

MUSLIM WORLD PRAYER GUIDE

30 DAYS OF PRAYER
MAY 6–JUNE 4 2019

**CHRISTIANS LEARNING ABOUT AND
PRAYING FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD**

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ABOUT US

This (28th) annual worldwide call to prayer began in 1993. International coordination during that period has migrated between Australia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the USA. Other editions of this material are distributed by coordinators in different language and geographic regions (see: <https://www.pray30days.org/directory>). We welcome your feedback, so please contact: PaulF@30daysprayer.com, or use address on back cover).

ADDITIONAL BOOKLETS

Including a kids and Spanish version. See center pages and Order Form on page 55.



Welcome to the 2019 edition of *30 Days Muslim World Prayer Guide!*

Over the last few years, as participation in *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World* has grown to include dozens of new language groups and believers all over the world, we have made efforts to see that our content reflects our global identity.

This year, we were excited to receive submissions from all over the continent of Africa, from remote areas of China, from small towns in North America and from islands near the Equator. The Muslim world is diverse, and we aim to show you that diversity in this guide, so that your prayers are far-reaching and informed, and also so that you are connected to the work God is doing in different ways, among different people.

Our editing team is always impressed by the different ways our contributors find to share what is important to the people groups they are living among. We hope that their stories, and the beautiful images they share, will inspire you to pray with insight and sincerity for Muslims everywhere.

Thank you for praying!
30 Days Editors

Published in North America since 1993 by



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Hospitality in the Muslim world

Hospitality is an important—almost a central—part of Islamic culture. Offering kindness and generosity to guests is considered a duty that one owes to God. Therefore, many Muslims believe that to honor and welcome a guest is to honor and welcome God.

Hospitality is expressed in different ways in different cultures, but throughout the Islamic world it is characterized by generosity and self-sacrifice. No matter how little one might have, it is a point of honor to share it with guests.

We asked our contributors to tell us about what hospitality looks like in the Muslim people groups they live among. Food, of course, plays a significant part, and we advise our readers that some of these articles may make you very hungry! Even during the month of Ramadan, when fasting is the focus, the feasting that happens after sunset each day is sumptuous and shared freely.

Hospitality brings people together. It invites us to talk with one another and grow in spiritual understanding both as an individual and as a group. We hope that you will enjoy these descriptions of hospitality in different Muslim cultures and be inspired to pray in a way that reflects that spirit of generous welcome.



“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

2 Corinthians 9:6

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Frequently asked questions about *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World*

How did *30 Days* get started?

A group of mission leaders were praying at a meeting in the Middle East. They were convicted of the need to focus prayer on the Muslim world and be more proactive in demonstrating God's love for Muslim people. The prayer guide for Muslims during Ramadan was one way they responded.

Who writes the articles and produces the guide?


The team that produces *30 Days* is a diverse group of people from different Christian churches and organizations spread all over the world. Many of them have lived among, worked with and loved Muslim people for many years. Some contribute articles, while others volunteer each year to translate, design or distribute the guide.

How do you decide who to pray for?

We gather submissions from all over the world, so our selection is based on what we are sent. We produce a writing guide each year for anyone who is interested in mobilizing prayer for a particular need—contact us if you'd like to write for *30 Days*!

How should we pray?

Use the prayer ideas as a starting point for your prayers. Some of them have Scriptures that will provide inspiration. Let the Holy Spirit challenge you to pray in the light of all the needs of the people you read about, and based on our calling as the followers of Christ to love them as He does and share His good news with them.



***Let the Holy Spirit
challenge you to pray
in the light of all the
needs of the people
you read about.***

Who are we praying for

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DAY 1 May 6

The Fulani of the Sahel


IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray that Fulani women alone in their villages would experience God's protection, provision and peace like the widow of Zarephath, who put God first by serving the prophet Elisha. (1 Kings 17:7–16)
- 2 Pray that the gospel would travel with the 35 million Fulani who are on the move across Africa.
- 3 Pray that as Fulani families extend hospitality to others, they would experience the One who said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, and if anyone hears my voice, I will come in to him and eat with him and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Yesterday's dishes lie in a pile by the door to Issata's mud house. The sun rises and the sand glitters in the daylight. The guests, who arrived three months ago, are still sleeping under the tent in the center of her compound, having gone to sleep refreshed by a chilled hibiscus drink, millet couscous and fishy leaf stew. Issata gets up, washes her face, hands and feet, and bows down to pray.

Issata is a Fulani woman. The Fulani are the largest nomadic people group in the world and the largest unreached people group in Africa. Numbering 35 million, they roam from the east to the west of Africa across the Sahel. Like many Fulani women, Issata lives nine to ten months of the year without her husband. Fulani men travel for work as shepherds or in trade, while the women stay in small villages waiting for their men to come home.

Issata's life is centered around *koddirgal* (hospitality)—the highest value in the Fulani code of conduct! She never asks a guest how long they will stay nor to contribute to the chores or food bill. She serves them generously and willingly until they go—whether it is for hours or years. This is the Fulani way, and Issata is a beautiful demonstration of this welcome with no limits.



The Fulani are the largest
nomadic people group
in the world.

DAY 2 May 7

Egypt: Changing traditions of hospitality

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 John 3:1 says that God has lavished His love upon us. Pray for the people of Egypt to experience the lavish love of God.
- 2 Relationships between Christians and Muslims in Egypt can be tense. Pray for the culture of hospitality in both to break down barriers and lead to real friendship and witness.
- 3 Pray that young people in Egypt will influence the nation in other important matters, such as increased religious freedom.

Generosity is the foundation of Egyptian hospitality. It is said that you should provide your guests with twice as much as they are likely to eat so that there are plenty of leftovers and your generosity cannot be questioned. A host will encourage guests to eat more and is honored when they do.

This expectation of generous excess can make hospitality a burden. It would be a cause of great shame to invite someone to your home and be unable to offer an abundance, so many will avoid giving the invitation altogether. The demands during Ramadan are even greater, as family expectations are higher, and it is considered that God will reward your generosity

more during this time.

With a struggling economy affecting all social classes, issues such as education, employment and income are growing concerns for families. This can have a big impact on the sense of community and hospitality. Younger generations, who represent 61 percent of the population, are deciding that traditional requirements for hosting can be too much of a burden. Many are moving away from what they consider to be unrealistic expectations. Influenced by their awareness of other cultures and lifestyles, they are accepting that it is all right to invite someone to your home for coffee without needing to provide a lavish meal.

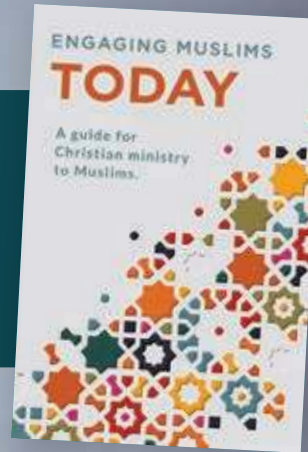


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DAY 3 May 8

A cup of tea in Mali

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Nations are destroyed by corruption, violence, prejudice and extremism but built up by honesty, peace, unity and compassion. Pray the blessings of Psalm 67:1–7 over Mali.
- 2 Pray that many of the people of Mali will be welcomed into the family of Christ as described in Ephesians 2:18–20.
- 3 Pray for those working in Mali to share the gospel, and for more believers in local churches to be a light to their nation.

