread traditional belief in spirits, combined with

Islam, leave many Maldivians trapped in fear. With little to no access to the gospel on these isolated islands, a true miracle is needed to bring hope and salvation to the people.

Pray:

- For miraculous opportunities for Maldivians to hear the gospel.
- For the government's attempts to silence the gospel to raise up the Maldivian church instead.
- For drugs, violence, terrorism and the occult to be supernaturally replaced by salvation in Jesus.

Day 9: Refugees and migrants meet Jesus

24 May

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. (Acts 8:4). The news of hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants entering Europe is not simply bad news. More than 2,000 Muslims at refugee centres have turned to Jesus in the last eight years. Because many refugees remain on the move, an informal network of new churches for Muslim converts is spreading in Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and elsewhere. A church in Berlin has counted 1,200 Muslims who have converted in just three years, most of them Afghans and Iranians.

At a Persian Church in Hamburg, meanwhile, more than 600 Pakistanis and Afghans lined up to be baptized during one service. There are many 'hidden' stories - each one remarkable in its own way. Let this encourage us to keep praying.

Pray:

- For new converts in Europe to stand firm in the Lord and to grow to be committed followers of Jesus.
- For the established church in Europe to be strengthened, empowered by the Holy Spirit and willing to reach out to Muslims and assist new converts.
- Especially for radicals to come face-to-face with the love of Jesus. Percentage-wise, more radical Muslims become followers of Jesus than non-radicals.

Day 10: The growth of the church under persecution

25 May

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:31). There is a lot of persecution of the church in the Middle East and North Africa, but this also holds true for nearly all Muslim majority nations and even places where Muslims form a significant portion of the population.

The church of Jesus Christ is familiar with persecution. It has experienced persecution since its inception. In the first 300 years, the church went through 10 periods of horrific persecution - literally hundreds of thousands of believers died. Within ten years after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2), there were an estimated 25,000 Christians.

About 350 years later, there were 800 times more, in spite of these periods of intense persecution. The apostles prayed for boldness to proclaim the gospel, they took care of the

needs of Christians and non-Christians, they sought the power of the Holy Spirit and they sought to shine forth the glory of God. They prayed to be enabled to reveal the mystery of Christ to the unsaved, and they prayed for the grace to stand firm under every onslaught of the evil one. In many Muslim-majority nations, the same is happening today.

Many Christians are killed, and many are forced to flee. Still, there are others who have no other choice but to stay, and some choose not to flee, even when they have opportunity to do so.

Amongst unbelievers who are fleeing to other nations, significant numbers are coming to Christ. Many Christian leaders in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as Christian leaders from Muslim Backgrounds (MBB leaders), say that there are more Muslim Background Believers in these regions today than Christians from historically Christian backgrounds.

Pray:

Consider Acts 4:29-31 when you pray for the church in these nations: *"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus". And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

Day 11: The fastest growing church in the world

26 May

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance. (Romans 5:3).

Surprisingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran is where the church is actually growing the fastest in the world, despite Iran being listed on the Open Doors USA World Watch List, as one of the top ten countries where it is hardest to be a believer. Conversion is illegal, and aboveground churches have almost all been closed down. Iran is a country that has worked hard to eliminate Christianity, and particularly Muslim conversion to Christianity. The Iranian people are going through honest introspection about what they've witnessed in their country in recent years. Some research points to at least half of all Iranians having rejected Islam.

Source: Mission Network News.

Pray:

- For perseverance for the church in Iran.
- For pastors, who often end-up in prison and are ill-treated. (Their families also suffer because of this).
- For the church to be a bold witness.
- For a new translation of the Iranian New Testament in a more modern Farsi language. (This will be very helpful, as there is a great hunger for Bibles in Iran).

Day 12: Djibouti

27 May

If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14:14). The East African nation of the Republic of Djibouti lies between Eritrea and Somalia, bordering the Gulf of Aden. Djibouti has served as a predominantly Muslim nation since its inception in the 7th century.

