



Kuwait City

# PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

## *Unreached Unengaged People Groups and Urban Centers in Northern Africa and the Middle East*

WHAT DOES A YOUNG MOROCCAN STUDENT IN MUNICH HAVE IN COMMON WITH A JEWISH BRIDE, A GRANDMOTHER IN SOMALIA OR A BEDOUIN WITH HIS CAMELS IN SAUDI ARABIA? NONE OF THEM HAVE HEARD WHO JESUS REALLY IS. THEY ARE INCLUDED AMONG 483 UNREACHED UNENGAGED PEOPLE GROUPS (UUPGS) OF NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST (NAME).

### **Kuwaitis desperately need a new identity in Jesus**

The country of Kuwait, in eastern Arabia at the northern tip of the Persian Gulf, was made famous in western history due to the invasion of Iraq in 1990 and the genesis of Gulf War I in 1991. Since the 1600s, the people of Kuwait City - the capital and largest city - have earned their living as fishermen, pearl divers, tradesmen, shipbuilders, and more recently, as owners of the sixth largest oil reserves in the world. Interestingly, 4 ½ million residents live in Kuwait City, yet only 30% of them are Kuwaitis. They have hired internationals to work in their lucrative oil fields, build grand skyscrapers, and provide service at opulent shopping malls, hotels, and restaurants.



Flowers in Kuwait City

To be Kuwaiti is to be Muslim, and it is illegal to change that, although they do generously allow foreign workers to practice their own religions. Pray for these foreign workers who need to hear and respond to the gospel. Lift up the Kuwaitis who still grieve the loss of loved ones from the war. Pray for Kuwaitis to seek answers that Islam, wealth, and consumerism cannot provide.

Praise God that there are Christians in Kuwait who meet for worship throughout the week. Pray that these believers will share the good news with neighbors and co-workers. Pray that Kuwaitis will hear that Jesus came for all people, not just for those who were born into Christian families. Pray that households of Kuwaitis will come to faith in Jesus, protecting one another as they grow in the Lord, but also demonstrating to the rulers that to be Kuwaiti can also include being a loyal follower of Jesus.

**1 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** Recognized as the merchants of Sudan, the Gaaliin (Ja LEEN) trade and barter in towns along the Nile River. This influential Arab population of over 3 million have deep Islamic roots and strong family ties. Pray for them to hear God's Word and for families to come to faith.



**2 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES.** Lift up those in South Asia who offer sacrifices at temples and attend prayers at mosques. Pray for these millions to grow disillusioned with their rituals and to seek after truth. Pray for God to reveal Himself to them and satisfy the deep longings of their hearts.

**3 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** The first Jew went to Canada in 1732. There are now 392,000 Jews of Canada. Most are not religious, identifying just with community and culture. Pray that they will embrace the Bible's relevancy and a relationship with God, accepting everlasting life through Jesus.

**4 PEOPLES OF THE SOUTHWEST AMAZON BASIN.** Due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions, it has been almost a year since any of our partners have visited with the Kluni\* people. Pray that the Lord will bring to their minds what we have shared from His Word and that He will continue to work in their hearts.

**5 UNREACHED PEOPLES OF EAST INDONESIA.** The gospel was brought to the Canoe People in the mid-20th century, who were then nomadic hunter-gatherers. Many believed but have since returned to traditional witch doctors. Pray for laborers to be sent to

renew the work and for the Canoe people to turn back to Jesus.

**6 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** There are about 1.5 million Digil-Rahanwiin. This minority Somali Muslim people speak the Maay tongue. The Scripture is not in their language, and they have little to no access to the good news. Pray that believers from nearby areas will tell them about the Savior.

**7 KABARDIANS OF CENTRAL ASIA.** Most Kabardians live monotonous lives filled with work and worldly pursuits. Pray that the Kabardians hear the truth of Jesus clearly. Ask that their lives would be transformed from a worldly focus to a heavenly one, filled with true purpose and everlasting joy.

**8 PARTNERSHIPS AND TRAINING IN SOUTH KOREA.** IMB missionaries are partnering with Korean churches to send young adults around the world through a life-changing program, Korean Hands On. Pray for the Korean students serving with a team in Zambia. Ask God to raise up more students to impact lostness for His glory.

**9 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** The Bedouin Arabs of Saudi Arabia once roamed the desert with vast herds of camels. Now, most live in villages and travel to visit tribesmen in pick-up trucks. Pray this proud, independent group will hear the gospel, believe, and bow the knee to the Lord of Lords.

**10 EUROPEAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** An estimated 300,000 Serbians live in Austria. Although many Serbs identify themselves as Christians, less than 0.5% in Austria are evangelical. Pray they will encounter the true and living God. Pray believing nationals will bring the gospel to their Serbian neighbors.

**11 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** A worker shared the gospel with a Deaf group in Southeast Asia. A woman

understood for the first time, without any communication barriers. Pray that this Deaf group will all come to know Christ. Ask God to empower Deaf believers to communicate the good news.

**12 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** There are an estimated 200,000 Moroccans spread throughout Germany with no known believers currently engaging with these peoples. Ask God to send laborers to share the good news with these Moroccans and that the Word would transform hearts and lives for God's glory.

**13 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** The majority of the Senufo Syenara, an animistic people group of 199,000 in Mali, live in darkness. They are tormented day and night by fear of evil spirits. Pray for the Lord to set the Syenara free and to send African Christians to become missionaries to these people.

**14 WIWA OF COLOMBIA.** Please pray that the Father would grant wisdom and accuracy to those who are working on translating the Bible into the local language. Pray that this translation of His Word will bring the hope of Jesus to the Wiwa and that many will choose to follow Him.

