



MUSLIM WORLD PRAYER GUIDE

**30 DAYS**

**OF PRAYER®**

**DURING RAMADAN**

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CHRISTIANS LEARNING ABOUT AND  
PRAYING FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD



For more than three decades this 30-day prayer guide has inspired and equipped Jesus followers around the world to learn more about their Muslims neighbors and to also petition the throne room of heaven for a fresh outpouring of mercy and grace from our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Several years ago, a global research project uncovered some startling news: 90+% of the world's remaining unreached peoples - Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists - live in, or near, 110 megacities. As practitioners began to re-adjust their focus toward these giant metropolises, international networks of prayer began to pray in the same direction.

The results of a combined effort of quality research, fervent prayer, and sacrificial witness have been nothing short of miraculous. Testimonies, stories, and data are beginning to pour in affirming the truth that we are better together when our unity is based on spreading the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

This prayer guide represents the next step in expanding deep compassion for our neighbors, and honoring them enough to share the most important message ever given - the hope and salvation available through Jesus. We are grateful for the many contributors to this edition, as well as those praying and serving in these great cities.

Let us “declare His name among the nations, His deeds among the peoples.”

It's about the Gospel,

***William J. Dubois***

*Editor*

# What is Ramadan?

## 4 things to know

As we pause to pray for Muslims during this month, here are four foundational components of this holy month.

### 1. Ramadan is Muslims' most sacred month of the year.

Muslims believe this is the holiest month of the year. According to the Prophet Muhammad, "When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of heaven are opened, and the gates of hell are closed." It was also during this month that the Quran, Islam's sacred book, was revealed.

Ramadan is a time of celebration and spending time with family and loved ones. The end of Ramadan is marked with another holiday, Eid al-Fitr, also called the "Festival of Breaking of the Fast." Muslims celebrate and share meals and presents during this time.

### 2. Muslims fast from dawn to sunset during Ramadan.

Fasting during the day lasts for the entire 30 days of Ramadan. This is a time of prayer, charity, and reflecting on the Quran.

Every year all Muslims must take part in this occasion, with the exception of young children, elderly, pregnant or nursing women, sick people, or those who are traveling.

The purpose behind fasting is not just spiritual, but also that Muslims can be aware of those who are in need and help them. It is a time for reflection on their relationship with God.





### 3. How do Muslims perform fasting?

From dawn to sunset Muslims abstain from eating any kind of food, drinking any liquids, chewing gum, smoking, or engaging in any kind of sexual activity. Even taking medication is prohibited.

If Muslims do any of these things, then that day of fasting is not considered valid, and they must start over the next day. For some days that they didn't fast due to unforeseen circumstances, they will need to make up that day after Ramadan or give a meal to someone in need for every day they didn't fast.

Fasting doesn't only apply to eating. During Ramadan, Muslims are also expected to abstain from anger, jealousy, complaining, and other negative thoughts and actions. Activities like listening to music or watching television must also be limited.

### 4. What happens in a day during the holy month?

A typical day during Ramadan for most Muslims consists of the following:

- Waking up before dawn to eat (Suhoor)
- Performing the morning prayer
- Fasting during daylight
- Breaking the fast (Iftar)
- Evening prayer
- Special prayers during Ramadan (Taraweeh)

Muslims still go to work or school despite fasting. Most Muslim countries reduce working hours during the holy month as a consideration for those who are fasting.

At sunset a light meal (Iftar) is served to break the fast. Most Muslims go to the mosque for evening prayer and then recite another special Ramadan prayer.

Later in the evening they will eat a larger meal shared with family and friends.





# The 5 pillars of Islam

The Islamic religion is lived out according to five main pillars which are obligatory religious practices for all adult Muslims:

- 1. Shahada:** reciting the Creed, “There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet.” This is said at birth as the first words a baby hears, and Muslims aim for these to be the last words before their death. A non-Muslim can convert to Islam by saying the Shahada and meaning it sincerely
- 2. Salat:** the ritual prayer performed five times each day. Each time during the day has a unique name: Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha.
- 3. Zakat:** the obligatory and voluntary almsgiving to the poor. A formula for giving is defined in the Hanafi madhab. Zakat is 2.5% of wealth that has been in one’s possession for a lunar year. If that wealth amounts to less than a threshold figure, called “nisab,” then no Zakat is payable.
- 4. Saum:** fasting especially during the “holy” month of Ramadan.
- 5. Hajj:** an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim should perform at least once in a lifetime.



# Ankara, Turkey



Turkey's cosmopolitan capital city sits in the central part of the country, roughly 280 miles southeast of Istanbul. It is a city with a unique blend of ancient and modern architecture. Old castles and ruins from the Hittite, Roman, and Ottoman empires dot the landscape. Adjacent to them are modern government buildings, theatres, major universities, consulates, and bustling night life.

Turkey is geographically located as a hinge between Europe and Asia, and its citizenry reflects this diversity. While Turkish is the official language, there are numerous people groups and more than 30 unique languages spoken in Ankara. Primary among these are Kurdish, Zazaki, and Arabic.

Turkey has been identified by the United States government as one of the top ten emerging markets in the world. Consequently, there is renewed interest in international trade and economic support for the nation. As the capital, Ankara is the focal point. The opportunity to interact and share the gospel with the diverse population has never been better.

## People Groups Focus

Abkhaz [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10130/TU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10130/TU)

Chechen [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11317/TU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11317/TU)

Crimean Tatar [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11434/TU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11434/TU)

Laz [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13727/TU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13727/TU)

Turk [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18274/TU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18274/TU)

## Scripture

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

**Luke 14:28 (NIV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for God to raise up his people in Ankara who see the big picture of the Muslim world with his eyes.
- Pray for the believers in Ankara to be sensitive to when people's hearts are ready to receive the message of Jesus.
- Pray for the believers sharing the gospel in Ankara to withstand the hardship, stress, and persecution that comes.

## Baghdad, Iraq



Baghdad, formerly named “City of Peace,” is the capital of Iraq and one of the largest urban agglomerations in the Middle East. In fact, with 7.7 million people, it is second in population only to Cairo in the Arab world.