The population is 97% Muslim, and those who leave the faith are often beaten, ostracized or killed. To show even the slightest curiosity in other religions can be dangerous for Muslims. However, there is religious freedom for foreigners in Djibouti. Many divisions have occurred within the church as a result of tribalism and jealousy. Unity and boldness are needed among the brave Christians living in Djibouti.

Pray:

- For wisdom for Christian workers in Arab-focused ministries.
- For the nomadic Afar, who are essentially unreached with the gospel.
- For encouragement and perseverance for those ministering in extremely difficult conditions.



Day 13: Impact of Internet media, TV and radio

28 May

For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. (1 Corinthians 16:9). The gospel is shared very effectively on the Internet and via technology today. Arab World Media (www.arabworldmedia.org) is just one of the dozens of websites that communicates with Muslims. SAT-7 (television station) is another very effective media network that reaches literally millions of people. An estimated 9,000 Online Missionaries, who are trained, fully-equipped and motivated, are serving in diverse outreach communities, even when situated in the remotest parts of this global village. In Iraq, one radio station is linked to a Facebook page, where they receive 1.2 million reactions per month and have about 700,000 followers. Another worker in the Middle East, has 1.3 million contacts per month on Facebook.

A website that reaches out to Muslims, receives more than 20 million visits per month. A similar network is connected to more than 1 million Turkic speaking people.

(Some of the websites are: m.unemployment.godlife.com; m.abundantlife.godlife.com; disability.godlife.com; and m.kindness.godlife.com).

Pray:

- For Spirit-filled counsellors to follow up effectively with people who are asking questions and want to know more about Jesus. The biggest need in most of these networks is that there are not enough people following up with seekers, i.e. labourers. Pray to the Lord of the harvest for more labourers.
- For the necessary funding to keep up this work.
- For good quality programs based on the Word, and that people will not compromise the gospel message for the sake of popularity or to get more funding for their work.

Day 14: Forced Marriages

29 May

He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 25:8).

The following is a typical incident in the Muslim world: Maryam Mushtaq, a Christian girl, accompanied by Romail, her 11-year-old brother, was walking home from a college in Lahore. Two masked men jumped out of a white Corolla and grabbed the kicking and screaming Maryam, forcing her into the back of the car. The abductors shouted abuse and threats at Romail as he rushed home to tell their mother. Frantic, Maryam's mother filed a police report of Maryam's kidnapping. Two days later, the police informed her that her daughter had not been kidnapped; but she had married a Muslim man, called Muhammad Ali, who produced a marriage certificate. Her faith was listed as Muslim.

This happens often, and in each case, the girls are Christian, forced to convert to Islam and given as sex-slaves to influential Muslim men. Often, the women are already married to Christian husbands and have children. According to a ruling of the Lahore High Court, "Christian marriages do not dissolve on conversion to Islam or any religion". The Constitution of Pakistan protects the Christian Marriage Act, but in spite of this court ruling, powerful Muslim clerics claim otherwise: "After conversion to Islam, the previous marriage stands null and void..." - a convenient loophole that protects those accused of kidnapping. These crimes cry out for justice!

(Source withheld for security reasons).

Pray:

- That the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Constitution be upheld by the courts and enforced by the police. (Exodus 23:1).
- For God's protection of kidnapped women, and for their supernatural deliverance from their captors, just as Paul and Silas experienced. (Acts 16:24-26).
- For God, the One mighty in battle, to intervene, for the law to be applied and for the unconstitutional actions and influence of Muslim clerics to be destroyed. Pray for this practice to be stopped in all Muslim nations. (Psalm 24:8).
- For kidnapped Christians to remain faithful, and for God to deliver them. (Psalm 88).

Day 15: Revival in the European Church

30 May

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. (Galatians 6:9). One of the most important things to pray about regarding the Middle East is, strangely enough, to pray for revival in the European church. An awakened church will be able to bring in the harvest and help the millions of disillusioned people living in the Middle East, North Africa, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Refugees from at least 40 nations are trying to get to Europe. While many churches in Europe fear the flood of refugees and their religion, a significant and growing number of churches are reaching out to Muslims. They care for their needs, feeding them, loving them, and sharing Christ with them, with the most remarkable results. The good news is that nobody can accuse the church in Europe of being dead or asleep. The truth is that the church in Europe is literally reaching hundreds of thousands of refugees and immigrants with the gospel.

