



30

DAYS OF
PRAYER
FOR OUR
MUSLIM
NEIGHBORS



WORLD
VENTURE

PRAYING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Ramadan is a special time of prayer, fasting, and spiritual reflection for Muslim peoples throughout the world. It commemorates the story of *Muhammad* receiving the *Qur'an* from *Allah*.

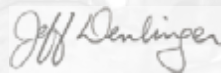
Among disciples of Jesus, *Ramadan* can serve as a reminder to love and pray for our Muslim neighbors, people for whom Christ came to seek and save. And to pray for those among us who are sent out to serve Muslim Unreached People Groups around the world with the good news of Jesus.

For decades, WorldVenture has had the privilege of sending and supporting Christ-following educators, medical personnel, business developers, Bible teachers, and many others serving Muslim peoples worldwide.

Whether you join us in praying for our Muslim neighbors during *Ramadan*, or at a different time of year, I thank you for making the commitment to focus your prayers on behalf of Muslims around the world.

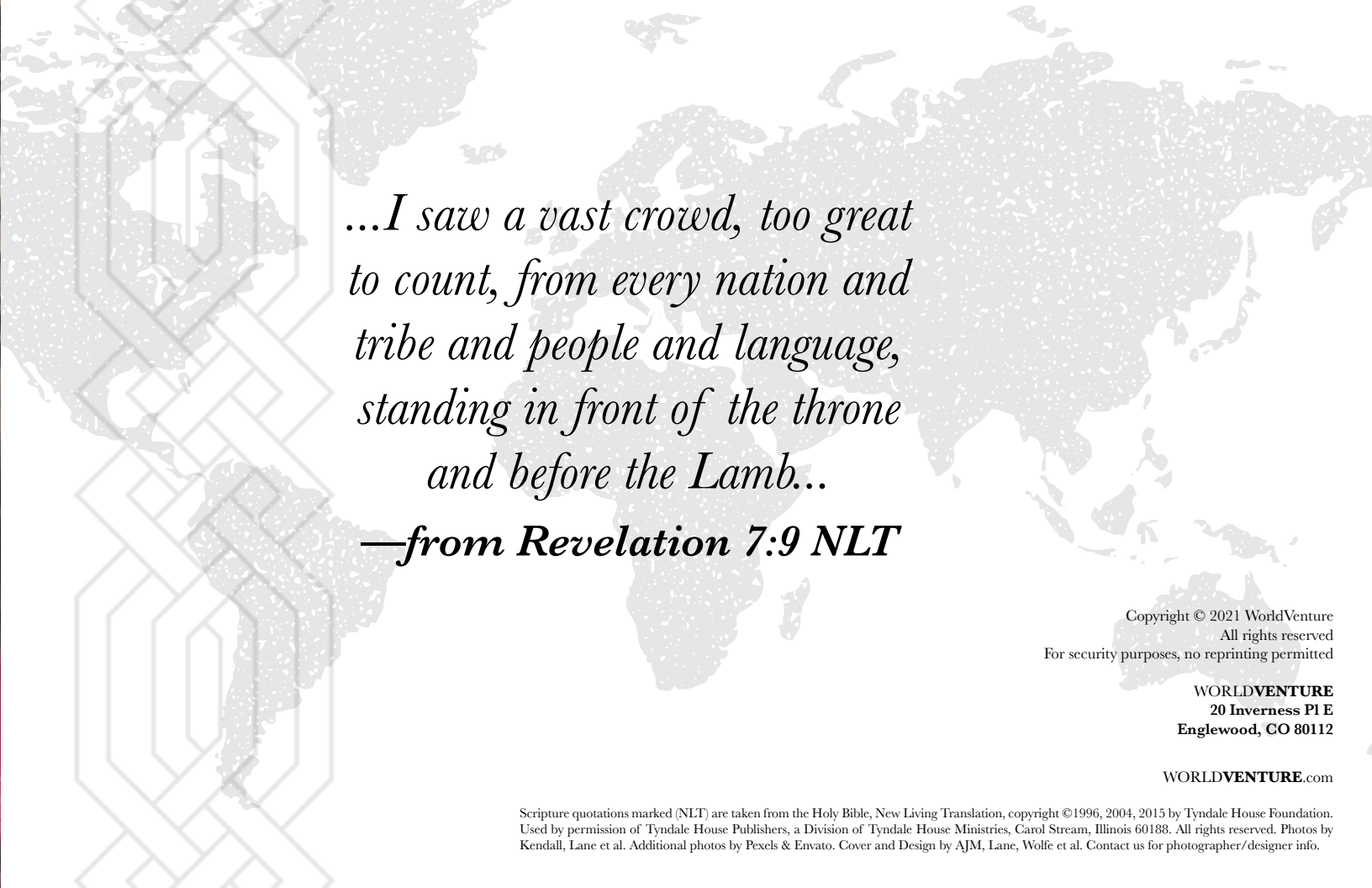
I am delighted to share this prayer resource written by some of those same colleagues whose love for their Muslim neighbors is an outpouring of their love for Jesus.