When Iraq was at the height of its stability and economic stature in the ‘70s, Baghdad was revered by Muslims as the cosmopolitan center of the Arab world. After enduring seemingly constant war and conflict over the past 50 years, this emblem feels like a fading memory to its people.

Today, most of Iraq’s traditional Christian minority groups can be found in Baghdad, numbering around 250,000 people. With unprecedented population growth and continued economic instability, a window of opportunity is opened for Jesus followers in Iraq to heal their fractured nation through the peace of God found only in the Messiah.

### People Groups Focus

Iraqi Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12247/IZ](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12247/IZ)

Central Kurd [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11126/IZ](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11126/IZ)

Northern Kurd [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12877/IZ](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12877/IZ)

### Scripture

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

**Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for multiplying house churches to launch gospel movements among the Iraqi Arabs, North Iraqi Arabs, and Northern Kurds.
- Pray for a mighty movement of prayer to sweep over the house churches.
- Pray for the historic church to be filled with God’s grace and boldness as they share their faith with others.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to advance through prayer and evangelism.



# Bamako, Mali



Mali is a landlocked country in the interior of West Africa. It is about the size of Texas and California combined and has a population of 22 million. The capital city, Bamako, is home to 20% of these people.

At one time Mali was a rich trading hub. Mansa Musa, Mali's ruler in the 14th century, is considered to be the richest person in all of history with a worth in today's dollars of \$400 billion. In his lifetime, Mali's gold deposits accounted for half the world's supply.

Sadly, this is no longer the case. Roughly 10% of children will not survive to age five. Of those that do, one in three will be malnourished. 67% of the country's land is desert or semi-desert.

Islam in Mali tends to be more moderate and uniquely West African. The majority practice a faith that is a mixture of traditional African religions and superstitious folk practices.

In Bamako, more than 3,000 Qur'anic schools teach nearly 40% of the children.

## People Groups Focus

Bambara [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10617/ML](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10617/ML)

Kita Maninka [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19611/ML](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19611/ML)

Siamou [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14930/ML](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14930/ML)

Wolof [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15414/ML](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15414/ML)

## Scripture

“Don't chase after ghost-gods. There's nothing to them. They can't help you. They're nothing but ghost-gods!”

**1 Samuel 12:21 (MSG)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Islamic terrorist groups control much of the countryside. Pray that peace can be restored to the people.
- Less than 2% of the population are Christians. Pray for their safety as they share the love of Jesus with their Muslim neighbors.
- Pray for the evangelization of the Bambara people, which would impact other tribes coming to Jesus.
- Pray for Mali's leaders to have wisdom to deal with the health, education, and employment issues facing their people.

## Chittagong (Chattogram), Bangladesh



Chittagong is a large port city on the southeastern coast of Bangladesh. It is the second largest city in the country with a population of nearly nine million. In 2018, the government decided to change the city's name to Chattogram based on its Bengali spelling and pronunciation.

Adherents to Islam comprise 89% of the population. Most of the remaining people practice a variation of Hinduism, with Christians accounting for just .6%.

The Bengali people are the largest unreached people group in the world and are the majority population in Chittagong. Most practice a style of folk Islam that combines Sufi Islam, indigenous cultures, and Hinduism. Very few have heard the true gospel.

The cycle of poverty in Bangladesh continues to be the serious problem. While most of the monsoon flooding occurs further to the north, many of the people of Chittagong continue to live below the poverty line. The overpopulation of Bangladesh is significant. Imagine half the population of the United States living in Iowa! With few natural resources and a political climate that offers little hope, Chittagong is a land with desperate need for the message of Jesus.

### People Groups Focus

Bengali Muslim Shaikh [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18084/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18084/BG)

Hajam [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19655/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19655/BG)

Kuki Chin [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11270/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11270/BG)

Rohingya [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11359/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11359/BG)

Tipera [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15498/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15498/BG)

### Scripture

“The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him.”

**Psalm 22:27 (NIV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for trained, godly leadership for the church in Chittagong, and all of Bangladesh.
- Pray for the Rohingya refugees coming into Bangladesh.
- Pray for relief from the almost annual natural disasters that plague the country.
- Pray for teams from near cultures who are risking their lives sharing Jesus with the people of Chittagong during Ramadan.

## Conakry, Guinea



Conakry is the capital of Guinea, a country in West Africa. The city sits on the slender Kaloum Peninsula, which extends into the Atlantic Ocean. It is home to 2.1 million people, many of whom have come in from the countryside seeking work, exacerbating the strain on an already limited infrastructure.

A port city, Conakry is the economic, financial, and cultural center of Guinea. With 25% of the world's known bauxite reserves, as well as high-grade iron ore, significant diamond and gold deposits, and uranium, the country should have a robust economy. Unfortunately, political corruption and inefficient internal infrastructure have resulted in significant poverty.

A military coup in 2021 deposed the democratically elected president. The long-term outcomes of this change are still being determined.

Conakry is overwhelmingly Muslim, with 89% of the population followers of Islam. The Christian minority is still strong by many standards, with 7% of the people identifying as Christian. Most of these live in Conakry and the southeast portions of the country. Guinea has three bible schools and six leadership training schools, but still lacks Christian leaders.

### People Groups Focus

Guinea Kpelle [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12829/GV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12829/GV)

Kono [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19399/GV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19399/GV)

Kuranko [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12872/GV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12872/GV)

Puaar Fulani [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15622/GV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15622/GV)

Wasulu Maninka [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15884/GV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15884/GV)

### Scripture

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- 43% of the population is under the age of 15. Pray that the message of hope through Jesus will be communicated to these young people.
- Pray for leaders in the church to implement strong discipleship programs to develop additional leaders.
- Pray for political and economic stability for this resource-rich nation. Pray that a democratic government can be reestablished.
- Pray that the relative religious freedom now enjoyed in Guinea will continue.



# Dakar, Senegal



Dakar is the capital of Senegal, West Africa. It is a port city on the Atlantic Ocean with a population of 3.4 million. Colonized by the Portuguese in the 15th century, Dakar was one of the base cities for the Atlantic slave trade.

With a vibrant economy driven by mining, construction, tourism, fishing, and agriculture, Dakar is one of the more prosperous cities in West Africa. The country enjoys religious freedom and is tolerant of many faiths, but very few of the 91% Muslim majority have come to faith in Jesus.