Pray:

- For revival in the church in Europe, and for her to respond in the power of the Holy Spirit to the refugee crisis.

Day 16: The plight of refugee children

31 May

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and departed from there. (Matthew 19:14-15). There are millions of extremely traumatized refugee children. Orphaned survivors of any ongoing humanitarian crisis experience post-traumatic stress, but the traumatised children of Syria's war have experienced more trauma than those in the medical profession that cares for them have ever seen. They have witnessed dismembered human beings who used to be their parents or siblings. Sometimes, only one or two people survive out of a family of 5 to 10. They may also have physical wounds, severe injuries or amputations. Somehow, some survivors make it to refugee camps. Traumatized Syrian children will have an impact on the world in the future.

Pray:

- For more work to be done amongst traumatised refugee-children.
- For more teachers, psychologists, teaching materials and schools.
- For feeding schemes and safe places for the many war orphans.
- For protection against the sexual abuse of children (both boys and girls) and that God will protect children against all forms of child labour.
- For the children to come to Jesus and see Him as their Friend and Saviour.
- Thank God for revealing Himself to the children.

Day 17: Diversity of Islam in South Africa

1 June

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7). Muslims in South Africa are predominantly Sunni and most practise Sufism – a mystical aspect of Islam that focuses on devotion to Allah through music (Qawali), honouring Sufi saints in festivals called "Urs Sharif", and in other ways. As a

minority group in South Africa, Muslims have varying attitudes towards the non-Muslim environment in which they find themselves. The three most common responses are (a) they adapt to the non-Muslim environment and integrate with it. For example, they send their children to school with non-Muslims, they work alongside non-Muslims, and they adjust their lifestyle to suit their environment. (b) Many Muslims participate in the non-Muslim environment but try to influence non-Muslims towards Islam. (c) Other Muslims separate themselves from the non-Muslim environment, and send their children to Islamic schools, do business only with Muslims and generally just socialise with Muslims. Although there is much nominalism amongst South African Muslims, a strong Muslim identity exists and a sense of being part of the Ummah (community of Islam) in South Africa. This tends to cause Muslims to resist the gospel. Many Muslims prefer not to enter into conversation concerning the gospel, even if they are friendly with Christians at a social level.

Pray

- For Christians in South Africa to have wisdom and sensitivity when approaching Muslims regarding their respective beliefs and practices.
- For Muslims in South Africa to be open and receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and through hearing it, believe and be saved.
- For grace for the gospel message to reach every geographical area in South Africa and touch even the most resistant of individuals.
- For open doors to share the love of Jesus through dreams, visions, healings and miracles.

Day 18: Somalis in South Africa

2 June

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16). Somalis come from a country where missionaries are not welcome, and more often than not, they are killed for sharing the gospel. Somalis have grown up with nothing but Islam (and the doctrines of Islam). Al Shabaab is a very radical group that kills many Christians, and even Muslims, if they feel that they are not radical enough. The unending war in Somalia has resulted in Somalis leaving their country and being exposed to Christians and the Christian faith in the nations where they have found refuge. Some Somalis who fled to South Africa, have been in the country for 20 years, but very little has been done to reach them with the gospel! Some Somalis are unable to speak English, so they stay within Somali circles.

Pray

- That the Lord will raise up the church in areas that have become "Somali gathering points" to share the gospel with Somalis.
- That believers will look for opportunities to serve Somalis by offering English, sewing or cooking classes, with the intention of sharing God's love for a sinful world.

- That the church in townships will see Somalis as people that need to be converted and take responsibility for evangelising them. That God would protect Somali shops from being looted and shopowners killed.
- For believers in South Africa to make use of opportunities to share the gospel with Somalis, as they do not stay in one place for too long. May we, as believers, reach them for Christ so that when they move to their next destination, they can serve as missionaries of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Thank God for the handful of persistent Christian workers amongst the Somalis – they have seen some fruit. Pray for them not to lose hope but to press on with the mission God has given them.