**15 RUMELIAN TURKS OF THE BALKANS.** As of 2021, there is not an established church among the Rumelian Turks. Pray that this year, the handful of known believers - who live far from one another - will see a movement of the Holy Spirit with people coming to a saving faith in Christ and a church formed.

**16 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** The Mzab Berbers of Algeria number 188,000 and practice a strict form of Islam. The women are veiled and rarely, if ever, leave the community while the men trade throughout the country. Pray for the good news of Jesus to invade the lives of these Mzab Berbers.

**17 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES.** In Southeast Asia, young people are drawn to romantic ideals, as portrayed on the internet. A missionary couple has introduced a new concept by teaching them how God views marriage in the Bible. Pray for this couple as they impact marriages and families, for His glory.

**18 OSAKA, JAPAN.** Mr. Busy Bee,\* a man in his late 70's, once learned about Christianity from a pastor. However, as a Japanese, he adheres to the way of Buddhism to pay respect to his ancestors. Pray that Mr. Bee will meet Japanese Christians and come to believe the teachings of Christ.

**19 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** Praise God for the ongoing Bible translation work for the 760,000 Tigre of Eritrea. Pray that these Muslim peoples, who also blend cultural traditions into their religion, will encounter the Word in every place that they live, especially through modern media methods.

**20 BRITISH OF ENGLAND.** Missionary Jeff Dunson is joining with local partners to establish the School of Church Planting, launching this fall, which will train lay leaders to plant churches across Yorkshire and Northern England. Please pray for the Lord's leading in this exciting new endeavor.

**21 CENTRAL ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** Please lift up the 200,000 Yezidi Kurds of Iraq, many of whom have suffered in war and fled for their lives. Pray for the handful of Yezidi believers to gather as a church and find comfort in Christ. Pray that refugees will hear the gospel, respond, and follow Christ.

**22 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** The Jews of Iran, the largest Jewish community in western Asia excluding Israel, proudly trace their heritage back to Daniel in the Old Testament. Pray for these strong people to have opportunities to hear the Gospel and courageously accept the Messiah as their Savior.

**23 CONNECT PERU.** A number of our U.S. and Peruvian partners have backgrounds as health professionals. Pray for God to open doors for these professionals to serve among unreached peoples and places, using their backgrounds to adapt well to the unique cultural contexts and worldviews.



*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.*  
(Psalm 22:27, ESV)

**24 DEAF OF SOUTH ASIA.** Bethany\* shares, "Though I am not there in person, I am sending Bible stories to a group of Deaf in South Asia." Pray for good internet connections and for the Deaf community to respond to His Word. Lift up Sean,\* who is eager to share the stories with his friends.

**25 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** Many Iraqi refugees fled from war to Germany. With an estimated population of 200,000, there is great opportunity to share. Ask God to make Iraqi disciples to take the good news to Iraqis in Germany and back to their families and communities in their home nation.

**26 HYDERABAD, INDIA.** The Telugu-speaking Kapu people, who are predominantly farmers, are one of the top five largest unreached people groups in Hyderabad. Pray that many will have the opportunity to hear and respond to God's Word, producing a harvest 30, 60, and 100 times what was planted.

**27 CONAKRY, GUINEA.** Guinea is a poor country where education is often neglected. Our team has started an orality project with a nonliterate Baptist church to encourage knowledge of and

obedience to God's Word. Pray for these believers as they learn, comprehend, apply, and share His truth.

**28 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** The ½ million Alawites of Syria include the ruling class in a nation torn by 10 years of war. Orthodox

Muslims believe they are a cult. Pray that Alawites of Syria will hear about salvation through Jesus and find acceptance, peace, and new life by believing His message.

**29 SHAN MIGRANT CAMPS, CHIANG MAI, THAILAND.** Pray that believers will find effective ways to engage teenagers in the villages. They are pulled by worldly influences and drift away from Bible study groups. Pray for their salvation and ask that they will step forward as leaders and powerful witnesses for Christ.

**30 EAST ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** The mountain villages of western Hunan Province are home to over 13,000 Wunai people who have never heard the gospel in their language and instead follow an ethnic folk religion. There are no known believers. Pray for the Wunai to repent and worship the one true God.

**31 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** Though Simon of Cyrene, a Libyan, carried Jesus' cross as He walked to Calvary, today there is no known church among them. Pray that today's Libyan Arabs of Libya would hear Jesus' call in Matthew 16:24 to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him.

## Colorful multitudes in N'Djamena ripe for gospel advance

Except for a few paved highways and a gathering of concrete, multi-story buildings in the city center, N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, has the personality of an expanding village. Dusty, dirt streets connect crowded neighborhoods and colorful markets. Four-wheel drive land cruisers compete for a path with pedestrians, crowded minibuses, and hundreds of motorbikes. Unemployment is high, electrical power is sporadic, trash collection is minimal, and water is precious. The people are a colorful multitude of ethnicities and languages.

Praise the Lord that this population of nearly 1 ½ million are strategically located for gospel advance! Please pray for those who are coming to faith from a variety of people groups, asking that unity and trust will prevail over generations of disunity and mistrust. Ask Almighty God to use the darkness and hopelessness of this current time to draw the lost and desperate to Himself, for only He is the hope and salvation for the people of N'Djamena.



The colorful people of N'Djamena

## Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples

**560**  
MILLION PEOPLE

**1 IN 57** PEOPLE  
lives as a refugee



**9.6 MILLION REFUGEES + 17.5 IDPs**  
That's triple the population of VIRGINIA.

## PRIMARY RELIGIONS



MUSLIM  
81%



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN  
COPTIC CHRISTIAN  
15.4%



JEWISH  
3%

**483**  
UNREACHED UNENGAGED  
PEOPLE GROUPS



## UNIQUE PROFESSIONS



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\*Names changed

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