

PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Northern Africa and the Middle East

THE COUNTRIES OF NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST ARE SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PLACES TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS. MANY DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE GOSPEL, AND BELIEVERS OFTEN FACE SERIOUS PERSECUTION. BUT DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MOVING, AND LIVES ARE BEING CHANGED.

Nomadic Peoples

Whether they sit on woven mats under the stars, listening to the shuffle of nearby camels and goats, or they sit on cushions in cement block houses amidst the sounds of neighborhood chatter and car horns, the nomadic peoples of Northern Africa and the Middle East share many similarities. Each individual holds a fierce allegiance to their tribe or clan. Each distinctive tribe or clan maintains a strong moral code that defines roles and relationships, honor, and hospitality.

Wherever they are on the mobility spectrum—nomadic, semi-nomadic, semi-settled, or settled—they take advantage of every opportunity to make a living and survive. The vast majority of nomads in this part of the world are unified by Islam, bowing five times a day toward Mecca.

Few Northern African and Middle Eastern nomads understand God's great love for them. Few have heard the Old Testament stories of the great nomadic patriarchs, with whom they also have much in common. Please pray that every nomad in Djibouti, Somalia, Somaliland, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Libya, Niger, Chad, and Mali will hear the good news of Jesus. Pray that the gospel will be made available to every Bedouin in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Oman.



Camels are an everyday part of life for many nomadic communities in Northern Africa and the Middle East.

“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. He lets me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters. He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths for his name’s sake.” Psalm 23:1-3 (HCSB)

1 JAPAN. This year, our Kanagawa Team has begun to transfer the leadership responsibilities over to local members. Pray for obedience and wisdom for nationals and our team, and for a smooth transition that glorifies God.

2 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. Known for their sweet coffee spiced with ginger, the Beja people share the news over the spicy brew. Pray that the Beja will hear of and receive salvation and soon be sharing the good news of Jesus around sweet, spicy cups of coffee.

3 KENYA. Please pray for the students, faculty, and staff at a seminary in Kenya, that there will be a fresh commitment to doctrinal and academic integrity that glorifies the Father and reflects the Son.

4 AFGHANISTAN. Please pray for the churches in Afghanistan. Thankfully, there are mature leaders in most of the groups, but the leaders themselves covet your intercession for the development of even more leaders.

5 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. Japanese pickup trucks replace camels, solar panels

perch on the tops of tents to power cell phones and TVs, and new ideas spread among the Bedouin of the Middle East. Pray that they will hear the greatest news: salvation through Jesus.

6 INDIA. Please pray for John* and the network of pastors and Christians that he leads and serves. Ask that he will be led by the Spirit and be free from the love of money.

7 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. International borders block the paths traveled by Arabian Bedouin, but that has not stopped their movement. They cross borders frequently to visit fellow tribesmen. Pray that the gospel will spread with each tribesman who hears and shares it with his relatives.

8 UGANDA. This year, food will be provided to an impoverished school in Kampala. Pray for these students during this school year, asking that they will grow in the knowledge of Christ and faith in him.

9 PHILIPPINES. When a well was recently drilled in one isolated community, the response from a grateful religious leader was, “Our water tastes like mineral water.” Praise God that this well has opened the door for questions, conversations, and Bible study.

10 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. War has greatly

disrupted the lives of Syrian and Yemeni Bedouin. Pray that they will hear about God’s great love for them and take their deep hurts, suffering, and trauma to him. Pray that whole tribes will find healing in Jesus and come to faith in him.

11 MEXICO. There is a town where a local IMB team would love to plant a church. This town is the heart of the language area where we serve. Please pray that God will continue to give opportunities to gain entry there and to build relationships.

12 SOUTH ASIA. Please pray that workers will be able to faithfully point their South Asian partners to the communities around them who have no gospel access. Please pray for many more of those communities to be engaged in 2019 and reached with the gospel.

13 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. Across the Sahara, Tuareg sit together on woven mats, drinking hot, strong, sweet tea. As they visit, they share all that is going on across the land. Pray that conversations of the salvation found in Jesus will span this expansive desert.

14 ANGOLA. Pray that Angolan Christians will be bold to share the gospel daily with people around them.

15 TURKS OF FRANCE. As Christians reconnect with Turkish friends, pray that they will be intentional in spending time with these friends. Pray that this year will be the year they all come to know the Savior.

16 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. Any Afar who can afford to do so relocates to the Ethiopian highlands during the scorching summer months, renting an apartment or staying with extended family. Pray that this year, these summer nomads will hear and accept the gospel.



War has greatly disrupted the lives of Syrian and Yemeni Bedouin.



17 INDONESIA. Two outlying Baptist churches will be participating in an inductive Bible study from the Book of Ecclesiastes. Pray for widespread participation and for participants to “catch a vision” for becoming facilitators of God’s Word.

18 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. Gathering with other leaders, Siam* listens intently to the Bible passage, repeats it, and commits it to memory. He learns questions to help him discover and apply God’s Word. Pray for Siam as he teaches what he has learned to his church.