Day 19: The Sudanese Church

3 June

The Sudanese government is very anti-Christian towards anything or anyone that is non-Muslim. The president has said he wants to make the north of the country 100% Muslim. Very often, pastors are imprisoned, church buildings and property confiscated or simply burned down. When pastors refuse to cancel church services, they are arrested under charges of public disturbance. Pressure on the church is mounting, and the government constantly interferes with church affairs. There are several unreached people groups in Sudan. Workers are needed to reach them. People from rural areas who move to cities, are an open door for the church. As people move to cities, they typically look to the church for assistance. Many are farmers, who find it difficult to find work in cities. This is an opportunity for the church to reach many with the gospel of salvation.

Pray

- For Christians in Sudan to reach out to these groups, and for material, such as audio Bibles, the JESUS Film and Bibles to be available.
- For support of the Sudanese church: Funding, education, church buildings, etc.
- For the church to stand firm under pressure.
- For more pressure on the authorities and for foreign governments to speak out against what is happening in Sudan and take active steps to force the government to change its policies. (The influence of foreign powers, such as pressure from the American government, is a great help in curbing all forms of attack on the church.)
- For a revival of prayer amongst Christians in Sudan.

Day 20: SAT-7 Christian Satellite Television

4 June

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (2 Timothy 4: 2). Through SAT-7, Christians in the Middle

East are making the presence and beliefs of Christians more visible and accessible to the region's people than ever before, says founder and Executive Director of Christian TV network SAT-7, Dr Terence Ascott. Ascott says the small Christian minority is sharing their faith today in ways that were "unthinkable" 20 years ago, and, they are doing it at a time when violence in the name of religion, is causing many in the region to question their inherited beliefs. Extremism and violence in the name of religion have increased the hunger for SAT-7's programming. As a result of their pioneering work, about 15 million viewers across the region now watch SAT-7's 24-hour-a-day Christian programs in Arabic, Farsi (Persian) and Turkish regularly. With the explosion of social media, as many as 4.7 million SAT-7 videos a month are being watched on YouTube and Facebook!

Pray

- That Christians in the Middle East will be encouraged and strengthened in their faith through SAT-7's programs.
- That the Lord will use SAT-7 to bring people in the Middle East to salvation through Jesus Christ.
- That hearts would be open to the gospel message.
- That presenters and everyone involved in the technical or other ways of production of these programs will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

(Source: Mission Network News)



Day 21: Migrants and refugees of the 21st century

5 June

Nearly all people across different nations were once migrants or refugees. They came from other places and settled in a "new" country. Jesus was a refugee in Egypt for a time before returning to Israel. Abraham was a migrant when he left his father's house. Moses was a migrant, born in Egypt and left for the Promised Land. Britons and Saxons

are not "originally" from Britain. Nor are the Bushmen (Khoi/San) from Southern Africa, or the Berber from Algeria. We are all people on the move – migrants and refugees. Americans migrated from England and many other nations to the USA. Many were initially refugees or migrants from other countries. The same is true of all people groups in Southern Africa, though some came earlier than others.

Recently a "white" American man asked an Asian woman in the USA, "Where are you from"? Her answer: "California". "No, I mean, what country are you from", he asked. "I am an American", she answered. Again he asked, "No, but where are you really from"? Her answer: "I think I understand your question. My grandparents came from Taiwan some 55 years ago". He answered, "I like your Thai food". She asked, "So where are you from"? "I am an American", he replied "Yes, but where are you really from"? "I am from Kentucky. I am a normal American". "But where are you originally from"? "O, I think I understand what you are asking. Some three generations ago, my family came from Britain". The woman said, "I like your fish and chips"! Nearly all of us are migrants or refugees in one way or another! When we think about today's migrants and refugees, let us not refer to them as "they". Let us rather think in terms of "us". Millions of Muslims are fleeing to other nations as refugees and some as migrant workers due to violence, persecution and turmoil in countries in West Africa, North Africa, Central Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.

Pray

- With hearts full of compassion for Muslim migrants/refugees because we were also once migrants/refugees, years/decades/centuries ago.
- For Muslim migrants/refugees to be accepted as people who need to settle somewhere and for them to find ways to provide for themselves.
- For Christians to help today's migrants/refugees to start businesses or find work. For the church in countries where Muslims migrants/refugees are moving to, to find effective ways to reach them with the gospel.

