



PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples

SITTING ON THE DESERT SAND NEXT TO HER HOMEMADE DWELLING AS HER CHILDREN CHASE BABY GOATS, A MOTHER RHYTHMICALLY POUNDS GRAIN. IN A CITY, THE MUSIC OF MULTIPLE LANGUAGES BURSTS FROM A HIGH-RISE APARTMENT BUILDING. THROUGH PRAYER, THESE WHO SEEM IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCESS WITH THE GOSPEL CAN BE LIFTED TO THE FATHER. PRAY THAT THE HARD TO REACH THROUGHOUT NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST WILL SOON HEAR THE REDEMPTIVE MESSAGE OF SALVATION.

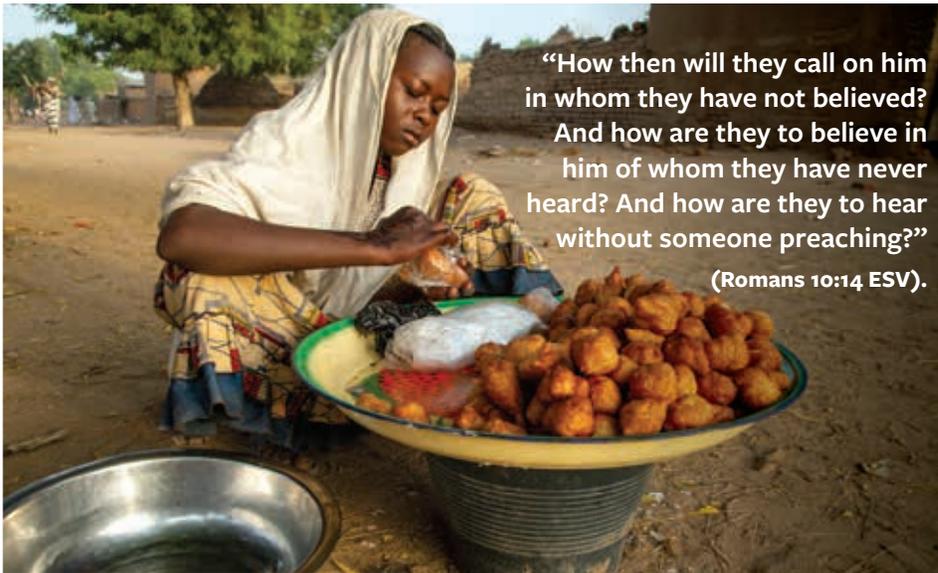
A hard-to-reach people group responds to the gospel when they get a chance to hear it

When given the opportunity to hear the gospel, the desert peoples of Northern Africa respond to Jesus! However, reaching the people is a major challenge. Gaining access to the dessert peoples first requires permission to enter their country. Whether for an extended visit or a residency, a visa must be granted. This can be difficult in lands experiencing chronic, political unrest. There may be scrutiny from local authorities, especially when a minority people group are being sought out. After securing a visa, the people themselves must see value in the newcomer's presence. Humanitarian projects and business ventures can add value to their presence, although time must be protected for sharing the gospel.



Ultimately, friendships need to be made with a society's gatekeepers, such as local religious leaders or the family matriarch. Building deep, abiding relationships can be challenging with nomadic groups who travel seasonally, migrating back and forth, sometimes across borders. Even in non-nomadic communities, it's difficult to live in countries with tottering governments, extremely hot seasons, and substandard infrastructure, where roads often become impassable for weeks during rainy seasons. Yet the Great Commission still calls believers to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations," (Matthew 28:19 ESV), including the ones that are hard to access.

Ask God to grant visas, raise up people of peace, and provide valued opportunities to live among the desert peoples. Pray for open doors to reach those who are still waiting to hear the good news.



“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”
(Romans 10:14 ESV).

1 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Praise the Lord that in one local outreach, believers have shared with people from four different people groups! Three of the four people groups are yet to be reached with the gospel, having had no previous access to it. God’s Word is reaching the nations!

2 KDD PEOPLE OF NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL.

Leo* and LouAnne* are new believers from the KDD* tribe. Recently, they publicly professed faith in Jesus. Then they were fired from their jobs and ostracized by friends and family members. Pray for their perseverance in the faith. Ask God to provide for their needs.

3 THE NETHERLANDS.

A Dutch church is praying for people to “taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8). Join them and the IMB team there in praying for 50 new unchurched contacts and for 10 uninvolved believers to become invested in the missionary task.

4 PEOPLES OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.

At a recent evangelism training, one man was shaking as he practiced. When the group went out, that same man shared boldly and led two women from an unreached people group to the Lord! Praise God that this shy brother overcame his fear and shared the gospel.

5 PAMIRIS OF CENTRAL ASIA.

Pray for older people in Pamiri communities, especially religious leaders, to hear the gospel and come to faith. They are respected and have great influence in these communities. As more older people come to faith, may others in their communities trust in Jesus too.

6 BENG OF COTE D’IVOIRE.

The Beng people are not large in number. Most people in their home country of Cote d’Ivoire have never heard of them. But God knows them. Pray that He will make Himself known to the Beng. Pray that many Beng will learn of this God who knows them and loves them so much.

7 KOBE, JAPAN.

The Kobe Team has been hosting language exchange events for over a year. God has slowly grown a crowd of regular non-believing visitors. By now, they have participated in dozens of spiritual conversations. Ask God to grow these seeds and bring forth spiritual fruit.

8 DEAF PEOPLES.

A worker in Southeast Asia spent several days with her friend, Valerie,* learning language and culture as well as sharing Bible stories with Valerie, her family, and the Deaf who live in her community. Pray that the gospel seeds sown among them will spread and take root.

9 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Pray fervently for the countries and territories of the Tuareg of the Sahara to become stable enough to gain better access to the Tuareg people. Pray for invitations to visit Tuareg cultural events. Pray for long term opportunities to live and work among the Tuareg.

10 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.

In one area of Europe stretching 4,500 miles, five families that the IMB helped churches send are seeing unprecedented interest among local churches in church planting and missions. The need feels enormous, and the laborers are few. Ask God to send more faithful laborers.

11 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Pray for a group of women in one desert village who have eagerly listened to many stories from the Bible. Many of them desire to follow Jesus and even share the stories with others. Pray for them to, by faith, take the steps of repentance and baptism.

12 AHISKA TURKS OF CENTRAL ASIA.

Some believers are seeking an open door into the Ahiska Turk community. Ask the Father to guide their steps and lead them to “people of peace” (Luke 10:6). May they find Ahiska Turks whose hearts are open to hearing the good news they bring.

13 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

A story set of best health practices and Bible stories along with other projects have been well received in villages. Pray for the Spirit’s leading about when and where to do the next projects, especially accessing those who have yet to hear the gospel.

14 HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions last year, Hue* struggled to get enough food, but then believers gave her groceries. She was overwhelmed by their generosity and eager to read the gospel materials they gave her. Pray for Hue as she decides what to believe about Jesus.

15 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Praise the Lord that an audio version of Scripture is now recorded in one desert language! In both urban and remote areas, the people have radios or mobile phones. Pray that those who have yet to hear will access the Word through radio, SD cards, Bible apps, and social media.

16 DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA.

Gender-based violence is a huge problem in South Africa for many reasons: huts without locks, overcrowded homes, COVID-19 lockdowns, and substance abuse. It's deeply rooted in the culture. As the government and churches work together, ask God to transform hearts and lives.

17 DEAF PEOPLES.

A team works to carefully translate God's written Word into sign languages. It's a long, discussion-based process. Pray for them to have wisdom to translate the Bible stories effectively and truthfully so that many Deaf will understand God's great love for the world.

18 UIGHURS OF NORTHWEST CHINA.

Uighurs are the second-largest minority ethnic group in the world without a homeland (second only to the Kurds). Most of them live in China and follow Islam. They are unreached with the gospel. Pray that the Uighurs of Northwest China will hear the gospel and be saved.

19 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Kadiga* faithfully keeps the Ramadan fast year after year, stating that it's not difficult, but a joy. She is a devout follower who routinely prays from her home, even when she has visitors. Yet she has no assurance if this will please God. Pray for Kadiga to meet Jesus.

20 GENT, BELGIUM.

Islam is the fastest growing faith community in the Ghent, Belgium area. With a 0.4% evangelical presence, believers are tempted to close off and protect themselves. Pray for Belgian believers to bravely share the gospel, which can be socially costly for them to do.

21 JRPK PEOPLE OF NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL.

"We're slowly but surely gaining access and building relationships in this new engagement!" writes the NE Brazil Team. "Please pray for wisdom as we learn about the culture of the JRPK* people and begin to share the message of salvation in Christ as opportunities arise."



22 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

There are over 80 people groups in the Horn of Africa, each with their own language and culture. Some have no witness of Jesus. Some don't have God's Word in their language. Pray that believers from nearby people groups will cross cultural barriers to share the good news.

23 CHENNAI, INDIA.

Throughout history, the people of Chennai were taught many methods for living a good life. But none of these myths and legends will bring them peace with God or everlasting life. Pray that they will hear and receive the message of grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

24 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Eritrea, a country in the Horn of Africa, has no freedom of religion, speech, or movement. Millions have fled to other countries. Pray for unreached peoples of Eritrea: the Tiggrigna, Tigre, Saho, Kunama, and Afar. Pray for access to the gospel and freedom in Jesus.

25 WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA.

Recently, young children have been filling Windhoek's busy streets. They weave around cars and plead for money from the drivers. Ask God to raise up leaders whose hearts are burdened for these abandoned children and who will fight for solutions to their plight.

26 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

The Xamir are rural subsistence farmers, uneducated, and poor. As devout Ethiopian Orthodox, they pray to a multitude of saints and angels, fast more than 200 days a year, and obey religious leaders. Pray that the Xamir will hear the gospel and receive God's grace.

27 CITY OF SOLDIERS, CHINA.

For many Chinese university students, their worth depends on their academic performance. When they don't do well on exams, some even contemplate suicide. Ask God to provide these desperate students with a believer in their lives who will love them and share the gospel.

28 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

There are more than 18 million Somalis living in countries all over the world. The vast majority are Muslim. But many Somalis are hearing the good news via radio, recordings, and websites. Pray for many to believe and for a vibrant Somali church to be birthed.

29 MUHAJIRS OF PAKISTAN.

Pray for Ibrahim* and Asa,* two young believers who encourage each other in their faith. Their long work hours keep them from being part of the larger church community. Ask God to give them rich times in the Word and a desire to fellowship with other believers.

30 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

The Garre are one of the largest and oldest Somali tribes in the Horn of Africa. They came to Southern Somalia 1500 years ago and played an important role in the spread of Islam in Africa. Pray that they will come to know Jesus and spread His love throughout Africa.

Opportunity to spread the gospel abounds as the world gathers in Dubai

Over the last 50 years, Dubai in the United Arab Emirates has risen out of the sand dunes along the Arabian Gulf to become one of the most influential cities in the world. Today, Dubai is home to 4 million people from every country in the world. Only 11% of the population are Emirati; most of the rest have moved to Dubai to find work and send money home to their families. Over 29 unengaged unreached people groups are represented there! Synagogues, temples, mosques, and churches are found across the city for the myriad of religious devotees. Less than 1% of the people (fewer than 40,000) are evangelical Christians who follow Jesus. Dubai is a dark place as people are desperate to make money and change their family's future.



A customer studies items for sale at a market in Dubai.

On average, they only stay to work in the city for three years. The window is short, but there is an amazing opportunity to disciple the nations in Dubai and send them out to the nations.

Pray that people in Dubai will hear the gospel, believe, and become disciple makers in the city and then in their homeland when they move back. Pray for the Emirati, who are a minority there and careful about opening up to anyone. May the gospel spread through that closed community. Pray for many hearts to be softened and for the gospel to spread through Dubai.

Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples

9,102
DYING DAILY
WITHOUT CHRIST

794 PEOPLE
GROUPS

739 UNREACHED
PEOPLE GROUPS

482 UNENGAGED
UNREACHED
PEOPLE GROUPS



UNIQUE PROFESSIONS



CAMEL HERDER



COFFEE GROWER



OLIVE CULTIVATOR



FALCONER

PRIMARY RELIGIONS



MUSLIM
81%



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
COPTIC CHRISTIAN
15.4%



JEWISH
3%

imb
Let's advance
God's kingdom
together

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*Names changed

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