19 THAILAND. Pray for the many universities in Bangkok, where there is little to no gospel presence. Ask the Lord to burden the hearts of Thai Christians to share the gospel with university students, and pray that the Lord will prepare students’ hearts so that they will be ready to receive the good news.

20 AMAZON BASIN. Please pray for the Kluni and other people groups who are discriminated against and ignored by the rest of the world. Ask the Father to send harvest laborers to work among them and to share his love with them.

21 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. After sitting in a Bedouin wedding tent for three hours, Zara* mustered up the courage to ask a believer, “Is Jesus really God, or just a prophet?” Pray for curious Bedouins, like Zara, to have the courage to ask eternally important questions.

22 EAST ASIA. Ask God to bring healing to family relationships, between husbands and wives, and between parents and children. As families serve him in difficult places, pray that they will be equipped and encouraged to love their family members well.



Even weddings can provide opportunities for gospel conversations.

23 DEAF PEOPLES OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray that Deaf Central Asian Christians will continue in the faith. Also, please pray that the language ability of one of our local IMB missionaries will continue developing, and that she will be strengthened to share the good news with the Deaf.

24 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. Ali* is amazed that believers do not need a set time to pray. He and millions of other Bedouin Muslims pray five times a day, but they lack a personal relationship with God. Pray that Ali and others will know the intimacy with God that is available to them through Jesus.

25 BANGLADESH. In January, a new girls’ center opened. The girls’ families are receiving many blessings from the center, but the most important one is the gospel. Please pray that these girls and their families will accept the truth they hear and share it within their community.

26 ITALY. Rejoice with a Baptist representative in Rome, who has learned enough language to begin investing in Italians at a church. He says, “I thank God for the growing Italian language that he has granted me. Pray that as I speak, God will use my broken words for his glory!”

27 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. God’s Word is becoming available in the Beja people’s

languages in many forms. Pray that they will find it, listen to it, and view it, and that this will lead to redemptive conversations with believers. May God’s kingdom grow among the Beja.

28 CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for Christian women to meet other women who are open to gospel conversations and friendships. Often, local women form friendships within their family circles, and these circles can be difficult to penetrate.

29 DEAF PEOPLES OF EAST ASIA. Pray for Polly Jorgen* and Willie and Bascom Brown* as they move to a new place of ministry. Pray for new friendships and for many opportunities to share God’s stories. Ask that the Deaf of East Asia will see his stories, that hearts will turn to him, and that Deaf Christians will boldly share the good news with other Deaf.

30 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. During Ramadan, believers visiting Bedouin areas hope for opportunities to break the fast with Muslim friends and share the good news. Pray for divine appointments and Holy Spirit-guided conversations.

31 MACEDONIA. Pray for the people in Macedonia to think critically about their religious systems and begin to seek truth. Pray that in everything, the glory of God will become known among the lost as well as among the believers.



Many nomadic families and communities make their homes in tents like these.

Forgiveness

“How can he forgive those who put him on the cross?” Ebrahim* exclaimed while watching the JESUS film. “That is not the way of my people.”

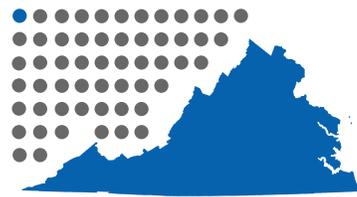
Ebrahim belongs to a nomadic people with a history of revenge killing. In time, the gospel took hold of Ebrahim, and he accepted that Jesus died for him. As a respected peacemaker, Ebrahim was called to negotiate disputes between clans. One day, he received horrific news that his youngest son had been shot by a member of one of the clans with whom he was meeting. Although bowed in grief, Ebrahim was adamant, “We must not kill in return, but forgive.”

The Spirit of God is using the JESUS film, the Magdalena film, Scripture-based radio programs, the translated Word, and encounters of personal witness to bring Ebrahim’s people to faith. In response to prayer, the church is being built. Pray that God’s Word will be understood and his church will be built not only among Ebrahim’s people, but among all of the nomads of Northern Africa and the Middle East.

NORTHERN AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

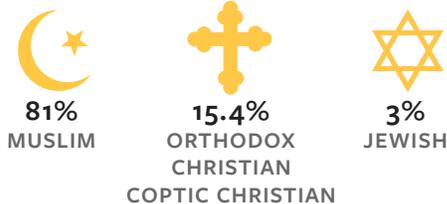
Northern Africa and the Middle East are where history blends with the modern world. A region of princes and paupers, here the church is engaged in a captivating resurgence unlike any other.

1 IN 56 PEOPLE lives as a refugee



8.7 MILLION PEOPLE
That’s almost equal to the population of **VIRGINIA**.

MAJOR RELIGIONS



483.5
MILLION PEOPLE

UNIQUE PROFESSIONS



520
**UNENGAGED
UNREACHED
PEOPLE GROUPS**

**Names changed*

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