Day 22: Xenophobia

6 June

Deuteronomy 10:18-19 says; *[The LORD] ... loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.* South Africa ranks very highly in the world with regard to asylum seekers. However, regular outbreaks of xenophobia have drawn strong criticism, not only amongst leaders, but also from lay people. Xenophobic events have exposed our underlying racism and animosity. In the Old Testament, Moses instructed the children of Israel to include foreigners living amongst them in their celebrations. (Deuteronomy 26:10-16). The theme of accepting and caring for foreigners in the Bible continues in the New Testament, where it is called 'hospitality', literally meaning 'love-foreigners'. (Matthew 25:35; Luke 14:12-14). Various NGOs, Christian groups and government

agencies have contributed food and given help and support to address the critical needs of thousands of displaced families seeking refuge in South Africa.

Pray

- That Christians will seek opportunities to be personally involved in befriending newcomers in our country, many of whom have never heard the gospel.
- For Christians to be filled with the love of Christ so that Muslims will experience the love of Jesus and be drawn to Him.
- For God to open doors for witnessing using the parable of the heavenly banquet.

Day 23: Stumbling blocks to Christ for Muslims

7 June

Give no offence, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God. (1 Corinthians 10:32). It is a fact that Muslims are generally very slow to turn to Christ as their Lord and Saviour, rejecting Islam to become Christians. How often do we, as Christians, stop and consider all the hurdles—the stumbling blocks—that Muslims have to overcome to commit their lives to Christ? Here are a few of them:

Muslims are taught that Mohammed is the final Prophet and the Qur'an is the final book, both superseding any previous person or book. Thus, to become a Christian is seen as regression and not progression. The Islamic law against apostasy in the Qur'an says that anyone leaving Islam is to be killed. Historical Christian Crusades are still an issue for many Muslims, who view them as an era of Christian oppression of Muslims, even though they happened eight centuries ago. (Some 200,000 to 300,000 Muslims were killed). Yet many Muslims do not realise that tens of millions of Christians have been killed in the last seven centuries. Present day wars waged by the "Christian" West merely entrench the atrocities of what happened during the Crusades in the minds of Muslims.

The Israeli-Palestinian issue is a major point of contention, as Muslims see Christians as standing *for* Israel and *against* Palestinians. This creates a massive religious-political stumbling block for Muslims to believe in Christ. Muslims often only see "nominal" Christianity – drinking, smoking, partying, Hollywood and all kinds of perversion in Western society - and think that is what Christianity is all about. Thus, to become a Christian is to become a bad person. Muslims have a complete misunderstanding of fundamental Christian doctrines, such as The Trinity, the divinity of Christ, Jesus as the Son of God, and God as Father, as well as the Crucifixion of Christ and His atoning work on the Cross.

Pray

- That God will reveal Himself to Muslims in such a way that they will overcome all stumbling blocks and believe in Christ as their Saviour.

- That Christians will build bridges and attempt to break down barriers when reaching out to Muslims.

Day 24: Muslim Background Believers (MBB) in South Africa

8 June

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17). Some Christian workers in South Africa estimate that in 2015 there were already about three thousand MBB in South Africa. Most of them are South African, but some come from countries in South-Asia and the Middle East, and fled persecution in their respective countries. There is clear indication that the number of Muslims becoming Jesus-followers is increasing faster than in the past. Some MBB still live as secret believers, even in free countries, such as South Africa, due to the fear of persecution, ostracism or even death at the hands of the Muslim community. Most MBB have had to leave their communities after committing their lives to Christ due to such factors. Besides persecution and ostracism, many MBB face other issues which need to be handled sensitively. Such issues include:

Anger and unforgiveness towards the Muslim community for the way they were treated. Guilt and shame as MBB try to come to terms with having gone against the wishes of parents (loyalty to parents is a strong value taught in Islam). Difficulty in deciding when to tell their families that they've become Christian, if they have not yet done so. The transformation of their identity from being a Muslim to being a Christian: Should they change their name, clothes and culture? Can they still eat Halal food and celebrate Eid with their families? Do they still belong to the Ummah (Muslim community), or do they belong only to the Christian community now?