Mali is a land-locked nation in West Africa with 18 million inhabitants—90 percent of whom are Muslim. Mali used to be a peaceful land, but since 2012 there has been unrest and conflict in the northern part of the country, stirred by Islamist militant groups. Violence and government instability have caused a rise in poverty and ethnic divisions.

However, all the tribes in Mali share a saying: “The stranger is worth more than you!” If you come as a stranger to a village, you will find a family to stay with, food and water. Even those who do not have much will share their food with a traveler. A foreigner will even get a local family name. That way they will be given a place in the society and be treated as someone belonging to the ethnic group or caste that goes with that family name.

But what really binds Mali together is the sharing of a small glass of tea several times a day. Every afternoon you will see the men gathered around a teapot in the streets, at the street corners, in front of someone’s house or outside the local shop. To make good tea is a slow process and, in the meantime, you can discuss family, politics, religion or soccer!

Every afternoon you will

see the men gathered around a teapot.



DAY 4 May 9

Coffee in Bosnia and Herzegovina

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 True reconciliation will be necessary to reunite the people of BiH. Pray that the Body of Christ will lead the way in making this happen. (See 1 Corinthians 12:12–14.)
- 2 Pray that national believers and missionaries would have opportunities to make disciples while sharing coffee and that Bosniaks would be curious to know more about Jesus.
- 3 Pray that God's love and forgiveness would break through the bitterness, suspicion, unforgiveness and prejudice that still lingers in Bosnia, over 20 years after the war.

Coffee in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is not just a pick-me-up drink that you pour yourself to start your day. No, *kafa* in BiH is an event, not a casual whim.

Day or night, streets in BiH are lined with cafes, full of people talking quietly over tiny cups of traditional Bosnian coffee, which is thick and strong. Nothing much happens in BiH without coffee. Whether it is a business meeting, a hike up one of the Olympic mountains, moving house day, a rafting trip, a birthday celebration or

simply a summer afternoon with friends and neighbors ... coffee unites people in this divided land.

A devastating civil war in the 1990s segregated the three main people groups in Bosnia – Bosniaks (mostly Muslim), Croats (mostly Catholic) and Serbs (mostly Eastern Orthodox Christian). This segregation has awakened deeply rooted nationalism and made it increasingly difficult for Bosniaks to clearly hear and respond to the gospel. However, there are a few who have begun to follow Jesus, and these believers are beginning to disciple others. In cafes and in homes, over coffee, Bosniaks are reading the Bible and discovering the hope and freedom offered through Jesus!



Coffee unites people in

this divided land.



IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray Isaiah 61:1–3 for the many Rohingya facing persecution whilst living as refugees.
- 2 Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers among the Rohingya.
- 3 Pray that the suffering and injustice experienced by the Rohingya people will turn into good, as in Genesis 50:20.



DAY 5 May 10

Rohingya refugees in Malaysia

Sabekunahar invites us in. She rolls out a brightly colored mat for us to sit on. Her welcome is warm, friendly and sincere, despite us interrupting her busy morning of housework, childcare and cooking. All of this is done in what is a second language for her in Malaysia, where she lives as a refugee. But her welcome never changes, even when guests are unexpected. Rohingya culture values people and community so, even on a small income, precious money is spent to honor guests. Sabekunahar heads straight to the kitchen to see what she can cook; someone is sent to buy cans of drink for the visitors.

Sabekunahar is a wonderful cook and we enjoy the feast of curry, rice and fresh fruit set before us. Our plates are topped up with more, accompanied by the words “Eat, eat.” Sabekunahar is delighted we enjoy her cooking.

This happy scene hides a few truths that Sabekunahar quietly bears. The perilous journey she made to Malaysia at the hands of human traffickers is rarely spoken of. It

is hard to describe the emotional and physical scars endured during these journeys. Nor do we talk about the isolation. Sabekunahar’s parents, living in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, meet their grandchildren through smartphones; that is as close as Sabekunahar gets to seeing her parents and siblings.

There are an estimated 150,000 Rohingya living in Malaysia, where they do not receive the warm welcome they so generously give to guests. They have no rights and receive no welfare. It is illegal for them to work and they are at risk of arrest every time they leave home.



DAY 6 May 11

Having tea among the Kazakhs

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

1 Be inspired from Romans 12:12–14 to pray for Kazakh Christians as they show God’s love and share their faith through hospitality.

2 Pray for Christian workers who are discipling Kazakh believers to encourage the growth and witness of the Kazakh Church.

3 Pray for the Kazakhs scattered in other nations, that they will form positive communities and, through their hospitable culture, make friends and find blessings.

“Come to our home and drink tea!”

When you get this invitation from a Kazakh family, you are likely to receive a whole meal, not just a drink. But there will be plenty of tea also—a delicious tea with lots of milk.

The Kazakh people are a Muslim group in Central Asia. Most live in Kazakhstan, but in

the nearby countries there are minority Kazakh groups, striving to preserve their unique culture and language. In the rural areas, some are nomads, tending their flocks and living in traditional yurts, which are tents made of wool.

One doesn’t have to wait for an invitation from Kazakh friends—you can visit anytime to chat and have several cups of milk-tea and some small, fried bread called *bauarsak*. Among these friendly people there are some Kazakhs who follow Christ. This can give them trouble and persecution—but not as severe as in other areas.

“Naomi” began to follow Jesus a few years ago and aims to show hospitality even beyond what is expected in their culture. As she lives in the city near a hospital, visitors will contact her from the countryside and stay in her home whilst they or a family member are receiving treatment there. Naomi’s husband is not a believer yet, but she has told him: “We know how it is to be sick, poor and in need, so we should help these people.” Having an open home allows her to show the love of Jesus to others.





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DAY 7 May 12

The Maldives: Paradise without Christ

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Drug addiction devastates lives and families. Pray for those who suffer as a result of addiction to experience real freedom in Christ and for that freedom to spread throughout the Maldives.
- 2 Pray for more freedom of religion and opportunities to hear the gospel, such as through progress in translating the Scriptures.
- 3 Pray that many Maldivians would come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord and that a network of believers and house churches would come into being and grow. Be inspired by Isaiah 42:1–4.

“Have we done something wrong?” our Maldivian friends used to ask after we hadn’t managed to visit them for just over a week. Maldivians (also called Dhivehis) are very hospitable, and our friends loved to serve tea and delicious food to us any time of the day and as often as we found opportunity to come by.