This is largely due to the Muslim Sufi brotherhoods. These brotherhoods are organized, wealthy, and have the political power, and more than 85% of all Muslims belong to one of them. Despite a relatively large Christian population, spiritual oppression hovers over the city.

Dakar is the key to evangelizing this nation. Dakar is home to 25% of the national population as well as members of every people group, making it possible to reach all of these groups for the gospel. More than 60 evangelical congregations meet in Dakar today.

## People Groups Focus

Eastern Maninka  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13511/SG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13511/SG)

Lebou Wolof  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18907/SG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18907/SG)

Safi Serer-Safen  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14868/SG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14868/SG)

## Scripture

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’”

**Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for the leaders of the current congregations in Dakar to develop a vision for reaching the rest of the country.
- Pray for breakthrough into the tightly controlled Muslim brotherhoods in the city.
- Pray that the teachers in the private Christian schools, where most of the students are Muslim, will have an influence for Jesus on these young minds.
- Pray that the economic prosperity of the urban areas will percolate out into the countryside and impact the very poor of this country.

# Damascus, Syria



Damascus, the capital of Syria, is one of the most populous cities in the country, along with Homs, a main center of the Syrian uprising and catalyst for the civil war that began in 2011. Damascus is considered by many to be the oldest capital city in the world and has been called the “Pearl of the East.”

Both cities have suffered much loss and deterioration since the war started. Under Bashar al-Assad’s oppressive control, the conflict has diminished. Travel to Damascus and Aleppo has resumed and is relatively safe.

For generations a large Christian community existed in Damascus, but the genocide in the mid-19th century caused many to leave the country. A comprehensive religious census has not been undertaken in Syria since the 1960s, but it is estimated that just 6% of the population is Christian. Most of these believers are part of one of the Orthodox communities.

## People Groups Focus

Syrian Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15152/SY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15152/SY)

Northern Kurd [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12877/SY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12877/SY)

Northern Iraqi Arab  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/20327/IZ](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/20327/IZ)

Alawite [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18805/SY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18805/SY)

Palestinian Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14276/SY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14276/SY)

## Scripture

“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

**Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for the end of violence and for Christ-exalting, multiplying house churches in the 31 languages of Damascus and Homs, especially in the people groups listed above.
- Pray for wisdom, courage, and supernatural protection for the Gospel SURGE teams working in the country to bring Jesus to the people.
- Pray for refugees, the poor, and the broken to find hope and healing in Jesus’s name.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to advance through signs, wonders, and power in military, business, and government leaders.

# Dhaka, Bangladesh



Dhaka, formerly known as Dacca, is the capital and largest city of Bangladesh. It is the ninth largest and seventh most densely populated city in the world. Set beside the Buriganga River, it is at the center of national government, trade, and culture.

Dhaka is known around the world as the City of Mosques. With more than 6,000 mosques, and more being built every week, this city has a powerful stronghold of Islam.

It is also the fastest growing city in the world, with an average of 2,000 people moving to Dhaka every day! The influx of people has contributed to the inability of the city's infrastructure to keep up and to the fact that air quality remains one of the most polluted in the world.

With 173 million people in Bangladesh, less than one million are Christian. Most of these are in the Chittagong region. While the constitution allows freedom for Christians, the practical reality is that when someone becomes a Jesus follower, they are frequently banned from their family and community. This makes the challenge of evangelism in Dhaka even more difficult.

## People Groups Focus

Bihari (Muslim Traditions)

[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19654/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19654/BG)

Hajam [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19655/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19655/BG)

Jhalo Malo [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/17007/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17007/BG)

Mahishya [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/17411/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17411/BG)

Sylhet Muslim [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/22311/BG](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/22311/BG)

## Scripture

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

**Matthew 19:26 (NIV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray that the fledgling Christian community in Dhaka can withstand persecution and continue to share the life-giving message of Jesus.
- Pray for resources to support the sharing of written and recorded scripture in the Bengali language.
- Pray for long-term solutions to the extreme poverty in this city and for the people moving to the city to have their basic needs met.
- Pray for millions of children who deal with poor nutrition, unsanitary living conditions, and no educational opportunities.



# Islamabad, Pakistan



Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan and is located near the border with India. “Islam” refers to the religion of Islam, Pakistan’s state religion, and “abad” is a Persian suffix meaning “cultivated place,” indicating an inhabited place or city. It is home to 1.2 million citizens.

The nation is historically and culturally related to Iran, Afghanistan, and India. Since gaining independence in 1947, Pakistan has struggled to attain political stability and sustained social development.

The country is estimated to be the home of four million orphaned children and 3.5 million Afghan refugees, putting a significant strain on an already fragile economy and social structure.

With just 2.5% of the population being Christian, and the influence of fundamentalist Muslim values pervasive in the country, there is a great deal of persecution against Christians and other minority religious groups.

## People Groups Focus

Western Punjabi  
<https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=6420>

Southern Punjabi  
<https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=6405>

Sindhi  
<https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=6400>

Western Baloch  
<https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=6419>

## Scripture

“Remain in me as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

**John 15:4 (NIV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for the advancement of God’s Kingdom throughout the 18 languages of this city, especially among the languages of the people groups listed above.
- Pray for a mighty movement of prayer to be birthed in Islamabad that multiplies throughout the country.
- Pray for followers of Jesus to walk in the power of the Spirit.
- Pray for a resurrection of God’s divine purpose for this city

# Jerusalem, Israel



Jerusalem, a holy site of pilgrimage for the three Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, is a hotbed for religious and ethnic conflict, as well as geopolitical positioning.

Jews are seen pressing up against the Wailing Wall in anticipation of the coming Messiah who will rebuild the Temple. Meanwhile, Muslims visit the site where they believe Muhammad ascended to heaven and was given requirements for prayer and pilgrimage. Simultaneously, Christians are found touring the sites of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection.

Jerusalem has much to attract tourists, and an average of over three million people visit the city each year. Yet the region has struggled to attain peace due to deep cultural and political rifts that have divided Israel from their neighboring countries. Add into the mix a rich diversity and 39 languages, and the stage is officially set for a movement of God that will not only heal and transform the city but turn the region on its head.

