PRAYERPOINTS

IMB

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"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"
Matthew 5:16

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

All throughout Northern Africa and the Middle East, religion impacts every aspect of life — it holds sway over identity, drives decisions, controls conversations, and informs culture. Despite how ingrained Islam, Judaism, and Christian Orthodoxy are in various countries, the Lord continues to move across the area. He hears prayers, so please intercede for His continued work in people's hearts, especially to grant salvation to many and endurance to believers.

Northern African believers shine brightly for Christ

Across Northern Africa, small groups of believers gather quietly in homes and other hidden places to worship and grow in their faith. Many have come to Christ out of difficult backgrounds and now follow Him with great courage, even when facing misunderstanding or rejection from family, neighbors, and society. Some must hide their faith completely, knowing that being discovered could lead to job loss, family separation, or even threats to their physical safety. They often have limited access to Bibles, pastors, or public gatherings of the Church. Yet their commitment to Christ remains strong and full of hope.

God is moving in beautiful ways, drawing many to Himself through dreams, the witness of faithful friends, and messages of truth online. New believers gather in secret to study Scripture, pray, and encourage one another. Their faith shines brightly in places where the gospel is restricted.

Pray for strength and perseverance for these brothers and sisters. Ask God to give them wisdom in each relationship and decision, and to protect them from those who seek to silence them. Pray for safe fellowship, spiritual maturity, and for unity among believers scattered across cities, villages, and remote desert areas. Ask the Lord to open doors for the good news to continue to spread, reaching families and whole communities — especially where following Jesus is costly. May their bold love and faithful obedience bring glory to God.

Man walking through a field. IMB photo.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

Thank God for people from many countries who join to share the good news in Northern Africa and the Middle East. One came from South America in 2021. You prayed for her as she learned a new language. She continues, faithfully sharing truth to women in her neighborhood.

1 Leading up to Ramadan, women deep clean their houses, buy new dishes, and prepare beautifully delicious feasts. Everything looks clean and new, but without Jesus, the people are like whitewashed tombs. Pray they will find the One who can truly make them clean and new.

2 Believers in Jesus from a Muslim background must decide if they will fast during Ramadan to appease their family or explain why it isn't necessary anymore. This news could mean expulsion from family, even loss of life. Pray for God's wisdom in making these hard decisions.

3 Hawa's humble home overflows with guests during Ramadan. She and her husband use this opportunity to share the truth of the gospel. Pray for their guests to have open hearts ready to accept the good news. Ask the Lord to give Hawa much strength in this very busy month.

4 During Ramadan, Muslim immigrants in Europe hope and pray for dreams from Allah, which they believe are important messages from Him. Pray that many Muslims will have dreams of Jesus – "the Man in White" – and that the one true God will open their hearts to believe in Him.

5 At the heart of religious practice is a zeal for the law and desire to stop the spread of the gospel by persecuting those who choose to follow Jesus. Pray that those who cause harm to local believers will have an encounter with Jesus and that He transforms their hearts.

6 Aisha is a young woman who recently believed after hearing the gospel from her neighbor. She had been learning BIble stories from her neighbor, but now, Aisha's father no longer wants them to meet. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen Aisha's faith during Ramadan.

7 A Muslim talks to her Christian friend about fasting. She's surprised to hear that Christians fast. They compare the similarities and differences. Pray that she will understand the simplicity of a relationship with Jesus and what He offers. Pray for conversations this month.

8 Pray that Muslims will invite their Christian neighbors to partake in Iftar feasts at sundown when the day's fast ends. Pray they will have opportunities for spiritual conversations as they break bread together.

9 Pray for new believers in Northern Africa during Ramadan. Ask for strength, courage, and deep roots in Christ as they face pressure from family and friends to participate in ritual fasting and prayer. Pray they find fellowship and grow in their faith during this season.

10 During the month of Ramadan, believers will visit local markets in Europe, engaging North African Muslims in conversations about Jesus and the Bible as they shop. Pray that Muslims will leave those conversations challenged to reflect on their need for the gospel.

11 Many women from an unreached people received reusable hygiene pads and heard Bible stories about God's love towards women. As they fast and pray during Ramadan, pray that God will bring these stories to their minds and they will seek the real and loving Creator wholeheartedly.

12 During Ramadan, Muslims in Northern Africa fast from food and drink. Pray they will hunger and thirst for the righteousness that comes only by the blood of Jesus! Ask that their spiritual searching leads them to encounter the truth of Christ and His saving grace.

13 For Tuareg families during Ramadan, the days will be spent preparing for the evening meal and longing for sunset. As they long to break the fast, pray that the Tuareg will seek the One who can meet their every need and fill the spiritual longing in their souls.

14 "How are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?" (Romans 10:14). Pray for those who are learning to share gospel stories in everyday conversations. Ask the Lord to give boldness and wisdom, and that encounters will be opportunities to share God's Word.

15 Like the U.S. November - January holiday season, Ramadan is a time for families to gather. Committed Muslims pressure nominal Muslim relatives to keep the fast. Pray that families will question their traditions and seek the truth.