The Maldives is a chain of 26 atolls with hundreds of beautiful islands in the Indian Ocean, south-west of India and Sri Lanka. The islands are a paradise for tourists, but behind the curtain of external beauty there is much need and spiritual darkness. The Maldives is by law a 100 percent Muslim nation without religious freedom. Corruption, divorce,

abuse of women and girls, and drug addiction are widespread. Drug addicts and dealers may be sentenced to long terms in jail, but that doesn’t solve the problem.

Only very few Maldivians know Jesus as their Savior. After more than 20 years of Bible translation still only parts of the Bible are available in Maldivian (or Dhivehi). It has always been difficult to find native speakers able and willing to help with translation and proofreading due to fear of the authorities, reservations towards the Bible, or religious convictions.



DAY 8 May 13

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray that Emiratis would be like the merchant in Matthew 13:45–46, willing to pursue the kingdom of God at all costs.
- 2 Pray for the few local believers to be emboldened to share with friends and family, and for more expatriate believers living in the country to have opportunities to share the gospel with Emiratis.
- 3 Pray that the UAE will be a light and a blessing throughout the region.

Before the UAE became famous for oil wealth, its fame lay in ancient pearl-diving practices. From May to September, *dhow*s (traditional sailing vessels) would sail out into the Arabian Gulf, carrying men in search of pearls. Risking their lives, divers would carry out 50 dives in a long day.

After dividing the season's earnings with the captain and crew, most divers had just a small sum to show for their difficult and dangerous work. Despite their poverty, the Emiratis prided themselves on rich hospitality—offering food, drink, and lodging to strangers for at least three days, no questions asked.

Rapid development has transformed the

societal landscape in the last 40 years, and pearl diving has all but died out. Yet the culture of generous hospitality has persisted, with an ornate *majlis* (sitting room) kept ready for guests who stop by. Dates, nuts, coffee, tea, and an elaborate array of dishes presented in the guests' honor are common.

Now able to give lavishly to their guests out of their prosperity, Emiratis live in a modern world with first-class buildings and services that their grandparents could not have dreamed of. Still, the locals of the seven Emirates are spiritually poor.

The likelihood of finding a pearl inside an oyster is just one in 1,000. The odds of an Emirati being a follower of Jesus, however, are even lower—perhaps less than one in 50,000. But Emiratis could still risk everything to search for the Pearl of great value—an everlasting treasure that will change their lives.

Despite their poverty, the Emiratis prided themselves on rich hospitality.



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DAY 9 May 14

Turkey

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 The importance of cleanliness reflects a deep desire to be acceptable to God. Pray for Turks to discover the once-for-all cleansing of Jesus' blood, and our acceptance through Jesus' righteousness. (John 13:8–10; Hebrews 10:19–22)
- 2 Recent political and economic instability in Turkey has made people feel insecure and fearful, undermining hospitality. Pray for peace in the nation and wisdom among governing authorities. (1 Timothy 2:2–4)
- 3 Pray for believers in Turkey as they invite Jesus into people's everyday lives.

I step off a dirty Turkish street and into a perfectly clean apartment. My friend welcomes me with kisses and smiles, but the first thing I do is take off my shoes so that I don't tread dust into her home. I didn't bring *terlik* (house slippers) with me, so my hostess offers me some from her collection kept especially for guests. She ushers me into her salon, only used for guests, and I sit in the appropriate place. An older *teyze* ("aunty") has the most honorable seat, furthest from the door and any drafts. I greet her by kissing her hand and touching it to my head, as a sign of respect. My hostess' daughter offers me *kolonya* (sweet-scented liquid), pouring it into my cupped hands to wash them.

I'm offered Turkish coffee accompanied by a glass of water and a piece of Turkish delight. Other times the hostess might offer *çay* (Turkish tea) with sweet or salty biscuits; for special occasions she might invite my whole family to breakfast, a vast spread eaten slowly with plenty of time for talk and endless glasses of *çay*.

We talk about my friend's unemployed son and frail mother-in-law; she says that they will be provided for *Insha'Allah* ("God willing"), but with no confidence that Allah is concerned about these matters. She eagerly accepts my offer to pray in the name of *Isa* (Jesus) but is surprised that I mean there and then!



I'm offered Turkish coffee accompanied by a glass of water and a piece of Turkish delight.

DAY 10 May 15

The Afar of Djibouti: Camel milk in the desert

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Muslim-background believers among the Afar need to develop trust and create opportunities for fellowship. Pray Ephesians 4:2–4 over them.
- 2 Pray for Christian workers who are discipling new believers to have insight and wisdom.
- 3 The Afar who live traditionally need enough pasture and water. Pray the blessings of Psalm 23 for them.

Offering camel milk to greet a stranger is not unusual for the Afar people. It is served in a shallow dish. Refusing it would be rude.

Traditions are important to the Afar, who live in the lowlands in the triangle of Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Heat and drought characterize the daily life of this people, who move with their herds from one feeding place to the next. Originally, the Afar were feared as relentless warriors; as proud Muslims they defended their country for centuries.

Since national borders divide their territory and several wars have occurred, the approximately 1.6 million Afar have been marginalized. Drought and water shortages push them into the slums of the few cities. Here,

these formerly proud shepherds and warriors live as a minority among other ethnic groups. They no longer have political influence and self-determination.

Many decades ago the gospel reached the Afar. The Bible has been translated into their language. Nevertheless, it seemed that the good news did not penetrate people's hearts. Amazing things have happened in the last few years, however, and now several Afar follow Jesus. Through dreams and visions, they have come to faith, but prejudice and tribalism make it difficult for these believers to seek community among themselves. Trust must grow, as well as the knowledge that in the family of God all belong together. New believers face persecution by family and the state. Nevertheless, they courageously pass on the gospel.



DAY 11 May 16

Hui Muslims in China

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Hui culture is defined by honor and shame. Hui will borrow money to treat their guests to avoid dishonor. Pray that they will find freedom from the fear of shame and the pursuit of honor.
- 2 Hui people are hospitable. Pray for Christian workers to establish good relations with them and share the gospel in love.
- 3 Pray for the nine precious fruits of the Spirit (as seen in Galatians 5:22) to be evident among the Hui.

The Hui people are a group of over 10.5 million Muslims living primarily in north-west China. It is deemed an honor and an expression of trust for a non-Hui to be invited as a guest to a Hui family.

A Hui host will serve you a covered bowl of tea in Hui style. In addition to tea leaves, anything up to eight items will be added, including dry fruits or flowers such as red dates, rock sugar, chrysanthemums or roses. This tea is called the “Eight Treasures Tea”.

If a Hui invites his guests to dine in his home, the host usually does not sit among the guests but stands aside humbly to serve them. The Hui people never waste food. Even the crumbs on the table are swept into their hands and put into their mouth.

One time, I was invited to a banquet in a Hui friend’s home. I was regarded as “the most honourable guest” and sat in the middle of the table. After many courses of delicious dishes, the last dish of a large plate of a fatty chicken was placed on the table in front of me. Everyone looked at me and said: “As the most honorable guest, you must eat the chicken’s bottom, otherwise we can’t leave this house.” What an unexpected experience for a foreigner!