## People Groups Focus

Israeli (Palestinian) Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14276/IS](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14276/IS)

Israeli Jew [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12267/IS](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12267/IS)

Moroccan Jew [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12374/IS](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12374/IS)

Ethiopian Jew [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11180/IS](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11180/IS)

Syrian Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15152/IS](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15152/IS)

## Scripture

“It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’”

**Luke 24:47 (NLT)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for unity among Jews and Arabs as they launch Christ-exalting, multiplying house churches among the people groups listed above.
- Pray for a mighty movement of prayer to sweep over the house churches.
- Pray for peace among all ethnic groups, languages, and peoples through the declaration of Jesus the Messiah.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to come in signs, wonders, and power.

## Kano, Nigeria



### People Groups Focus

Kurama Bagwama [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12871/NI](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12871/NI)

Deaf [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19007/NI](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19007/NI)

Duwai [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11664/NI](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11664/NI)

Hausa [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12070/NI](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12070/NI)

Nigerian Fulani [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10949/NI](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10949/NI)

Northern Nigeria's most populous city, and the oldest city in West Africa, Kano is home to more than four million people. It was founded at a junction of ancient Sahara trade routes, and today it is the center of a major agricultural region where cotton, cattle, and peanuts are raised.

Northern Nigeria has been Muslim since the 12th century. While the nation's constitution allows for religious freedom, including the practice of Christianity, the reality is that non-Muslims are strongly persecuted in the north. Anti-Christian riots in Kano in May 2004 killed more than 200 people, with many churches and other buildings burned.

Further rioting between Muslims and Christians took place in 2012. Sharia law has been imposed in the Muslim areas of the city. To further complicate the situation, Boko Haram leaders have vowed to take revenge on Christians. As a result, many Christian families have fled the area and moved to southern Nigeria.

While the situation in the north seems dire, Nigeria is home to the fourth largest number of evangelicals in the world. Catholics, Anglicans, traditional Protestants groups, and newer charismatic and Pentecostal groups are all growing.

### Scripture

“We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.”

**2 Corinthians 10:4 (NIV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Thank God for the tremendous growth of the faith in Southern Nigeria.
- Pray that Nigerian missionaries will return to the Kano and to the northern provinces bringing a message of peace through Jesus.
- Pray that discipleship programs for the many new Christians will be made available.
- The Church in Nigeria is sometimes subject to a prosperity gospel that distorts the real message of the bible. Pray for biblical truth to be taught.



# Karachi, Pakistan



The 12th largest city in the world with over 20 million citizens, Karachi is the former capital of Pakistan. It is located along the southern tip of the country, along the Arabian Sea coast. While it is no longer the capital city, Karachi remains the commercial and transport hub for the country and operates the largest port.

In the 2022 Global Livability Index, the city ranked 168th out of the 172 cities, due to the high crime rate, poor air quality, and lack of infrastructure.

96% of the residents of Karachi identify as Muslim. Two-thirds of these are Sunnis, with the remaining Shi'ites, and the Christian population is just 2.5%. Religious minorities including Christians, Hindus, and minority Muslim groups face persecution. The “blasphemy laws” make insulting Mohammad punishable by death and damaging a Quran punishable by life in prison. Extremists use these laws to falsely accuse innocent people.

## People Groups Focus

Bhil [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/16414/PK](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16414/PK)

Mohana Sindhi [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18136/PK](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18136/PK)

Pashtun [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14256/PK](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14256/PK)

Sama Sindhi [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18164/PK](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18164/PK)

Sayyid [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18045/PK](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18045/PK)

## Scripture

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

**Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- The Church continues to grow slowly in Karachi, but poverty and the lack of strong biblical teaching dilute spiritual standards. Pray for humble, committed spiritual leaders to disciple the new believers.
- Pray for strength to withstand persecution.
- The political turmoil within the country impacts everyone. Pray for stability in the government and wisdom for the leadership.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the love of Jesus to thousands of residents of Karachi during Ramadan.

# Khartoum, Sudan



Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan, is a large communications hub in Northeast Africa. It is a city of 6.3 million people located at the confluence of the Blue Nile and White Nile Rivers.

Prior to the secession of the south in 2011, Sudan was the largest country in Africa. After decades of civil war, the country signed an agreement to separate the predominantly Christian south from the Muslim north, which had been seeking to become an Islamic state since the 1960s.

After years of war, the economy and infrastructure of the country and capital city are in disarray. With less than 2.5% evangelical Christians in the country, persecution is constant.

## People Groups Focus

Sudanese Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15104/SU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15104/SU)

Beja [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12026/SU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12026/SU)

Fur [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11779/SU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11779/SU)

Gaaliin [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11787/SU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11787/SU)

Guhayna [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11976/SU](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11976/SU)

## Scripture

“Do not take purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.”

**Luke 10:4 (NIV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for a breakthrough in vision and leadership that will result in thousands of Christ-exalting multiplying house churches in the 34 languages of this city, especially among the UUPGs listed above.
- Pray for the establishment of 24/7 prayer and for hearts to be opened for Jesus followers to hear from heaven.
- Pray for leadership schools to be developed and for church planters to be sent out into every sector of society.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to come in signs, wonders, and power.

## Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Kuala Lumpur is the capital of Malaysia, home to 8.6 million people. It is well known for its modern skyline dominated by the 451-meter-tall Petronas Twin Towers, a pair of glass and steel skyscrapers with Islamic motifs.

The people of Kuala Lumpur are diverse, with ethnic Malays making up the majority. Ethnic Chinese are the next largest group, followed by Indians, Sikhs, Eurasians, Europeans, and an increasing number of migrants. Liberal retirement visa rules allow a US citizen to live in the country for ten years.

The religious mix in Kuala Lumpur is also diverse, with Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu communities living and practicing side by side. Approximately 9% of the population is Christian. Religious proselytization is allowed in Malaysia. In fact, many tourist-oriented hotels will have a bible in their rooms.

### People Groups Focus

Bawean [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10740/MY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10740/MY)  
 Burmese [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11029/MY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11029/MY)  
 Gujarati [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11982/MY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11982/MY)  
 Malay [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13437/MY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13437/MY)  
 South Asian (Telugu) [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15324/MY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15324/MY)

### Scripture

“Turn your ears to wisdom and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight and ask for understanding.”