16 This March finds most people in one city in the Horn of Africa fasting for Lent or Ramadan. Both Orthodox Christians and Muslims rely on works like fasting to find favor with God. Pray that as people are spiritually seeking, they will hear the gospel and believe in Jesus as the only way to the Father.

17 In Europe, kids in Muslim families look forward to Ramadan for the nightly feasts and traditions. Pray for these kids to ask deeper spiritual questions about the celebrations. Pray that families will seek answers leading them to see their need for salvation in Christ.

18 Pray that during Ramadan, many in Northern Africa will encounter the message of salvation through Jesus. Pray that their spiritual hunger leads them to Christ, the only source of eternal hope and forgiveness. Ask for boldness and wisdom for those sharing the good news.

19 Imani drew her family tree, filling the page with dozens of names. During Eid, the celebration at the end of Ramadan, she'll visit her extended family and exchange news. Though she is not a believer, Imani likes Bible stories. Pray that when she is asked "What's new?" Imani will share Bible stories.

20 Adult children, even non-religious, travel home during Ramadan to be with family to fast together and join the final celebration or Eid. Pray they will hear the message of salvation by God's grace, which isn't works-based, exploring its truth and accepting it together.

21 Ramadan is usually a time of fellowship and celebration with friends and family. However, this year in Sudan, those who have survived the 2.5 year war are just trying to continue surviving each day. Pray that in the midst of great suffering, God will draw many to Himself.

22 Countless cups of tea and bits of news shared together reveal how important community is across Northern Africa and the Middle East. During Eid, the end of Ramadan, visits and special meals abound as communities celebrate together. Pray that as people gather, many will hear of Christ and join His family by faith.

23 In Canada the cold weather makes it tough for Muslims to maintain Ramadan traditions of gathering, which leads to loneliness, particularly after the Eid al-Fitr, the end of Ramadan. Pray that they will accept the invitation to join the wedding feast of the Lamb and find belonging in Him.

24 Ramadan has ended. Now it's wedding season in the Middle East. Pray that young couples will meet believers in Jesus who will share good news, leading them to faith in Christ, truly deepening their lives together. Pray for a new foundation based on Him for their marriages.

25 She tries to read her Bible, but it seems someone is always looking over her shoulder. She's struggling to grow in her faith. "Maybe it isn't worth it," she thinks, but knows it's not true. Pray for Romaisa as she struggles in her faith. Ask God to provide her with a believing friend.

26 During a child's baptism, an Arab church was holding a conference at the same location. The leader approached, asking if they could watch the baptism, as several attendees were not believers. Pray for those who heard the child's testimony to also trust in Christ.

27 Many women from the Horn of Africa fear persecution and hide their faith from family and friends. Pray God will give each of them "a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7). Pray they will be salt and light to those around them.

28 In Europe, refugee life feels like a cycle of endless goodbyes. Each time Sara's family or her friends' families are moved to a different camp, she feels discouraged about trying to build community again. Pray for Sara to find an eternal home in a relationship with Christ.

29 In one of the most diverse and polarized cities of the region, local believers seek to reach out cross-culturally to their neighbors, some of whom may even be considered enemies. Pray that as they share the gospel, people will be reconciled to God and to one another.

30 Bibles are available in some Northern African and Middle Eastern bookstores. They can be downloaded over the internet. Pray for an increase in curiosity about the Word of God. Pray that people will read it, ask questions about it, and believe the gospel.

31 Last fall, some visiting believers spent time in an area, engaging locals in spiritual conversations. Please pray for the people they spoke with. Praise God for the 19 conversations, 15 of which included the good news.

African believer struggles against fear

Several years ago, a woman from the Horn of Africa came to faith after having dreams about Jesus the Messiah and hearing the gospel. She met with a believer weekly for time in the Word and prayer. But she wanted to keep this a secret, not ready to go public with her decision to follow Jesus. Eventually word reached her family that she had come to faith and was meeting with other believers. Her family threatened to disown her if she did not denounce her faith. Soon after this, her mother died suddenly. The believing woman became extremely fearful and felt she had brought this on her family. She stopped meeting with other believers and started telling those who asked that she was a Muslim. For years she did not tell anyone she was a believer, until someone confronted her about it – she did not deny her faith. Though she is still extremely fearful of persecution, she recently started reading the Word with another believer. She says there are other women like her, struggling with fear of identifying as Jesus followers. Pray the Father's love will cast out any fear in her (1 John 4:18). Pray she will grow in faith and deem Jesus worthy even if it is costly. Pray that believers in the Horn of Africa will have courage to come out of hiding and value the importance of fellowship with other believers. Pray they can encourage one another to stand firm. Pray they will be bold in sharing their faith with others.

Women shopping in an ally. IMB photo.

Teenagers skateboard and bike in a new park in the middle of a city in Northern Africa. IMB photo.

614
MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS 26 COUNTRIES

65%
OF THE WORLD'S CURRENT GLOBAL CONFLICTS

476
UNENGAGED AND UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

14K
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