This tea is called the “Eight Treasures Tea”.



DAY 12 May 17

The Masalit of Sudan

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray that the Masalit would be able to rebuild what has been destroyed and reconcile with those who have wronged them.
- 2 Pray that this year the rains would come, bringing harvest and not famine.
- 3 Pray that God's blessing would rain down, that the Masalit "may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into His wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

After hours of driving, we arrived at sunset in a dusty border town, nestled between Sudan and Chad. Smiles and smoke filled the streets, and the call of the mosque went out across thatched rooftops. With joyful anticipation we arrived at two huts encircled by a low wall and went in. It had been a long time since we had last been home.

We are of the Masalit tribe, one of the largest and poorest tribes in Darfur, one of the most unreached regions of the world. Darfur is home to 8 million people and dozens of Muslim tribes. But war has ravaged the land, and the Masalit are now a scattered people. Some have become refugees in the West, others brave the Mediterranean Sea with small boats and big dreams; some go north into the Sahara looking

for gold, and others migrate to the slums of Africa's megacities. But we do not forget who we are: We take with us our homeland and our heritage, always hoping to return.

"Kinde!" We greeted the group gathered beneath the shade of the tree. Surprise and then celebration filled the crowd! Twelve years ago, as boys, we left home. Now, as men, we have returned. Neighbors gathered, sheep were slaughtered, the drums were assembled, and that night we celebrated like the good old days: Drinking *kirimta* and jumping as high as the stars until they faded into the sunrise.

In those precious moments we forgot our sorrows, but we cannot forget for long. The Masalit need your prayers.



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DAY 13 May 18

The Patoulis* of Central Asia

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray for lasting peace, hope, and an understanding of the true nature of God and His abundant life—for a revelation of John 10:10.
- 2 Pray that they find blessings and hear the good news on their mountain. (See Isaiah 52:7.)
- 3 This area needs more focus on creating disciples, with workers, prayer, funds and miracles to help them find Christ. Pray according to Matthew 9:38.

The Patoulis are strong, independent mountain-dwellers, easily walking for a day to spend time with friends. Until recently, their rough mountainous region had no vehicular access, but working hard (with lots of dynamite!) the people are making a level way through the valleys, for the first time connecting needy people to markets and much-needed health services.

Their isolation has caused the Patoulis to become self-sacrificing in their hospitality. With neither shops nor guest houses, private homes provide a welcome resting place for weary travelers on dangerous mountain paths. The Patoulis serve hard cornbread dipped in red beans or yogurt ball soup, and no matter how many guests, they say, “God will provide.”

The Patoulis live in Central Asia, and comprise only about 300,000 people made up of about five ethnic groups and speaking different languages.

Known for straight-talking, honesty and practical jokes, their lives are plagued by conflict, religious laws, violence, sickness and death. Many Patoulis leave their mountain due to fear of family revenge killings, lack of food or a desire to educate their children. Islamic extremism is also bringing conflict and widespread fear.

Fatima, a Patouli lady suffering many of these challenges, explains, “I can cope with the terrible pain but not knowing what is wrong or whether I will ever get better leaves me feeling so hopeless.” Until now, none have found hope in Christ.

** Name changed for security reasons.*

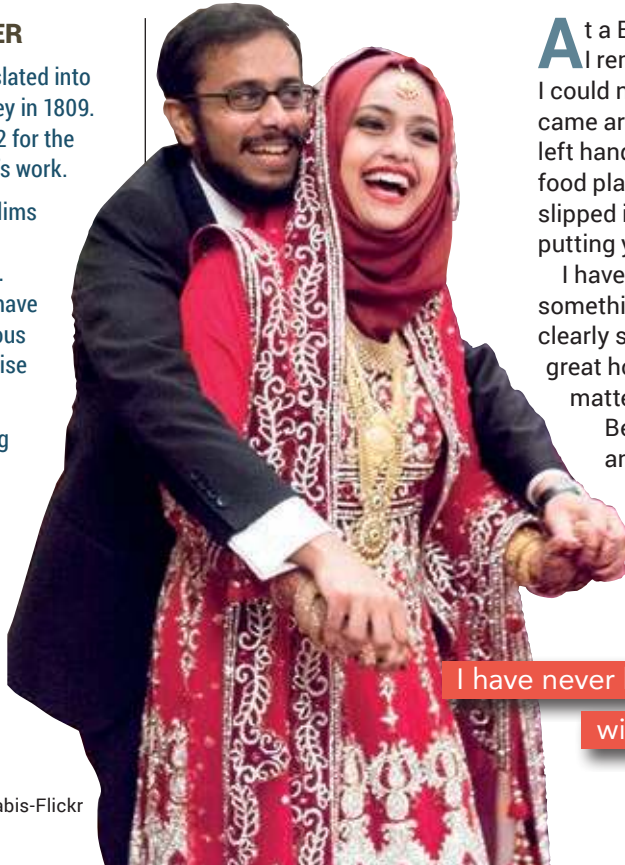
Private homes provide a welcome resting place

for weary travellers on dangerous mountain paths.

Bengali Muslims

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 The Bible was translated into Bengali by William Carey in 1809. Pray from Hebrews 4:12 for the Word of God to do God's work.
- 2 Indian Bengali Muslims face uncertainty as a minority in their states. Pray for this region to have peace among its religious communities and for wise governance.
- 3 Pray for the growing numbers of Bengali Muslim-background believers to have discipleship resources, strong fellowships and courage in the face of community persecution.



At a Bengali Muslim wedding, the hospitality can be aggressive! I remember attending a village wedding and being so full that I could not manage to eat any more rice and meat curry. The host came around with more food and a smile, and I began to place my left hand over the plate to “defile” it and so indicate that any more food placed there could go to waste. But he was so determined, he slipped in the serving spoon before I could get my hand in place, putting yet more food on my plate!

I have never been to a Bengali's house without being offered something to eat or drink, even in the homes of people who were clearly struggling to provide for themselves. They consider it a great honor to provide hospitality—and providing it well is also a matter of honor.

Bengali Muslims are the majority population in Bangladesh and the largest minority in the Indian states of West Bengal and Assam. With a population of 185 million, they are the second largest Muslim ethnic group in the world (after Arab Muslims). They are a large unreached people group but recent years have seen growing numbers come to faith in Jesus.

I have never been to a Bengali's house

without being offered something to eat or drink.

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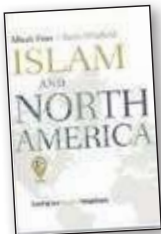


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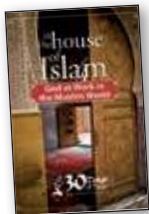
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DAY 15 May 20

Muslims in Chicago, USA

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray that Christians in the Chicago region will reflect Christ to Muslims in this area. (See Acts 17:26–27.)
- 2 Pray for Muslim-background believers and Muslim seekers as they meet in ethnic fellowship groups and Bible studies, that they would grow in their faith and commitment to Christ.
- 3 Pray for Muslim immigrants as they adjust to American life, education, language, and friendships.