**Proverbs 2:2-3 (NIV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Many small churches have no pastor, even though there are bible colleges and seminaries. Pray for graduates to feel called to a parish ministry and discipling new believers.
- Pray for the new party of leaders elected in 2022 to be successful in their efforts to satisfy both moderate and conservative Muslims, as well as the diverse minorities living in Kuala Lumpur.
- Pray for the many students in Kuala Lumpur to hear about Jesus and take the message back to their families.



# Makassar, Indonesia



Makassar, formerly Ujung Pandang, is the capital of the Indonesian province of South Sulawesi. It is the largest city in the region of Eastern Indonesia and home to 1.7 million people. It is also home to Indonesia's busiest airport.

Islam is the predominant religion in Makassar, but Christians comprise 15% of the population of Indonesia. Some of the larger Christian congregations are on the island of Sulawesi, although most are in the northern section.

In recent years the government has reestablished the old Dutch policy of “transmigration.” This is a plan to ease overpopulation in Java by moving landless people to the outer islands. They are given land, money, and fertilizer to start a small subsistence farm. Unfortunately, this plan has been a failure resulting in deep social divides.

## People Groups Focus

Coastal Konjo [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12780/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12780/ID)

Hakka Han Chinese  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12054/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12054/ID)

Indonesian [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18503/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18503/ID)

Makassar [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13235/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13235/ID)

Wakatobi [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15620/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15620/ID)

## Scripture

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the element of spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.”

**Colossians 2:8 (NIV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for revival amongst the Christians in Makassar. Many congregations lack spiritual life.
- Rapid growth of newer Pentecostal churches has created a need for discipleship training for pastors and lay leaders. Pray that resources and materials will be available to them.
- Migrant workers, many of them women, work in shops and homes. Pray that the believers they interact with will show them the love of Jesus.
- Pray for those being forcibly relocated to find peace in their new locales. Pray that they will encounter Jesus followers who can minister to them.

## Mashhad, Iran



Mashhad is a city of 3.6 million people in northeast Iran. As the second largest holy city in the world, Mashhad is a focus for religious pilgrimage for Muslims and was named as “Iran’s Spiritual Capital,” attracting more than 20 million tourists and pilgrims annually. Many of these come to pay homage to the shrine of Imam Reza, the eighth Shi’ite Imam.

Mashhad is also a center of religious study for the country, with 39 seminaries and numerous Islamic schools. The Ferdowsi University attracts students from several surrounding nations.

Like the rest of Iran, Muslims in Mashhad practice Shi’ism, putting them at odds with most of their Arab State neighbors. While much overlap exists between the two divisions of the faith, there are substantial differences in rituals and interpretation of Islami law.

While the Iranian constitution recognizes three religious minorities, including Christians, persecution is frequent. Visibly carrying a bible is punishable by death, and there are stern laws against printing or importing bibles in the Farsi language.

### People Groups Focus

Afshari [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19409/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19409/IR)

Hazara [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12076/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12076/IR)

Kurmanji Kurd [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12877/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12877/IR)

Persian [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14371/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14371/IR)

Southern Pashtun  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14327/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14327/IR)

### Scripture

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the element of spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.”

**Colossians 2:8 (NIV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for Iranian women who are protesting the oppression of the regime.
- Pray that leaders of the underground Jesus movement in Iran would be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they seek to share their faith.
- Pray for the nomadic people living in the Zagros Mountains. Pray that Christian teams reaching out to them will find a receptive audience.
- Pray that during this Ramadan season, pilgrims to Mashhad will see a revelation of the risen Jesus and the hope that is available through Him.

# Mecca, Saudi Arabia



Mecca, the birthplace of Islam, and the religious center to which hundreds of millions of Muslims turn towards daily in prayer, is the holiest city in Islam. Only Muslims are allowed in the city, with millions arriving for the annual Hajj (pilgrimage).

Dating from the seventh century, the central Masjid al-Haram (Sacred Mosque) surrounds the Kaaba, the cloth-covered cubic structure that is Islam's most sacred shrine.

Islam originated approximately 1,400 years ago in the nation of Saudi Arabia when the founder, Muhammad, declared that no other religion should exist on the Arabian Peninsula. This is still the official doctrine today in that no other religions can be practiced openly, though there is some level of tolerance for non-Muslim private religious practices.

## People Groups Focus

Najdi Saudi Arab  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10759/SA](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10759/SA)

Hijazi Saudi Arab  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14784/SA](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14784/SA)

Omani Arab  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10378/SA](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10378/SA)

## Scripture

“But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.”

**Matthew 13:23 (NIV)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for Jesus to be glorified, and for Spirit-led, Christ-exalting, multiplying house churches to be born in the 24 languages of this city, especially among the people groups mentioned above.
- Pray for a mighty movement of prayer to rise up from the nations of the earth for this great city.
- Pray for an outbreak of revelation and angelic visitation.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to advance through Saudi prayer warriors standing in the gap for their government officials.



## Medan, Indonesia



Medan is the capital and largest city of the Indonesian province of North Sumatra. The huge Maimun Palace and octagonal Great Mosque of Medan dominate the city center, combining Islamic and European styles.

The city's location makes it the main hub of international trade in western Indonesia, with exports going to North America, Europe, and the Middle East. Quite a few international companies maintain offices in Medan.

The city has 72 registered universities, polytechnics, and colleges, and it is home to 2.4 million people.

Most of Medan's inhabitants are Muslim, accounting for approximately 66% of the population. The substantial Christian demographic (about 25% of the total population) includes Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, and the Batak Christian Protestant Church. Buddhists make up about 9% of the population, and there are smaller Hindu, Confucian, and Sikh communities.

### People Groups Focus

Acehnese [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10144/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10144/ID)

Batak Angkola [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10718/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10718/ID)

Kluet [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10247/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10247/ID)

Mandailing [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10721/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10721/ID)

Minangkabau [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13724/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13724/ID)

### Scripture

“The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.”

**Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for unity among the various Christian groups in Medan. Pray that they will work together to share the love of Jesus with their Muslim neighbors.
- Ask God to remove the spirit of delusion that leads to worship of the occult for the people adhering to folk Islam and Hinduism.
- Pray for indigenous church leaders who are ministering to the migrants working in the factories and docks of Medan.
- Pray for additional translations of scripture into the diverse languages spoken in Medan.