Pray

- That MBB will have the courage to stand firm in their faith in Christ, regardless of the difficulties they face due to their new faith.
- That MBB will have the wisdom they need to deal with the issues they face.
- For entire Muslim families to become Christian.
- For MBB to start prayer groups and be bold and wise witnesses to other Muslims.

Day 25: Dreams and visions

9 June

And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. (Joel 2:28). In recent decades, an increasing number of Muslims have received visions and dreams of Jesus and subsequently become His followers. Visions and dreams are one of the most common strategies Jesus uses to reveal Himself to Muslims and draw them to Himself. More than 90% of Muslim Background Believers

(MBB) testify that it was because of a dream or vision that they became a follower of Jesus. Such encounters are so personal and real that one can neither deny nor ignore them. This exciting phenomenon immediately reminds us of God's promise in Joel 2:28-29.

Pray

- That God will continue to pour out His Holy Spirit upon Muslims all over the world, as was prophesied in Joel 2:28-29 and repeated in Acts 2:17-18.
- That the Holy Spirit will visit our Muslim friends, neighbours and colleagues, and they shall receive a personal revelation of Jesus, which they can neither reject nor ignore.

Day 26: Night of Power

10 June

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:14-15). In 2018, The Night of Power (Laylat al-Qadr) falls on 10 June. The last ten days of Ramadan are deemed to be a special time of prayer, culminating in the Night of Power. In most places around the world, The Night of Power is celebrated tonight. This night is an opportunity for Muslims to gain closeness to Allah and obtain forgiveness of their sins and an elevated position in Jannah (Paradise). Muslims are encouraged to seclude themselves in a Masjid (place of prayer) for worship, to increase their recitation of the Qur'an, increase prayer, and spend much time begging Allah to fulfil their needs, both in this world and the hereafter. Muslims all over the world have an expectation of receiving dreams or visions during the Night of Power.

Invite your friends and family to join you for a time of prayer. You can organise your own 12-hour prayer watch from 18:00 to 06:00. People can take an hour, 15 or 30 minutes. Get as many people as possible to join you in your prayer watch. A WhatsApp chat group that will exist for 12 hours can also be very helpful to link people during the night of prayer. Pray-ers can simply use the words "Sign in" and "Sign out" during individual prayer slots. Refrain from sending pictures and long prophecies, and from promoting your own ministry. Delete the group after 12 hours.

Pray

- For Muslims to receive a revelation of the Fatherhood of God, and Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be convicted by the Holy Spirit of sin, righteousness and judgment.

- For Muslims to experience the love of God and the forgiveness of sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ when He died on the Cross.
- Take the book of 1 John and read it - even several times - during your prayer time. Proclaim the truths and promises of God, especially those that speak about Jesus Christ.

Day 27: The Yazidis

11 June

'...to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me'. (Acts 26:18). Since the birth of the Yazidis as a definite group in the 12th century, they have experienced 73 genocides. The Yazidis are a very closed group with a complex religion. There were only a small handful of Christian Yazidis before 2014, but the war in Iraq opened the door for Christians to reach them with the love of Christ and provided opportunities to share the gospel.

In 2014, the world saw savagery unleashed on Yazidis in Iraq on a scale few could imagine. These traumatic events played a role in the fact that, for the first time in history, hundreds of Yazidis started to put their faith in Christ. Many Yazidis fled to Erbil and Dohuk, enabling Christian ministries in these areas to reach this people group which had previously been inaccessible.

Pray

- For many Yazidis to experience divine healing. This creates an openness to listen to the gospel.
- For the people who serve the Yazidis and help them to care for their physical needs.
- For Christian workers to be very sensitive when reaching out to Yazidis.
- Praise the Lord for continued medical refugee care. During one outreach with a mobile medical clinic, three volunteer doctors, five volunteer nurses, five church members, one psychologist and one dentist served 2,500 Yazidi people (50 to 80 people per day)!