More than a half-million Muslims from around the world live in the area around Chicago, USA.

DuPage County, in the western suburbs, has one of the highest Muslim populations in the country, with a population that is about 6 percent Muslim (that's about 60,000 people). Many nationalities are scattered across the region, although some groups cluster in neighborhoods. South Asians are found on the north side of Chicago, in the "Little India" neighborhood; various Arab nationalities live on the south side. Syrians, Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis, and a variety of Africans, many of whom are refugees, live throughout the city and suburbs and own shops and restaurants. Large ornate mosques and small store-front mosques are in almost every community.

Many Muslims have more opportunities to seek God through faith in Jesus when they come to the USA. Ministries, churches, and individuals are reaching out to Muslims and Muslim-background believers through hospitality, evangelism, friendship, Bible studies, English teaching and worship services. Muslims in America love to extend hospitality when Christians visit them, with tea, fruit, snacks, and sometimes a meal of Middle-Eastern or South Asian food.

As friendships deepen, American Christians can support and pray with Muslim friends for their life situations, for their children adjusting to American schools, for families back home in war zones, and that they will learn English, find jobs, and make new friends.



Many Muslims have more opportunities to seek God through faith in Jesus when they come to the USA.

DAY 16 May 21

The Kaka'i of Iran and Iraq: Hospitality with a moustache!

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Officially unrecognized by their governments, the Kaka'i are vulnerable to discrimination and harassment and need support to live peacefully and successfully.
- 2 Mystics long for intimate connection with God and a revelation of the spiritual world. Pray for them using 1 Corinthians 2:10–13 as inspiration.
- 3 A few Kaka'i are already followers of Christ. Pray for them to bring light and truth to this people of truth (John 8:12).

The Kaka'i call themselves *ahl al haqq*, which means “people of truth”. They are a Kurdish people group, living mainly in Iraq and Iran, with over 5 million members who speak Kurdish, Arabic and Farsi. Kaka'i men are identified by their large moustaches, which they wear proudly as a symbol of their religion.

Officially, they are registered as Muslims and Islamic Sharia law is forced on them. However, they prefer to follow their own secret religion, known as Yarsanism, a syncretic belief system that is similar to Sufism, but not well understood as it is forbidden to talk about.

Yarsanism was founded in the late 14th century and was heavily influenced by Islamic mysticism. Like Sufis, the Kaka'i desire to have a

personal relationship with God. Kaka'i men and women are enthusiastic musicians and love to sing their songs together in weekly meetings. As a despised minority, they feel very connected with Christians in their countries, and many have pictures representing Jesus in their homes. However, it is difficult for the Kaka'i to follow Jesus as this is seen as rejection of their faith, family and community.

Oriental-style hospitality is practiced extensively among the Kaka'i. Even if they are poor and don't possess much, their honor compels them to give. A guest cannot pass a Kaka'i house without drinking refreshments and coffee and having something to eat.



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Oriental-style hospitality

is practiced extensively among the Kaka'i.

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IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray for Muslims in Morocco, especially women. May they know that Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30).
- 2 Pray that Christians in Morocco would be sensitive to their Muslim neighbors during times of mourning and take the opportunity to show kindness and love.
- 3 Many Muslim countries prevent Bibles from getting into the hands of their citizens. Pray that Moroccans gain access to God's Word, so they may experience the sweetness of His Truth (Psalm 119:103).



DAY 17 May 22

Mourning in Morocco

The reputation for hospitality in Moroccan culture can be an overwhelming pressure for families. At difficult times, such as when a family member dies, it can be especially heavy.

When I lived in Morocco, my neighbor's mother died. I knocked on her door and handed her a box of sugar cubes. Sugar is an appropriate gift to express condolences to those who are mourning in Moroccan culture.

My neighbor took the sugar into the kitchen and emerged with a pot of mint tea, the traditional drink in Morocco for any occasion. She took the same sugar I had just given her and gave it back to me mixed in tea. Even while grieving she did not cease to show hospitality to me: A stranger from a different culture who could not speak her language well. She showed me warmth and hospitality even in her most difficult days.

Sugar is a traditional gift, but death is far from sweet for Muslim families. There is no real certainty of salvation or a guarantee that they will be in paradise in the afterlife. The bitter sting of death can cause Muslims to ponder their own eternity, and some are driven by that to seek the certainty of eternity found in Jesus. May they taste and see that He is good!



DAY 18 May 23

The Saho in Eritrea and Ethiopia

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Believers like Tesfay are messengers of the good news. Pray for them as from Romans 10:13–15.
- 2 Pray that written and recorded translations of the Bible will be developed so all the Saho can hear the message.
- 3 Tesfay's Muslim friends work hard in this mountainous region to gain their daily bread. Pray for ongoing peace along the border to enable development.

We are traveling on the border of Ethiopia and Eritrea. The conflict between these two countries began two decades ago and a state of war lasted for years. But peace has come recently.

We reach a small village where we are received by a local believer. He offers us coffee and popcorn, which is still warm. Corn does not grow here in the highlands, but a lot is grown in the coastal areas of Eritrea, where most of the Saho ethnic group lives. We drink coffee and wait ...

The number of Saho is estimated to be around 300,000. They are Muslims and live as farmers and herders. Since the independence of Eritrea in 1993, their tribal area is divided by a border; on both sides, there are soldiers, tanks and artillery

ready to fire.

Among the Saho there is a small Catholic minority, which is a result of the Italian occupation before World War II. But, surprisingly, there are only a few parts of the Bible in the Saho language, although translation is in progress.

After a long wait, Tesfay arrives. He walked for six hours through the mountains to meet us. His great desire is to tell his community about Jesus. Tesfay is very happy that we came the long way to see him. We pray together and then make our way home. We will stay in touch to hear how God continues to work among the Saho.

His great desire is to tell his community about Jesus.



DAY 19 May 24

The Somali of Somalia

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray that Somalis will experience the peace found in Jesus Christ, as in John 14:27.
- 2 Drought and war are devastating the Somali people. Pray for peace, and for restoration for the land and its people. Take inspiration from Psalm 104.
- 3 Pray for the Somali diaspora to meet hospitable followers of Christ who will show them peace.

“Ma nabad baa?” This is a common Somali greeting, meaning, “Is it peace?”

The Somali people sometimes have a reserved and suspicious approach towards strangers. News from the Horn of Africa is often related to political unrest, conflicts, drought and hunger. For many, the struggle for survival is a reality, so the question about peace is natural when meeting new people. Somalis are also known to have strong national pride, often guarding the secrets of their culture and only sharing them on their own terms.