# Mogadishu, Somalia



Mogadishu, the capital city and the major port, is the largest metropolitan area in Somalia, located just north of the Equator on the Indian Ocean. It is a city of 2.6 million people.

Forty years of civil war and clan skirmishes have wreaked havoc on the nation and further weakened tribal relationships, keeping the people of Somalia divided. For decades, Mogadishu has been a refuge for Islamic militants who target Jesus followers in Somalia and surrounding nations.

Some modest level of stability may be finally at hand. There is now a Parliament, and the Al-Shabab terrorist group has left the city. However, they still hold influence in the rural areas, and true stability is still a way away.

Somalia is overwhelmingly Muslim, 99.7% of the population. There is a negative prejudice against Christianity that is a serious roadblock to growing a Jesus-following presence.

## People Groups Focus

Somali [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14983/SO](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14983/SO)

Omani Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10378/SO](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10378/SO)

Southern Baloch

[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15034/SO](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15034/SO)

## Scripture

“And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.”

**Mark 16:20 (NLT)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for Christ-exalting, multiplying house churches of peace in every neighborhood and in all 21 languages of this city, especially among the people groups mentioned above.
- Pray for supernatural wisdom, courage, and protection for the Gospel SURGE teams as they risk all to plant churches.
- Pray for a mighty movement of prayer to protect and cover Jesus followers.
- Pray for the Prince of Peace to strengthen Jesus followers with training and tools.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to come in signs, wonders, and power over religious, government, and university leaders.

# N'Djaména, Chad



N'Djamena is the capital and largest city of Chad. It is located in the southwest part of the country on the border with Cameroon and has a population of 1.6 million.

Chad is a landlocked nation and is considered one of the poorest countries in the world. While it is the fifth largest country in Africa in terms of area, much of the northern part lies in the Sahara Desert and is sparsely populated. Most of the people live through farming cotton or cattle. A nascent oil producing industry is in the process of being developed.

Rebels and bandits plague the nation from inside but also from neighboring Darfur, Cameroon, and Nigeria. This hinders economic growth, human development, and Christian ministry.

Islam is the largest religious group in Chad, accounting for 55% of the people. Catholic Christians are 23% and Protestant Christians are 18% of the population. There is strife between the northern part of the country where the Muslims live and the Christian majority in the south, including in N'Djamena.

## People Groups Focus

Baggara Shuwa Arab  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14926/CD](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14926/CD)

Deaf [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19007/CD](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19007/CD)

Hausa [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12070/CD](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12070/CD)

## Scripture

“But as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”

**Luke 9:60 (AMP)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray that the team at Chadian Arabic Christian Radio will continue to have an impact reaching Muslims throughout the region.
- Pray for the new government, established in 2022 after 30 years of dictatorship. Pray for wisdom for these leaders and that it will be a government of reconciliation.
- Pray for the translation teams working on scriptures for several of the minority people groups in N'Djamena.
- Pray Psalm 67 for the people of N'Djamena and all of Chad.



## Nouakchott, Mauritania



Nouakchott is the capital and largest city of Mauritania. It is one of the largest cities in the Sahara with 1.5 million residents. It is also one of the newest capital cities in Africa, being named the capital just prior to Mauritania's independence from France in 1960.

The capital city has a deep-water port on the Atlantic, much of which has been developed in recent years by the Chinese. Nouakchott's economy is based on the mining of gold, phosphate, and copper from the surrounding region along with factory-produced goods such as cement, rugs, embroidery, insecticides, and textiles.

Crime is rampant in Mauritania, and westerners who venture outside of the capital city are frequently kidnapped for ransom.

The challenges to the gospel in Nouakchott, and throughout Mauritania, are significant. 99.8% of the population identify as Sunni Muslim. Freedom of religion is prohibited, and followers of Islam who convert to Christianity are shunned by their families and communities.

### People Groups Focus

Jola-Fonyi [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11568/MR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11568/MR)

Pulaar Fulani [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15622/MR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15622/MR)

Moor [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13592/MR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13592/MR)

Soninke [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14996/MR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14996/MR)

### Scripture

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

**Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for the near culture teams who are entering Nouakchott to bring the gospel to this hostile environment.
- Ask that the Holy Spirit bring visions of Jesus to many thousands of Muslims during this holy month of Ramadan.
- Pray for God's mercy for the people affected by severe drought and a broken economy.
- Slavery is a significant problem here. Pray for freedom for these people and that they will come to know true freedom in Christ.

## Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



Ouagadougou, or Wagadugu, is the capital of Burkina Faso, and the administrative, communications, cultural, and economic center of the nation. It is also the country's largest city, with a population of 3.2 million. The city's name is often shortened to Ouaga. The inhabitants are called "ouagalais."

The rise, or arrival from elsewhere, of radical jihadist Muslim groups has brought great turmoil to Burkina Faso. Both Christians and Muslims have been targeted and murdered by these Islamist groups. These attacks, combined with existing ethnic tensions, rebel groups, and political instability, led to not one but two military coups in 2022.

On the surface, the population of Christians in the country would seem to be influential, with 20% of the people saying that they are Christian. However, the power of the spirit world has not been broken. Some say that the nation is 50% Muslim, 20% Christian, and 100% animist. The occult shows its power even in some churches.

### People Groups Focus

Bobo Madare [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10902/UV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10902/UV)

Marka Dafing [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13550/UV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13550/UV)

Lobi [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13082/UV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13082/UV)

Northern Birfor  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10870/UV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10870/UV)

Tamasheq Tuareg  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15607/UV](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15607/UV)

### Scripture

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**Acts 1:8 (AMP)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for the risen Christ to demonstrate His power and set people free.
- Pray for the establishment of a stable and transparent government.
- Pray for bible-focused leaders to rise in the Christian community and lead their people to freedom from the occult.
- Pray for the teams now in Ouagadougou sharing their faith in the true Jesus.

## Qom, Iran



Qom is a city in north central Iran, about 90 miles south of Tehran. Though relatively small with just 1.3 million people, it has considerable religious significance. Qom is considered holy in Shi'a Islam, as it is the site of the shrine of Fatimah bint Musa.