Engaging the world
for gospel impact,



Dr. Jeff Denlinger
President, WorldVenture





*...I saw a vast crowd, too great
to count, from every nation and
tribe and people and language,
standing in front of the throne
and before the Lamb...*

—from Revelation 7:9 NLT

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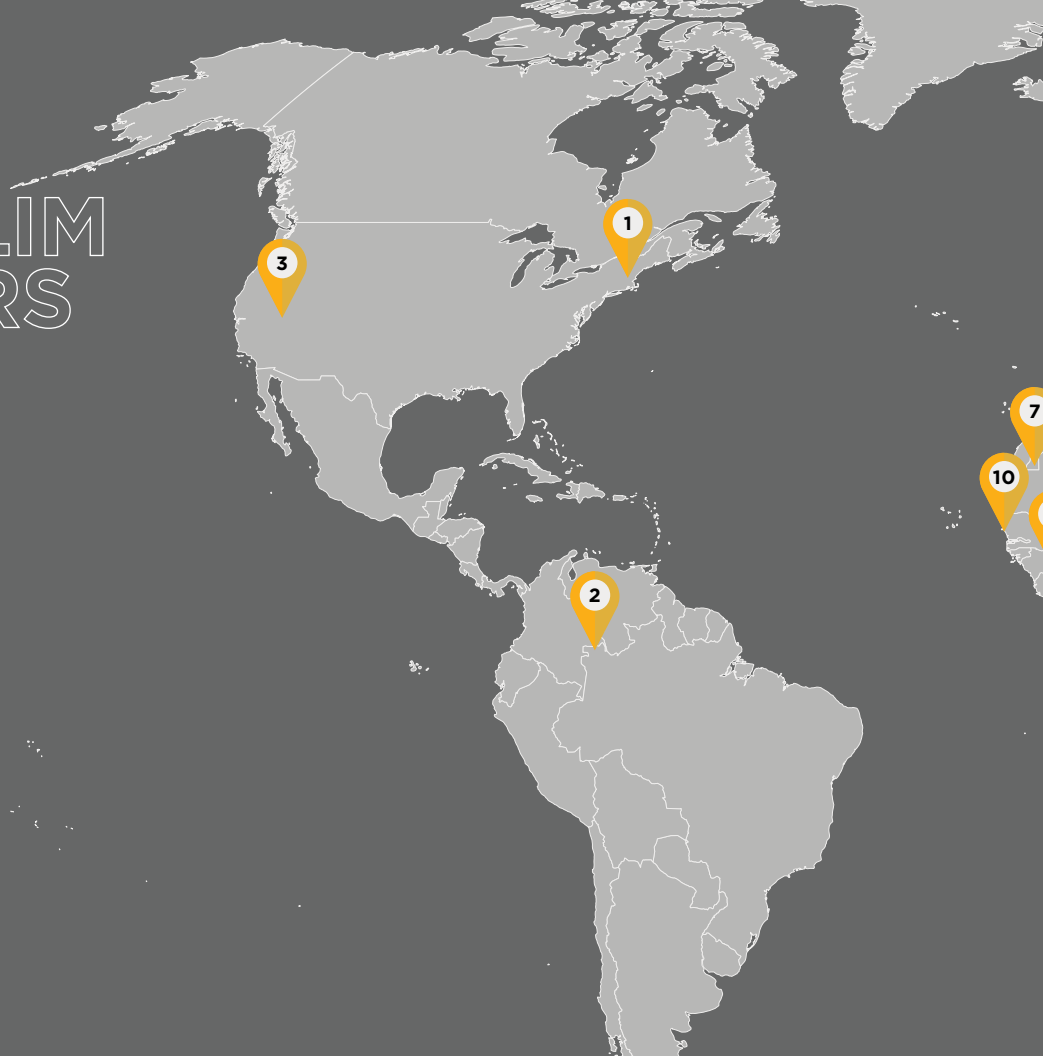
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PRAY FOR OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