This might not sound very welcoming, but most people will still experience a warm and

friendly reception when meeting Somalis. Just recently I was invited to a Somali friend’s home. His family welcomed me with Somali tea and a camel meat snack. While seated on the floor with my friend, talking and enjoying the food, children ran around playing and the women chatted in the kitchen. It was a great time, a peaceful moment! My experience with Somalis is that though it might take time to build relationships, when trust is established you become included into their lives. Behind the tough image are soft hearts!

There are about 20 million Somalis, and many of them live in other countries around the world. When meeting new people outside of their country, what answers do they get to their question, “Is it peace?” Hospitality is so crucial when we receive our friends from Somalia. Let us welcome them and care for them and let them experience peace.



It was a great time,

a peaceful moment!

DAY 20 May 25

Uighur Muslims of China

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Song of Solomon 2:4 links a banquet table with love. Pray that God's love will be a banner over the Uighurs.
- 2 Uighurs are an oppressed minority in China. Pray for the Church in China to reach out to them.
- 3 Let Matthew 22:1–14 inspire your prayers for the Uighurs.

Our friend and student, Mahmud, invited us to his family home for the *Korban* festival (also known as *Eid al-Adha*), which remembers Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. We began by drinking fragrant tea at a table laden with fruit, pastries, and naan bread. Our hosts offered water separately to the men and women to wash, pouring it over our hands and passing around towels.

Then the eating began! Mahmud's father ceremoniously broke a naan bread in half and passed pieces to us. We dipped it in vegetable stew, with chunks of roast meat from a lamb

that had been sacrificed earlier that morning. Homemade noodles came next. We thought the meal had ended, but soon pumpkin and meat dumplings were served—making us sorry for eating too much earlier. A few hours later, and worried about overstaying our welcome, the final dish arrived—huge platters of pilaf rice with boiled lamb. Finally, Mahmud's father gave a sign: Everyone raised their hands while he gave thanks, passed our palms over our faces and said, "Amin."

Traditional Uighur hospitality is overwhelming. Through food and hospitality, our Uighur hosts express honor and friendship to us. As their guests, we sought to honor and please them by expressing our deepest thanks for their generosity.

Our meal with Mahmud's family happened several years ago. Today, Uighur culture faces great stress and challenges as a religious minority in a large nation that has cultural and political tensions. Uighurs have to find new ways of preserving their honor and offering their hospitality.

Through food and hospitality, our Uighur hosts

express honour and friendship.





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DAY 21 May 26

The Swahili of Zanzibar

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Be inspired to pray for Muslims in Zanzibar from Philippians 3:8–11.
- 3 Pray for those who serve Christ in Zanzibar, that they will find open doors to share their faith.
- 3 Think about how to pray for new believers as they grow in discipleship.

The Swahili people of the Zanzibar Archipelago carry on a long-established tradition of hospitality. Everywhere you go, whether it be through the streets of Stone Town or passing through a village, you will always hear a word to welcome you—“Karibu!” Because of their welcoming culture, many are ready to invite you in and listen to the gospel, just as we experienced with Bibi.

Zanzibar has a population of 1.4 million, of which over 99 percent would identify themselves as Muslim. A lot of witchcraft is also practiced. Zanzibar was a center for the East African slave trade and is known for having the “strongest” witchdoctors in East Africa.

After visiting and praying for many who were sick, my friend and I found ourselves crammed into the back room of a tiny mud house on the outskirts of a fisherman’s village.

Across from us lay an elderly woman called

Bibi, whose frail body we could hardly see in the darkness. Though she had never met us, she quickly welcomed us in.

As she lay there in bed, she told us that she thinks of God all day and night, pondering her place in eternity: “I hope I will go to heaven. I hope I have done enough.”

We were glad to be able to tell her about what Jesus had done to secure her salvation. On hearing the good news, Bibi exclaimed, “This is what I have been praying for.”



DAY 22 May 27

Hospitality in Kohistan

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Improvements and access to healthcare and more qualified health workers are needed in this remote area.
- 2 As Kohistani disciples of Jesus grow and spread their faith, pray that forgiveness and restoration can overcome vengeance and separation.
- 3 Language research is necessary for Bible translation into the Kohistani languages, and this area has one of the lowest literacy rates in Pakistan. Pray for believers to take on this challenge.



Kohistan means “Land of Mountains” and is an area in northern Pakistan along the Indus River and its side valleys. About 600,000 Kohistanis live there, divided into different tribal groups. They became Muslim in the 17th century and were incorporated into Pakistan in 1976. The Indus River divides their two major language groups, Shina and Indus-Kohistani, both of which are poorly researched.

In most cases of dispute or crime, the village elders act as judges. People accused of a crime can flee into towers of refuge until a judgment is delivered or an agreement reached. But blood vengeance is still widely practiced and has caused many Kohistanis to leave their

hometown, as does unemployment. There are only a few Kohistani believers.

I’m on my way to visit a family in the upper village. It’s a long path uphill and, with one of our children on my back, the other at my hand, I’m quite exhausted when I arrive there. My friend interrupts her laundry to open the heavy gate and offers me a place on the bed in the middle of the courtyard. Her older kids are in the Islamic school; the younger ones are playing with marbles and our kids join them. The family is poor, but my friend prepares tea and gets some milk from the goat for me as a guest, drinking her own tea without milk.

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DAY 23 May 28

Bedouins of the Levant

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Bedouins are affected by the difficult conditions in the Levant, such as war and unemployment, but are often even more disadvantaged in the “modern” world because of their traditions.
- 2 Pray for Bedouins to have many opportunities to interact with Christians who will share their faith.
- 3 Pray for the Bedouin with inspiration from Revelation 3:20.

Several million Bedouins still live in the Levant states of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, which formed the original Arabia.

The name “Bedouin” is derived from the Arabic word *badija*, which means “desert”. Most

Bedouin no longer live as animal breeders

and nomads but have integrated themselves into the villages and cities. Their traditional hospitality, which was of the highest importance, has been preserved right up to today and is still very widespread.

A guest is under the protection of the Bedouins until the moment he leaves the tribe. Guests are always taken care of in a generous way,



with the best food available. Before eating, tea or coffee is served. The coffee—usually the bitter, Arabic style—is of great importance. Offering and accepting a cup of coffee marks the beginning of peace negotiations and trade. Certain movements with hand and cup indicate whether one wants more or is already satisfied.

The Bedouins are mostly Muslims who have never heard of Jesus and His love for them. As a proud and freedom-loving people, they are struggling with the gospel. Individual Bedouins may have found Jesus, but there have not yet been major movements. The Sheikh, as the tribal leader, is very influential in how his people will respond to Jesus and His followers.

Guests are always taken

care of in a generous way,

with the best food available.



Muslim hospitality in the USA

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Many Muslims in the USA are immigrants. Pray they will experience the love of Jesus through the Christians around them (see Matthew 25:37–40).
- 2 Many Muslims in the USA are not immigrants, but they can still be seen as outsiders in their own communities. Pray for good relationships among Christians and Muslims in the USA.
- 3 Pray for blessings on all aspects of the lives of Muslims in the USA.