Since the revolution of 1979, Qom has become the clerical center of Iran, with more than 45,000 Imams, or “spiritual leaders,” living here. Many Grand Ayatollahs keep offices in both Tehran and Qom.

While the Iranian constitution recognizes Christianity as one of the four acceptable religions, an exception is anyone who converts from Islam to Christianity, which is illegal and can be punishable by death. Despite this, the last few years have seen a tremendous number of converts. Some estimate this to be as high as three million, although it is difficult to access accurate numbers as many of the house churches meet clandestinely.

Whatever the number is, we can praise God for the growing Jesus movement in this city and nation!

### People Groups Focus

Afshari [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19409/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19409/IR)

Azeri Turk [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18859/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18859/IR)

Southern Tati [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18806/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18806/IR)

Turkic Khalaj [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12648/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12648/IR)

### Scripture

“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.”

**1 Chronicles 16:24 (NKJV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for safety for the leaders of the underground Jesus movement in Qom.
- Pray that signs, wonders, dreams, and visions from the Holy Spirit touch millions of people in Iran during this Ramadan.
- The Turkic people groups in the northern parts of the country have almost no Christian influence. Pray that teams being sent to them will discern the men of peace and be able to share the Gospel.
- Offer thanksgiving to God for the growth of his church in this city and country.



## Sana'a', Yemen



For many centuries, Sana'a', the capital of Yemen, has been the chief economic, political, and religious center of the country. The Old City is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. According to legend, Yemen was founded by Shem, one of the three sons of Noah.

Today, Yemen is home to the world's worst humanitarian crisis after a brutal civil war started six years ago. Since then, over four million people have fled their homes, and there have been 233,000 casualties from the war. Currently, Yemen has over 20 million people who rely on some form of humanitarian aid for their survival.

Less than .1% of the population is Christian. Believers meet secretly and only in small groups, facing dangerous opposition. Radio broadcasts of the message of Jesus, careful witness, and the natural dreams and visions of Muslim people are creating opportunities for the gospel in this war-torn land.

### People Groups Focus

Northern Yemeni Arab  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14715/YM](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14715/YM)

Tihami Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15484/YM](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15484/YM)

Sudanese Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15104/YM](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15104/YM)

### Scripture

“Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.”

**Psalm 27:14 (NAS)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for healing and restoration to come to the nation as churches are planted among the Northern Yemeni Arabs, Southern Yemeni Arabs, and the Sudanese Arabs.
- Pray for the Gospel SURGE teams as they plant churches. Pray for protection, wisdom, and courage.
- Pray for a mighty movement of prayer to sweep over Christians everywhere to lift up this war-torn city.
- Pray that the Lord would have mercy on the city and bring an end to the civil war destroying the nation.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to come through mercy, giving gifts to the poor and opening hearts to his Kingdom.

# Surabaya, Indonesia



Surabaya is a port city on the Indonesian island of Java. A vibrant, sprawling metropolis, it mixes modern skyscrapers with canals and buildings from its Dutch colonial past. It has a thriving Chinatown and an Arab Quarter whose Ampel Mosque dates to the 15th century. Al-Akbar Mosque, one of the largest mosques in the world, is also in Surabaya.

Surabaya is the second largest city in Indonesia and has a population of three million. It is also known as the “city of heroes” for the battle on October 30, 1945, that galvanized the country’s fight for independence.

The city is 85% Muslim, with Protestant and Catholic adherents combined making up 13% of the population. New laws now prevent Christians from building, which has led to the destruction of churches and other Christian-owned buildings. Many of the Christians worship at the Gereja Kejawana, a syncretic religious movement that combines Christianity with the traditional religion of Java.

## People Groups Focus

Deaf [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/19007/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19007/ID)

Java Banyumasan  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12331/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12331/ID)

Kangean [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18746/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18746/ID)

Osing [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10666/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10666/ID)

Tengger [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15341/ID](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15341/ID)

## Scripture

“For the Lord gave us this command when he said, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.’”

**Acts 13:47 (NLT)**

## Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for church leadership to maintain a strong faith in the face of increasing persecution.
- Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to come on believers and destroy the influence of animistic practices.
- Pray that ethnic pride amongst some of the Christian people groups will not hinder their influence in sharing the gospel.
- Pray that the migrants and displaced people in the city would find employment opportunities.

## Tabriz, Iran



Tabriz is the capital city of East Azerbaijan Province in northwestern Iran. It is the sixth largest city in Iran with 1.6 million people. The city is best known for the Tabriz Bazaar, once a major Silk Road market. This sprawling brick-vaulted complex is still active today, selling carpets, spices, and jewelry. The rebuilt 15th-century Blue Mosque retains original turquoise mosaics on its entrance arch.

Tabriz is a major heavy industries hub for automobiles, machine tools, refineries, petrochemicals, textiles, and cement-production industries.

Most of its citizens are Shia Muslims of Azerbaijani ethnicity. Azerbaijani people's interest in and love for infallible imams are quite well-known in Iran. Also of interest in Tabriz is the Saint Mary's Armenian church, built in the 12th century and still being used. In contrast, the Assyrian Christian Church (Presbyterian) was forcibly shut down by intelligence agents and closed to all future worship services.

### People Groups Focus

Central Tati [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18861/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18861/IR)

Harzani [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12067/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12067/IR)

Karingani [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/12541/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12541/IR)

### Scripture

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

**Philippians 3:14 (NIV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for safety for the small group of Christian leaders in Tabriz. Pray that they will be able to continue to disciple their house churches.
- Offer thanks for the teams that are committed to working in Tabriz to share the love of Jesus.
- Pray for the ministry tools being used to effectively open doors to Muslim neighbors.
- Pray that as Muslims seek a sign on the Night of Power, the grace of Jesus would be made clear to them.



## The Night of Power



Laylat al-Qadr, the “Night of Power,” celebrates the revelation of the Quran’s first verses to the Islamic prophet Mohammad. It is an exceptionally significant event—prayers and good deeds done on this night are considered to be of greater value than all the prayers and good deeds done in a thousand months.

This night is also known as the “Night of Destiny” when many believe their fate for the following year is determined. Therefore, it is especially important for Muslims to pray for forgiveness and blessings on this night, and many will pray throughout the night. Some even stay in the mosque for the whole last ten days of Ramadan so as not to miss this time.