The numbered pins on the map do correspond with the day's prayer focus. However, they are only regional designations. For security purposes, most pins do not mark the actual location of the individual, people group, global worker, or ministry described. Most names have also been changed.

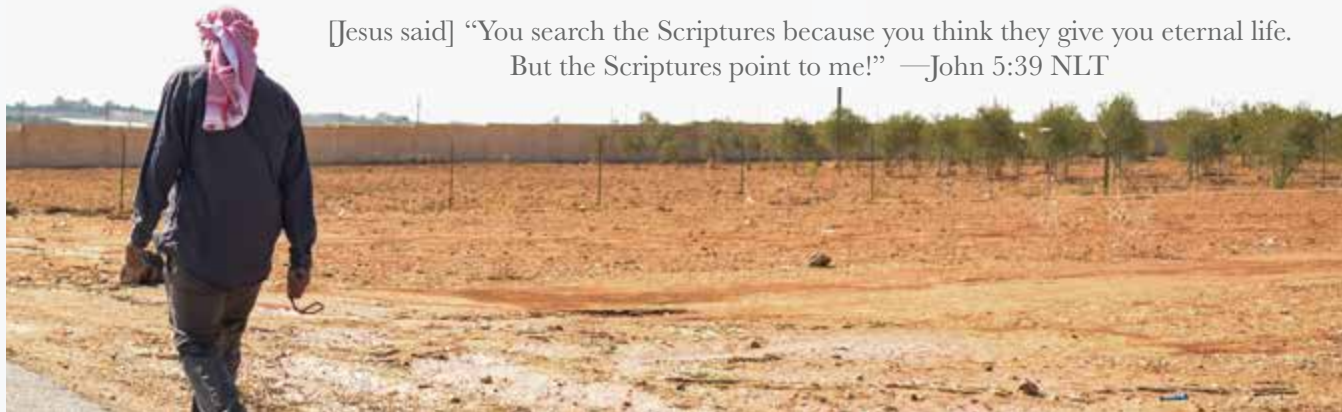






Pray for Muslims in the Americas





[Jesus said] “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!” —John 5:39 NLT

DAY 1

Belief in the Books

One day I met a gentleman who said he was a non-practicing Muslim. During our conversation, I asked about his background. He told me he was originally from “Casablanca” which is the largest city in Morocco, North Africa made up of 99.9% Arab and Berber Muslims. Because I had recently been to this city, it gave us much to talk about.

I asked if he had ever read the *Qur'an*. He told me he had, but not in its entirety. He asked if I had, to which I answered in the affirmative. He was surprised and asked for my thoughts. “Gladly” I said.

So, I proceeded to share with him two things that surprised me from my reading:

1. That the *Qur'an* speaks highly of the Judeo/Christian Scriptures referring to the collection of these holy writings as “the Book”, often highlighting the *Taurat* (Books of Moses), *Zabur* (Psalms), and *Injil* (Gospels). 2. *Muhammad* referred to, quoted, and strove to live by these books and taught his followers to do the same.

As I paused, my new friend agreed enthusiastically. I continued, “You see, I also learned that in Islam, there are seven articles of faith – one of which is ‘Belief in the **Books**’ - plural.”

“Which books?” I asked. “The *Taurat*,

Zabur, *Injil*, and *Qur'an*.” “So, in essence” I said, “*Muhammad* taught that if you want to be a true Muslim, you must know and live by these other books too – not just the *Qur'an*.” “Wow!” he exclaimed. “I’ve never thought about it that way.”

After a brief pause, he asked, “If I were to read the *Injil*, where would I begin?”

PRAY

- For God to reveal himself to this gentleman as he reads “the Book.”
- For God’s people to take advantage of the strategic opportunities around them to share the love of Jesus with their Muslim neighbors.

DAY 2

Ask God to show you what is true

My friends' country has been described for years as, "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world." War, famine, disease, lack of clean water and bad health care are the norm. These women are hungry for Truth. They long to feel loved and accepted. They want to be free from much of the negative culture that Islam has created toward women. And they have a lot of questions for me.

"Do you pray? Why do you pray?"

"How do you pray?"

"What is the reason for Easter?"

"Why do you celebrate Christmas?"

"Can we make Christmas cookies again next year?"

"I would believe that Jesus is God if it made sense."

These are only a few questions and comments from women and children with whom I work. My answer to their hard questions is typically:

"Ask God to show you what is true.

I don't know any believers from their country. I have heard that they do exist but because of the intense persecution they remain secret believers. But I have been privileged to show my friends hospitality. And to receive hospitality in kind. This has opened the door to be able to share the Truth with them.

Because Jesus is the answer to their most important questions.

PRAY

- That three families I know will decide to follow Him this year.
- That there will be 1-2 women who want to study His Word with me.
- For God to heal their land of war.
- That God will reveal Himself in dreams and visions as He has done for many.
- For the local church in that country to be united and experience miracles that will bring many into His family.



DAY 3

Let me be the first to thank you

When my cab driver for my San Francisco flight told me his name was Mohammad, I knew it would be a good trip. As we talked, I tried to find as much common ground as possible. He had a family; so did I. He loved the USA; so did I.

One key point of difference was that, as an Iraqi, he could speak Farsi, Arabic, and English. He told me he had worked as a translator in Iraq for the U.S. Army. He served faithfully until his life was so threatened that the Army brought him to the U.S. for safety. His service ended and he moved to the San Francisco area for work as a cab driver.

“Amazing!” I told him, “You are a man of great courage. You risked your life for my country and yours.” He dismissed my praise.

“No, really,” I pressed, “How many Americans have thanked you for your service?”

“Well, none,” he said, sadly.

“Well, if I need to be the first, I will,” I retorted. “Jesus also risked his life for you, and the *Qur’an* tells you to read the *Injil* (Gospels). You should follow what the *Qur’an* says here.” I encouraged him to go to BibleGateway.com and we parted.

Remember to thank those who serve you and especially those from other countries.

PRAY

- Pray for Iraqi Muslims who have sought refuge outside their country that Christians would speak about Jesus to those they meet.
- Pray for the leaders and people of Iraq that they will pursue peace, stability and freedom, and that Christians will be able to worship without fear.

Dr. Rick Griffith is a WorldVenture global worker, seminary professor, and founder of **BibleStudyDownloads.org**



*All of this is for your benefit.
And as God's grace reaches more and more people,
there will be great thanksgiving,
and God will receive more and more glory
— 2 Corinthians 4:15 NLT*



Pray for
Muslims
in Africa





DAY 4

Today I am a follower of Jesus

When we arrived in our new country we realised we needed ways to make connections with our Muslim neighbors. Just before *Ramadan* God answered our prayers when the groundskeeper of the cemetery nearby asked for a cup of water. We began a conversation - which, eventually led to a friendship.

After discovering that he works alone, I offered to help each morning for an hour or so. Within days, many young Muslims in our neighborhood began coming to help — including a young man called Sa'ide.

We knew many were coming to “do good deeds for *Ramadan*” but to keep the engagement with the community, we offered an hour of English lessons in exchange for two hours of work in the cemetery.

During our lessons, Sa'ide (who already spoke very good English), asked me if I would speak with him daily so he could practice his English. After some weeks, he mentioned that he needed a job and that he prayed each day for one at the Mosque. We decided to employ him as a night guard at our home with the condition that he continue to go to evening prayer at the Mosque even though it was during his work. We encouraged him to

“go to Mosque, continue to learn, and be the best Muslim” he could.

Over the weeks and months, each evening after returning from Mosque, Sa'ide and I would talk about his prayer time. After six months, he began attending our morning devotional time. One morning, he confessed, “I have tried to be a good Muslim but I know my sin can only be forgiven by the blood of Jesus. Today I am a follower of Jesus Christ.”

PRAY

- For Sa'ide and others like him who have confessed Christ and desire to follow him.
- For their safety from those who are antagonistic toward them.
- That many in our country would turn to Christ and follow him.

*I love the Lord
because he hears my voice
and my prayer for mercy.
—Psalm 116:1 NLT*

DAY 5

Planting Seeds of the Gospel

We were the first workers to live in our village in Southern Africa. I knew God wanted me to work with children so I began by letting people know that we are followers of Jesus. Then I invited all the mamas in the village and their children to our house for stories and games.

We began teaching Old Testament Bible stories with memorization, prayer, game time, and snacks. The mamas soon just sent their children to learn and play and we were able to begin having the children act out the stories as this is an oral culture.

The club grew with upwards of 80 kids coming to hear stories, play games, and eat snacks. Although we have not yet seen any children come to faith we are amazed by how well they remember the stories and the verses.

We know we are planting the seeds of the Gospel in hearts and minds.

“The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

—Matthew 13:23 NLT

PRAY

- That this people group will open their minds and hearts to the Savior, and have the courage to follow Him.
- For boldness and strength for the believers in this area. Persecution for following Jesus is common and increasing, and new believers are often ostracized.





DAY 6

Good News at the Crossroads

The city of Kankan, Guinea has for centuries been a cross-roads of commerce. Kola nuts and palm oil come up from the south, peanuts and mangos from the region, enormous rams and beef from the north, and all sorts of other goods converge on this town. Kankan is also a mix of ethnic groups as Pular/Fulani merchants ply their trade while the Maninka are the original hosts.

Into the mix are Christians from the south who have come to teach or work. These Christian teachers have helped develop a Christian school into one of the top schools in the whole country. In 2020 the school had 11 students place in the top 50 nationally. This success creates a clamor for student admission even though the region is over 95% Muslim. Some of these Christian teachers also volunteer to help make science camps run and create another natural way to present Christ as both creator and savior.

One local church, where many of the teachers attend, regularly sees new believers join. While most of these believers represent animistic groups there are some that come from the other groups as well. Join in praying for our region to see many more learning about Christ and following after him as Lord and Savior.

PRAY

- For more workers to join what God is doing here. In a region of 2 million people there are less than 5000 believers.
- For Christians here to have boldness to share the love and saving power of Jesus Christ in spite of being a persecuted minority.
- For resiliency of new believers. Persecution is common. A young husband was removed from his wife and child for following Christ.
- For this region to see many more learning about Christ and following after him as Lord and Savior.

*“There is salvation
in no one else!
God has given no other name
under heaven by which
we must be saved”
—Acts 4:12 NLT*



DAY 7

Not Yet...

“I believe in Jesus,” ‘Alioune’ said.

My heart leapt. Was my friend finally going to accept Jesus Christ as Lord?

Alioune’s cheerful face wore the pensive expression reserved for serious discussion. He continued.

“You know, my family back in the village - some of them are Catholics, some of them are Protestants, and some of them are Jews or Hindus. I understand different beliefs. Jews have Moses and the other prophets, Christians have Jesus, and we Muslims have Mohammed. But we have all the rest of the prophets, as well. So you see, I do believe in Jesus.”

My heart sank.

Friendly, open, and optimistic, Alioune had not yet accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Many Senegalese Muslims like Alioune believe Jesus was a great prophet. They attribute to Him miracles and godlike qualities, and find it natural that we should praise Him. But they do not trust Him for salvation. And they do not worship Him as God.

At least not yet.

PRAY

- For Alioune.
- That Senegalese Muslims would see that Jesus is the only way into heaven.
- That their easy acceptance of different beliefs would not be a hindrance to the Gospel.



DAY 8

Divine Appointments

Living in a Muslim community in Rwanda is certainly a challenging experience. Going out with national believers to engage the community with the Gospel, looking for divine appointments is always exciting. God has been faithful in leading us to people interested in knowing more.

One such person is Hamidu. A national partner and I met him while walking in the neighborhood. Hamidu expressed interest in learning more about the Bible. He accepted the invitation to begin studying together in his home with his family.

Praise the Lord for placing within this Muslim man a thirst to know more about his Word. We know that there are many others like Hamidu, people thirsty to hear the Good News.

PRAY

- For divine appointments with people like Hamidu.
- For the church in Rwanda to step out in faith and share the Good News.
- For Muslim-background believers to no longer feel fear in sharing the Gospel.

*Preach the word of God.
Be prepared, whether the
time is favorable or not...
—from 1 Timothy 4:2 NLT*

DAY 9

Care for the Orphan

Sekou and Mamadi, along with their three brothers, lost their mom last May. She was a sex worker and had suffered from a long illness, most likely related to HIV. Despite various endeavors to facilitate and find work for their mom, she remained in the enslaving sex trade.

It was heartbreaking for them to watch her suffer and die. The boys now live with their grandparents. Sadly, this is a story that is much too common among the Maninka people, 99% of whom identify as Muslim.

Jesus-followers have helped this family over the past 20 years with shelter, schooling fees for the boys and physical care for their mom during her illness. This has made a difference. There are many such opportunities for Jesus-followers to care for orphans in their distress. And these opportunities can lead to significant gospel impact.

PRAY

- That Jesus-followers will continue to speak into the lives of this Maninka family with love.
- For the four million Maninka people in West Africa. Pray that they will come to faith and form communities that multiply.
- Pray for more laborers to be raised up from neighboring ethnic groups who will be Jesus' hands and feet to the Maninka people.

*Pure and genuine religion
in the sight of God the Father
means caring for orphans
and widows in their distress
and refusing to let the
world corrupt you.
—James 1:27 NLT*





DAY 10

A Cake In Your Hands

My neighbors are an outgoing and kind community of Muslims. They are from the Wolof, an Unreached People Group.

Every year at *Eid* (*Tabaski*) they sacrifice a lamb for the forgiveness of their family's sins. Many of them offer me a cut of this lamb meat.

In return, at Easter, I make several cakes in the shape of a lamb. I remind them of their kindness of sharing their lamb meat with us.

It is now my turn to share my Lamb with them. I tell them about Jesus and how His sacrifice paid the price for my sins. How His sacrifice has also given me peace, hope and joy.

It is amazing how people are willing to listen to you when you have a cake in your hands.

PRAY

- That God would grant wisdom and favor to us as we share Christ with the Wolof.
- That their traditional Muslim culture will soften, creating open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- That the Lord would give the Wolof believers opportunities to share the love of Christ with their own people.
- That God will reveal Himself to the Wolof through dreams and visions.
- That the Lord would raise up strong local churches among the Wolof.

Learn more about the **Newkirks**
at worldventure.com/newkirk



DAY 11

Opportunities and Open Hearts

During the years of my long acquaintance with my Muslim friend, 'Abrahima,' as issues came up in his life, in our town, or with the national government, I would use these as opportunities to informally share what the Bible says about them. I would always try to draw his attention to Christ, who he is and what he has done for us. And as needs came up in Abrahima's life, I tried to help him out as much as possible - doing so with a cheerful heart.

These times of conversation and opportunities to help led to him being open to reading the Bible together. So, three nights a week, I go to his place and we spend about an hour or longer reading directly from the Scriptures about God, his love, his grace, what it means to be just before him, etc.

The Scriptures to which the Lord has led us speak of the importance of having an open heart and humility/humbleness before God if one is to truly repent, be forgiven of one's sin so that we can be reconnected to our Creator, and gain new life. My prayer is that by faith he would come to understand all this.