As a pastor in the USA, I often pray for Muslims around the world. What about in my community?

There are an estimated 3.45 million Muslims living in the USA—about 1.1 percent of the total population. I discovered the mosque near my home in north-east USA when a fellow pastor organized a visit to its Friday service. The mosque leaders treated us as honored guests. They instructed us on proper protocol: Which door to enter, where to put our shoes, where to sit as observers. After the service the imam and other leaders sat with us, served us chilled water and hot Moroccan tea, and answered our questions. They gave us the Qur'an in Arabic and English and invited us to return any time.

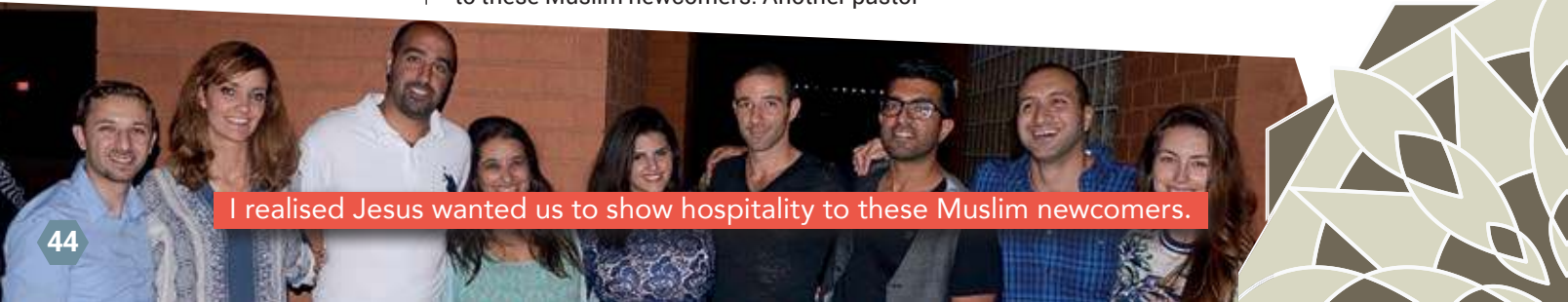
I realized Jesus wanted us to show hospitality to these Muslim newcomers. Another pastor

and I decided to attend the mosque every Friday to try to be a bridge between our different communities and express the love and truth of Jesus through our friendship.

At first our new Muslim friends were surprised. We answered their questions about why we were coming and asked how we could serve them. They said they needed a place for burials, so we helped them find a cemetery that would allow a Muslim section.

Every evening at sunset during Ramadan, the mosque hosts a dinner, which we attend. The men serve us first even though they have been fasting all day and we have not, but it's no use arguing with their hospitality. That is who they are. My love for these men energizes my prayer for them.

I realised Jesus wanted us to show hospitality to these Muslim newcomers.



IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Freedom of speech and religion would make it easier for Turkmen to pursue the treasures of the kingdom of heaven.
- 2 The few believers are under close surveillance by the authorities and need wisdom and courage to share their faith. Pray as Jesus did in John 17:20–13.
- 3 Turkmen who do not live in Turkmenistan mainly live in Afghanistan, Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkey. Pray for disciples of Christ to spread among this people group, as in the early days of the apostles.

DAY 25 May 30

The Turkmen of Central Asia

There are about 8 million Turkmen people, and about 5 million of them live in Turkmenistan in Central Asia. The capital of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, is filled with beautiful new marble buildings. But the Turkmen know very little about the outside world, as the country is extremely isolated and information is strictly controlled. Culturally and religiously Turkmen are Muslims: Only a very few follow Christ. The nationalistic government exercises strict control over the lives of the people.

Gülbihi and her three small children live in a very simple one-room apartment. The bathroom is shared with several other families living on the same floor. Gülbihi was recently facing a difficult situation, with a husband who could not support his family and who stole the little savings she had hidden for an emergency.

Around that time, I was praying for her and I was inspired to bring all the ingredients for a Turkmen national dish, *pilav*, to her. Gülbihi was very touched by this and pleaded with me to stay for tea. In the Turkmen culture this means laying a plastic cloth on the floor and sitting around it on the carpet. She served

hot green tea in small cups, sweets, bread, cucumbers, tomatoes and a yogurt sauce while we shared about our lives and beliefs. Before leaving we held up our hands, blessed their home and prayed.



DAY 26 May 31

The Night of Power

This night is also called
the Night of Destiny.

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Muslims are seeking God more intentionally on this night than any other. Pray that Jesus will reveal Himself through dreams and visions.
- 2 What do you think Muslims are asking God for on the Night of Destiny? What would you ask for? Be inspired by Matthew 7:7–12.
- 3 Jesus taught us how to pray in Matthew 6:9–13. Pray together with all those who are participating in *30 Days of Prayer* around the world this year for His kingdom to come.

Laylat al-Qadr, known as the “Night of Power” or “Night of Destiny”, occurs around the 27th day of Ramadan. (By the lunar calendar, this begins at sunset on the 26th day and may be celebrated at different times in different time zones.)

This celebration recalls the night when the first verses of the Qu’ran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammed. The exact night is a matter of much debate by Islamic scholars, as it is believed to occur on any of the odd-numbered days in the last ten days of Ramadan. Since the night is considered so special, and

not to be missed, some Muslims will observe *i’tikaf*, where they remain in the mosque for the last ten days of Ramadan, praying and reciting the Qu’ran and fulfilling other spiritual obligations such as charitable giving.

Why is this night so special? It is believed that acts of worship performed on this night are worth more than a thousand months of the same on other nights. Sins are more likely to be forgiven on this night and the rewards for charitable acts are expected to be significantly greater.

This night is also called the Night of Destiny because some Muslims also believe that God determines the fate of each believer on this night. Whatever will happen to you and your family in the coming year is decided on this night, so that is also a motivation to make extra effort in worship and supplication.

God loves Muslims and is working among them.

Yes, you have a role to play.

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DAY 27 June 1

Jordan: Counting on God's reward!

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 The government needs wisdom to deal with economic challenges and the many refugees who are living in Jordan.
- 2 James 2:14–26 discusses the role of faith and deeds in the Christian faith. Pray for those in Jordan to be made complete, as James describes it.
- 3 Muslim-background believers in Jordan need courage and wisdom to live and share their faith.

The original inhabitants of Jordan are the nomadic Bedouin people, and many of their traditions still shape the culture, such as in the provision of hospitality. For example, a Bedouin rule is that a stranger must be welcomed for at least three days and provided with food and a place to sleep. In a time when prices for food and gas increase constantly—with salaries remaining at the same level—this is a particular challenge. Poverty is on the rise.

Although most of the Jordanian population of almost 8 million is Muslim, there is a small

percentage of Christians (estimated between 2.5 and 4 percent). However, Jordanian Christians often live in isolation from Muslims. When a Muslim becomes a follower of Christ they

experience strong pressure from family and society and are considered a traitor. Honor killings for becoming a follower of Christ are not uncommon.

During Ramadan in Jordan, we were invited to dinner with Muslim friends with a buffet loaded with food. “Fatma, why is hospitality so important to you?” I asked my friend.

She replied: “For cultural and religious reasons. For one thing, it would be a cultural shame not to be generous to my guest. Also, I want to be generous to please God. Especially during Ramadan there is a great chance that God will forgive us our sins and our good deeds will be multiplied before him. I expect nothing back from the guests—I don’t want to get a worldly reward for my hospitality. I expect my reward from God!”

... a stranger must be welcomed

for at least three days

and provided with food ...

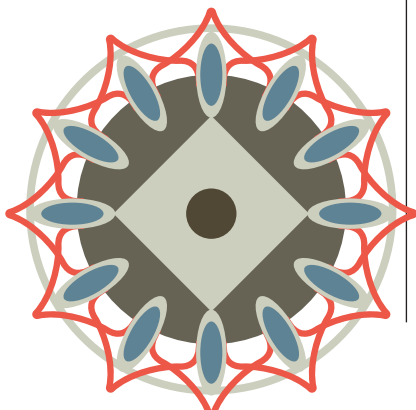


DAY 28 June 2

The Hadhramis of Yemen

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 War, violence, famine and cholera plague the nation of Yemen. Pray for an end to these disasters.
- 2 Pray for the people from the “valley of death” to pursue the hope of abundant life. (John 10:10)
- 3 Pray that more Hadhrami businesspeople would have dreams and visions of Jesus and use their influence to spread the good news in this region.



The Hadhramis come originally from the “Hadhramaut”, which means “valley of death” and is the home of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda. This region in the eastern part of Yemen is very isolated, and the people there have little opportunity to hear the good news. In this huge Governorate of Hadhramaut one of the most conservative forms of Islam is practiced and many extremists come from there.

As pious Muslims, famous poets and friendly people, the Hadhramis love to serve their guests with their famous—and very expensive—dark acacia honey, dates and other delicious food.

The Hadhrami Bedouins became wealthy, and started trading and traveling, and many now live across the whole Arabian Peninsula, in Saudi Arabia, Dubai and the Gulf. Hadhrami businesspeople became very influential in spreading Islam in the region and even beyond to East Africa, India and Indonesia.

Today, because of the ongoing war and famine in Yemen as well as problems with Islamists, business between the rich Gulf States and the Hadhramaut in south-east Yemen has suffered and many Hadhramis have lost their jobs in the Gulf countries. They have started to seek more freedom and look elsewhere for solutions.

Hamoudi is an important man in his village; he had a vision of Jesus the Redeemer and started to follow Him as a secret believer. Sharing his new faith has led Hamoudi into trouble, but he continues to follow Jesus, hoping to introduce others to His abundant life.



Hadhramis love to serve their guests with their famous dark acacia honey.

European migrants: Speaking the language of hospitality

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray for Christians to take seriously the command to befriend the stranger (Matthew 25:34–40) by serving in practical ways such as language lessons and reaching out with hospitality.
- 2 Pray for governments, aid agencies and churches to have wisdom as they respond to the migrant crisis in Europe.
- 3 Consider the lessons in Luke 19:1–10 as you pray.

At a detention center in Western Europe, where racism, rejection and the potential for radicalization are common, a couple of chaplains have been facilitating opportunities to build relationships and open hearts even in the confines of prison. They report:

“With a group of prisoners, we started a dialogue group of Christians and Muslims, listening to each other’s viewpoints and learning about each other’s spiritual journeys. There is a prisoner from Asia, a devout Muslim, who is brilliant in using hospitality to set the tone for the evenings. He comes in with a bag of goodies and shuffles around the meeting to make sure everyone is well supplied with tea and cookies.

He also makes sure that the atmosphere remains pleasantly friendly and will steer the conversations away from subjects that we

aren’t ready to discuss yet. His intention is for Muslims and Christians to become friends, to treat each other with brotherly love and respect despite our differences.”

Governments in Europe are struggling with the current migration crisis and how to respond to the different demands of the population. There are no easy solutions to the tensions caused by migration and multiculturalism, but hospitality goes along with Jesus’ way of responding. Opening hearts and homes, and sharing our lives, amid this messy reality, is a language that Muslims understand. They speak it well themselves, even in prison.



DAY 30 June 4

Offering hospitality

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Ask God for inspiration on how you can offer hospitality to Muslims near you.
- 2 Pray for workers in majority-Muslim areas, who are sharing celebrations of Love with their communities.
- 3 Be inspired by John 2:1–11 in your prayers.

Gathered on the floor, around a tray full of lamb, dates with cream, vegetables, and bread, sat an array of unlikely people. We had all come together for a celebration of divine Love revealed.

The guests were a mix of local people who knew the Love being celebrated and others, including some friends from other nations. Three different languages were used around the table as everyone was welcomed.

The host explained, “Because this feast is so important to us we wanted you, our friends, to join us in the festivities.” He went on to share the story that gives the “Love with Us” celebration its significance. He shared how even though we slaughter a lamb for our feast, we no longer need to, because Love became the Lamb, restoring what was broken.

“We decided to celebrate this year,” he

continued, “by telling each other how this great Love has personally changed our lives.” After sharing our stories, the meal was enthusiastically eaten, with games following. Before leaving, everyone received the gift of a flashlight with the following words, spoken by Love Himself, attached: “I am the light of the world. He that follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

This celebration took place in West Africa, but it is a good example of how followers of Jesus can share their own celebrations and hospitality with Muslim friends. After this event the host was told by one of the guests, ‘You know, we grow up hearing that people like you are horrible, but we have never had the chance to hear a little about what you believe right from your mouth. The time at your house was a really good opportunity for us.’



June 5

Celebrating *Eid* and continuing to pray

IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 Pray for opportunities to show the love of Christ to Muslims around you.
- 2 Pray for, and offer generous hospitality to, those you know who are serving Christ among Muslim people. (Romans 12:13)
- 3 When you gather with fellow believers, remember to pray for Muslims throughout the year and encourage them to also participate in 30 Days!

No one will be fasting on the day after Ramadan. *Eid al-Fitr* celebrates the end of Ramadan—the Islamic holy month of fasting. The next month, Shawwal, begins at sunset on the last day of Ramadan, when the new moon is sighted—which means the exact day of celebration varies by location. The first day of Shawwal is the only day in the month when Muslims are not permitted to fast.

The celebration of *Eid al-Fitr* may go on for several days. Gifts are exchanged, and special foods are prepared. Different cultures have different

traditions for the celebrations. If you are invited to one, wish your hosts, ‘Eid Mubarak!’ (‘Blessed Eid!’)

Hospitality can happen at any time throughout the year—in small gestures as well as large celebrations.

The celebration of *Eid al-Fitr* may go on for several days. Gifts are exchanged, and special foods are prepared.

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ISBN 9780986412820



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