There are different opinions about the date for Laylat al-Qadr, but in general, it is agreed that it is most likely to fall during the last ten nights of Ramadan. According to many Muslim scholars, the night between the 26th and 27th days of Ramadan is the most probable.

It is also believed that the angels spend this night in constant journey between heaven and earth, dispensing peace and blessings on believers as they pray.

### How to Pray on This Night:

During Laylat al-Qadr, Muslims are seeking God with real focus. Pray that God will miraculously reveal Himself to them in dreams and visions.

Many Muslims are seeking forgiveness for their sins on this night. Pray that they will have a revelation of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Pray for this Night of Destiny to bring opportunities for followers of Jesus to share the gospel with their family and friends.

## Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan and the largest city in Central Asia, is the main economic and cultural center of the region. It is a city of 2.6 million people that mixes modern and Soviet era architecture.

After falling to Arabs in the eighth century, Uzbekistan was seized by the Mongols in the Middle Ages and finally gained its independence after the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. Since then, Uzbekistan has dramatically improved in most aspects of life, even being awarded the world's most improved economy in 2019.

Despite such progress, the church has been largely oppressed in the nation. They are forced to register with the government, which can restrict and control the activities and expression of the worshipping community. The government punishes anyone who tries to reach Uzbeks or other Muslim people for Jesus.

### People Groups Focus

Northern Uzbek [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14039/UZ](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14039/UZ)

Tajik [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15201/UZ](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15201/UZ)

Turkmen [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15654/UZ](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15654/UZ)

### Scripture

“Then Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.”

**Acts 19:8 (BSB)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for the multiplication of Christ-exalting, multiplying house churches in the Northern Uzbek, Southern Uzbek, and Turkmen UUPGS.
- Pray for a mighty movement of Spirit-empowered, scripture-fed, anointed prayer to come forth from every believer.
- Pray for workers to come from the harvest, for families to be reached, and for communities to be impacted by the gospel.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to advance through dreams and visions and for Jesus to be exalted in the hearts and minds of believers.

## Tehran, Iran



Tehran was first chosen as the capital of Iran by Agha Mohammad Khan of the Qajar dynasty in 1786. Today it is a megalopolis of 9.5 million people.

Following a botched 2015 nuclear deal with the US, firm sanctions on Iran have weakened their economy and further tainted the public opinion of the only Islamic theocracy in the world. As the access to basic necessities and governmental planning worsens, the people of Iran are further disillusioned with the Islamic utopia promised by the government.

These are just a few of the many factors that contribute to Iran hosting the fastest growing Jesus-following church in the world. Pray that Iranians' desires for greatness, prosperity, freedom, and even for righteousness will ultimately be met through worship of Jesus.

### People Groups Focus

Gilaki [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/11890/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11890/IR)

Mazanderani [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13610/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13610/IR)

Persian [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/14371/IR](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14371/IR)

### Scripture

“And whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’ And if a man of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him; but if not, it will return to you.”

**Luke 10:5 (NASB)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for strength and boldness in the launching of God-glorifying house churches in the Gilaki, Mazanderani, and Persian UUPGs.
- Pray that believers in government, business, education, and the arts would have influence for the gospel.
- Pray for the awakening and strengthening of believers who have been in hiding. Pray that they have boldness in sharing their faith.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to come in signs, wonders, and power and for the multiplication of outreach, disciple making, and church planting in the 31 provinces of Iran.



## Tripoli, Libya



Tripoli, Libya's capital city, is a large metropolitan area on the Mediterranean Sea. It is situated just south of Sicily and north of the Sahara. It is home to 1.2 million people.

Prior to its independence in 1951, the country was under foreign rule intermittently for over two thousand years. Due to their arid climate, Libya was almost completely dependent on foreign aid and imports for the stability of their economy until petroleum was discovered in the late 1950s.

After the rise and fall of the socialist state under Muammar Gaddafi's leadership, the nation has been struggling to end the residual conflict and build state institutions. Libya's people suffered greatly during this time, with many thousands of casualties and 60% of the population malnourished.

Large numbers of migrants come into Tripoli, hoping to make the dangerous passage to Italy. The current chaos in Libya gives freedom for traffickers to exploit these vulnerable people.

Christians are about 2.5% of the population. Only a fifth of these are evangelical. Many Jesus followers remain in hiding in fear of severe persecution or death.

### People Groups Focus

Libyan  
(Tripolitanian) Arab [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/13169/LY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13169/LY)

Sudanese Arab  
[https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/15104/LY](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15104/LY)


### Scripture

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

**Mark 11:24 (NKJV)**

### Prayer Emphasis

- Pray for thousands of Christ-exalting, multiplying house churches in the 27 languages spoken in this city.
- Pray for a mighty movement of prayer to sweep over the house churches.
- Pray for Tripoli to be a sending place, impacting the entire nation and the region with the delivering power of Jesus.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to destroy the works of the devil.

The background of the slide features a silhouette of a mosque with a large central dome and several minarets. The scene is set against a sunset sky with a gradient from orange to green. The mosque's silhouette is dark and detailed, showing the intricate shapes of the domes and spires.

Muslims around the world will celebrate the three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday starting this weekend. Since the start date of Eid depends on the sighting of the moon, it starts on different dates each year.

Over the next few days, Muslims will celebrate the end of Ramadan by attending prayers at a local mosque or other gathering place and breaking the fast with a special feast. Most will usually dress in their best new clothes as they visit friends and family, wishing them a happy Eid.

In many countries Muslims have a tradition of giving money and food to the poor at this time. Many will give gifts of candy or money to children. This is why this holiday is sometimes known as Sweet Eid. It is a happy, joyous occasion somewhat like celebrating Christmas.

If you have a Muslim friend, neighbor, or co-worker, make sure to greet them with a warm, “Eid Mubarak” (“Blessed Eid”) and ask them how they are celebrating. Or pay them a short visit to their home, a common expression of friendship and celebration during this season.

Finally, please remember that your prayers are vital to the transformation of lives, not just during this time, but throughout the year.

Thank you for praying.



MUSLIM WORLD  
PRAYER GUIDE

# 30 DAYS OF PRAYER®

CHRISTIANS LEARNING ABOUT AND  
PRAYING FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD