

**MARCH 2025**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

John 14:6

# PRAYERPOINTS

## NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

*While most Northern African and Middle Eastern peoples are Muslim and will be observing their fasting month of Ramadan, roughly February 28-March 29 this year, everyone in this area is affected by the schedule changes Ramadan brings. Believers in Jesus from different countries and ethnicities have covenanted to pray in unity for their Muslim friends during Ramadan. Will you join them in prayer?*

### HASSAN LEARNS ABOUT JESUS DURING RAMADAN THROUGH AUDIO BIBLE

Hassan was glad to find the living room empty when he got home. He plugged in his headphones and pressed play. For weeks, he had been listening to God’s Word in his own language. The long days of Ramadan can be tiresome, but Hassan was happy to listen to the stories of Jesus. Later, the sound of teacups clattering in the kitchen reminded him that it was almost sunset. A tray of dates and tea was being prepared to break the household’s fast. Hassan rose and pressed pause. Soon, the call to prayer would ring out, and he would have to join the men of his neighborhood in the nearby mosque for evening prayers. Though they stood shoulder-to-shoulder five times a day, Hassan was growing disheartened with his community. Everyone practiced outward piety—modest dress, ritual prayers, fasting, giving to the poor, listening to Quranic teachings, and saving up money



*Men in the Middle East make bread. IMB Photo.*

to one day make the Hajj pilgrimage. But the neighborhood was full of gossip, addiction, and disputes. What was the point of all this religious work if nobody truly loved God or their neighbor? Hassan was tired of never knowing if he was doing enough for Allah. Jesus’ words were full of love. He wanted to hear more.

Praise God for the many believers who labored for years translating and recording the Bible into Hassan’s heart language. Pray for Hassan and many others to hear God’s Word and come to faith. “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17 ESV).

## GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

In March 2024, we prayed for the Sparrow People in the Horn of Africa to hunger for truth and learn who Christ really is. Since then, over 3,000 New Testaments have reached their rural area. Believers there are overjoyed to read God’s Word in their own language for the first time. Many are gathering to study it. Some are also sharing the Word with Muslim neighbors. Since the New Testaments were distributed, Muslims, including an Islamic religion teacher, have trusted in Jesus, and new local churches have started. Thank you for praying.

**1** A mother decides if her little one should begin learning to fast for Ramadan. She also makes sure her teen fasts. Pray for mothers who only know works-based religion. Pray they hear and desire free salvation, including their children in the journey of learning about Jesus.

**2** People string streamers between buildings and hang lanterns in the streets to celebrate the arrival of Ramadan. As the light of the lanterns illuminates the darkness around them, ask that the Light of the world would pierce spiritually dark places (John 8:12).

**3** During Ramadan, students from Northern Africa and the Middle East who study or work abroad return home. Some may have met followers of Jesus while traveling and heard the gospel. Pray those students will discuss this with family and friends, and that they will follow Him.

**4** The typically bustling streets are silent. Everyone is home awaiting the call to prayer, the signal to break the fast with their community. Each day of Ramadan, millions await this. As they still their hearts, pray they will hear Jesus knocking and open their hearts to Him in faith.

**5** The beginning of Ramadan is traditionally spent with family and is a challenging time for believers in Jesus; they are often isolated from, and even persecuted by, their families. Pray they draw nearer to Jesus, stand firm, and are granted wisdom and grace to be His light.

**6** A small village comes to life with preparation. The days seem long, but the nights seem short as everyone spends time with loved ones. Pray that as Tuareg families gather around meals to break the fast, the Spirit would convict them of sin and open their eyes to truth.

**7** A Muslim man always invites a family of believers to break the fast on one night of Ramadan, and many things are discussed. Please pray that he will ask more questions about the Messiah and that he will receive the answers he needs to make the choice to follow Him.

**8** Nursing and pregnant mothers are not required to fast during Ramadan, but many push themselves to do so anyway. Pray for these women and their babies to be miraculously sustained. Pray for the Father to open these mothers' hearts to receive His love, grace, and mercy.

**9** In one small town, mosques are closed to women all year long—except during Ramadan, when a curtain is raised to create a women's section at the back of the building. Pray that as Muslim women enter, they will hear Jesus calling them to follow Him for all their days.

**10** The month of fasting is especially difficult for believers. Pray for them to have great wisdom in knowing whether to fast and to be able to share why God has led them to make that choice. Pray their words and actions will be a compelling witness of the faith they have in Jesus.

**11** During Ramadan, women often work extra hours preparing traditional sweets for their families. Despite the busy schedule, pray that they will take time to focus on spiritual matters. Ask that Jesus will reveal Himself clearly to them and give them courage to seek Him.

**12** While thankful for the opportunities for her family after fleeing as refugees years ago, Marwa's small European town is very far removed from her homeland and their Ramadan traditions. Pray that the Lord will give comfort and peace to those feeling lonely this month.

**13** For most, a sun setting is a signal to end the day and settle in for the night. For Muslims, during Ramadan, sunset is when normal life begins. Pray for Muslims to grasp that no righteous works can please God or save them, but that salvation is the gift of God in Jesus.

**14** Family and friends gather at night during Ramadan and share in a wide spread of foods. These evenings are full and lively. Pray believers have opportunities to share meals with Muslim friends and have opportunities to share the one true way to God—Jesus (John 14:6).

**15** In Europe, Ramadan can be difficult with work and school schedules. To observe her daily prayers, Amira rushes home after dropping off her children at school before the next call to prayer begins. Pray that God will give Amira a dream about Jesus and draw her to Him.

**16** During Ramadan, pray believers in Sparrowland will continue to be diligent and bold in sharing the good news. As they break the fast with their Muslim neighbors at sundown, pray the Father will work through them and open doors for them to share stories about who He is.

**17** Pray for the women of Sparrowland who feel marginalized and have no voice in major life decisions. Pray this Ramadan season would be one in which they have ears to hear and eyes to see the Truth and that their value and worth would be found in the Son.

**18** During the daytime hours of Ramadan, Muslims will have bellies hungry for sustenance as they abstain from food. Pray that during the fast they would also have hearts and minds that are hungry for righteousness. Pray they would have ears ready to hear the gospel.

**19** During Ramadan, Muslims labor and toil to earn the favor of Allah, a god who is far off. Pray they have visions and dreams of the "Man in White," Immanuel, God in the flesh who came and dwelt among us. Pray they will know that His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30).

**20** Haset recently believed and decided to follow the true and living God after hearing the creation story at a weekly Bible study. Pray she will faithfully attend the study and grow in knowledge and faith. Pray that during Ramadan, she would boldly share the hope she now has within her.

**21** Many native people in northern Africa are looked at as second-class citizens who are not able to please the god of their faith, so they will try even harder to please him. Pray they see that the true God wants them and is pursuing them.

**22** Believers who have left Islam and have turned to Jesus often feel very isolated and discouraged during Ramadan. Pray for God to strengthen the local Church to be there for one another, to have times of fun together, and be encouraged in Scripture, prayer, and worship.

**23** Northern African young people and families will spend time together late into the night in coffee shops and homes throughout Ramadan. Pray that their conversations will prompt questions that result in many northern Africans seeking the truth and hearing the gospel.

**24** Pray for new believers across northern Africa who are not fasting or attending mosque with their families for the first time. Ask God to fill them with His presence and encourage them through the Church as they face pressure from family and friends to continue traditions.

**25** Many families live completely isolated in the mountains, far from anyone who knows the truth of the gospel. Pray for online efforts, especially during Ramadan, to reach these people. Pray that many will hear and accept that true forgiveness only comes through Jesus Christ.

**26** Muslims believe the "Night of Power" is a special time when Satan is bound and they will receive answers to prayer, as well as multiplied rewards for their deeds. As many pray throughout the entire night, ask they will encounter Jesus the Messiah and place their faith in Him.

**27** Many believers who are Jewish join in celebrating Ramadan with their Arab friends. Pray for good conversations about the truth of the gospel during this time of celebration and fasting.

**28** Every Ramadan, Essero misses a couple fasting days. She worries about making up the missed days before the end of her life, wondering if Allah will accept her. Pray Essero and many others will receive God's free gift of salvation and be saved by grace, through faith.

**29** A group of believers regularly go to a Muslim town to disciple new local believers. This Ramadan, they hope to receive a warm welcome from the new believers' extended family. Pray these new believers have boldness to share what they are learning with their family.

**30** A Jewish man employs several Muslim workers; he is very kind and generous during Ramadan. Please pray they all will know the kindness the Father extends to each of them, shown clearly in His generosity of sacrificing His Son.

**31** During Ramadan, Muslims refrain from drinking during daylight. As they physically thirst, pray they recognize their spiritual dryness and seek the true God, experiencing the "living water" Jesus offers that wells "up to eternal life" (John 4:10, 14).

## MUSLIMS IN GAZA NEED THE HOPE OF JESUS

In the recent past, women cooked in their apartments or houses during Ramadan. They proudly produced platters of rice and chicken, salads, and fruit as the sun set over Gaza. Now, life is different. Families break the fast in tents or lean-tos, sitting on the ground around a plate with minimal food. They grieve for the loved ones who no longer sit beside them.

Muslims in Gaza fast all day during Ramadan, believing that this will give them merit with Allah. Pray they will hear a different story—one about a free gift, not by their works, but from a Savior who understands suffering and pain because He endured it for all people, including them. Pray that their lives will physically get better, but pray even more that they will experience new life in Christ.

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## PRAY FOR MUSLIMS OBSERVING RAMADAN IN EUROPE

Muslim religious practices look different in Europe than they do in Northern Africa and the Middle East. While many Muslims still take their faith seriously, Islam is not as widely accepted or understood by European coworkers and peers. Ramadan is a special month for Muslims, recognized as a time of fasting in community. Muslims in Europe miss the unified feeling of fasting along with all their neighbors and coworkers.



*Preparing tea for the break of fast. IMB Photo.*

Pray for Northern African and Middle Eastern peoples in Europe to realize the loss of community they feel pales in comparison to the loss of not knowing Jesus as Lord. As they fast, pray for their hearts to be open this year to see God for who He really is. Pray for God to clearly reveal Himself and His Son to Northern African and Middle Eastern peoples in Europe this Ramadan.

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Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 14.5M 01-25 P7803-3

**REACHING  
THE NATIONS,  
TOGETHER.**