Day 28: Pray for the volunteers

12 June

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us"? Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8). Just stop for a moment and think about the volunteers who are working day by day with hundreds of thousands of refugees streaming into Europe. Remember also, the thousands of volunteers and NGO workers in various Middle East nations working in refugee camps. Christian workers have been interviewed. Here are some of their comments: "Pray for us. We haven't had a day off in almost a year. Our families are sacrificing for this cause". (Volunteer team in Croatia). "It is unbelievable. I constantly look around me, and I cannot believe what is happening here. We have seen everything. It is never quiet here. I am tired of it all". The need for

workers is so overwhelming that the constant cry we hear from the Middle East and Europe is "We need more people to come and help"!

Pray

- For more Christian volunteers, who are filled with the Holy Spirit, to go to this harvest field.
- According to the following two Scriptures for all volunteers, and especially for those from Christian organisations:
- *"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest".* (Matthew 11:28).
- *He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.* (Isaiah 40:29-31).

Day 29: Perseverance in trials

13 June

But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. (Romans 8:25-26). The biggest problem for Muslim converts is pressure from their families. The moment a Muslim becomes a Christian, he/she will very often experience violent resistance. In some cases, family members also convert, but this is very seldom. Families will first put all kinds of pressure on the person to return to Islam. This may include beatings, being locked up in the house, etc. In more extreme cases, they will kill or ostracise a convert from the family. From this point onwards, these converts live lonely lives without family and friends. They struggle to find work. They become outcasts in the community, and in many cases, they have to leave their city or town. For many, this pressure is just too much, and they go back to Islam. It is an unfortunate fact that many Muslims who come to Christ revert to Islam. The lack of support structures around them, or people to disciple them and help them become part of a "family" of Christians, are significant stumbling blocks.

Pray

- For converts to persevere in the midst of much tribulation, rejection and humiliation.
- That God will give MBB Christians who can disciple them.
- That they will discover TV and/or radio stations that provide discipleship material and teaching.
- For new converts to find "safe houses", Christian families or churches, where they can feel at home, protected and loved.

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem". (Luke 24:45-47, ESV). The central theme of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the promise that God will forgive our sins if we accept Jesus Christ and believe that He died so that our sins can be forgiven. In Islam, there is no concept of confession and forgiveness of sins without compensation through good deeds. Nor is there the command to forgive each other. Instead, Islam encourages revenge and the performance of rituals, in the hope that one day, a person's good deeds may lead to the forgiveness of sins. The burden of sin and guilt is what drives many Muslims to kill and destroy, hoping it will please Allah and result in forgiveness of their sins. When Muslims understand that faith in Christ Jesus will remove the burden of guilt and sin, they are overwhelmed with joy!

Pray

- Thank God for Jesus Christ, our Saviour, whose death made it possible for all humans to receive forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God.
- That the basic gospel of repentance and forgiveness will be shared with Muslims in such a way that the Holy Spirit will lead them to repentance, and that they will experience the joy of forgiveness.
- That Muslims will grasp, not only that God has forgiven them through Jesus Christ, but that He enables them to forgive others also. Pray that this revolutionary concept will lead to reconciliation between many tribal groups and nations in the Middle East and around the world.

15 June

Eid al-Fitr Festival

Eid is an Arabic word meaning 'festivity'. *Fitr* means 'to break the fast'. *Eid al-Fitr* begins on the first day of Shawwal, the month that follows Ramadan, and it is celebrated today. Rice, barley and dates are donated to people in need so that everyone can enjoy a holiday meal. This donation is known as 'Sadaqah al-Fitr' (charity of fast-breaking). In the morning, Muslims gather at outdoor locations or mosques and perform the Eid prayer. For three days thereafter, they visit family and friends to exchange gifts, they call distant relatives to wish them luck and prosperity, and they feast. In most Muslim countries, this 3-day period is a public holiday. Please pray for Muslims to be saved during the three days of Eid al-Fitr.

What now?

Having prayed through Ramadan, keeping the Muslim world as a focus in your prayers, how do you want to see God move during the next year in the life of a Muslim you know, or in a community you have prayed for? Write it down.



*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined.*

– Isaiah 9:2