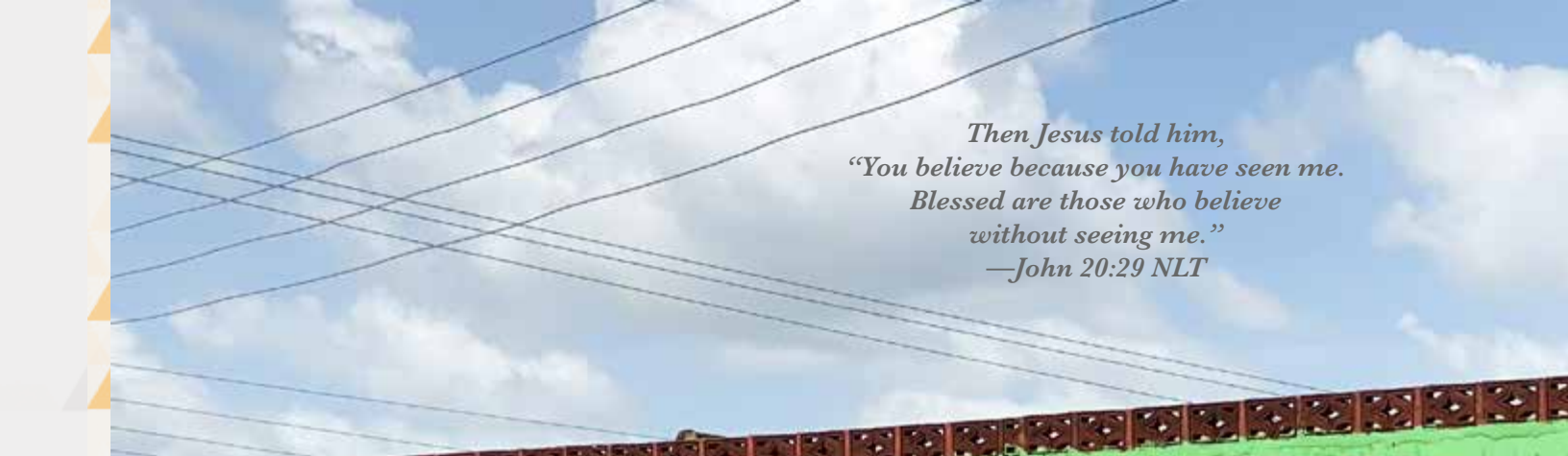
PRAY

- That the truth of the Word of God will open the eyes of the blind and reveal to Abrahima, and others like him, that Jesus is the only way.
- For many Muslims in West Africa to turn to Jesus for salvation.
- For encouragement and hope for workers when there is little or no response.

Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

—John 5:39 NLT





*Then Jesus told him,
“You believe because you have seen me.
Blessed are those who believe
without seeing me.”
—John 20:29 NLT*

DAY 12

Easter Outcomes: Part One

Our Easter celebration was a unique opportunity to share our faith in an understandable way to our Muslim community. We purchased a cow, butchered it at our house explaining that this was not a sacrificial animal but a celebratory one. We wanted them to know God had already provided the sacrifice for sin, once and for all and we were thanking Him for that complete and final sacrifice.

As we butchered the animal, we played parts of John 19 and 20 in their language, explaining that this was from the *Injil* (New Testament), also respected in Islam. Several requested copies of the New Testament. We then shared out the meat to all those in the community and sat around with the men talking and finding many opportunities to speak of Christ's death and resurrection that freed the world from the scourge of sin and death.

It was exciting to hear the portions from John's Gospel being played loud and clear from the courtyards in the area as we had

given out the recording to many of the young men. We know they will play and replay it on their phones!

PRAY

- For creative, clear ways to share the Gospel to this people group that will allow there to be fruit that remains.
- For the Word of God to bear fruit.
- For more people to pray for Muslims in West Africa.



DAY 13

Easter Outcomes: Part Two

We don't often see the outcomes from some of our efforts to share Christ creatively but here is one story from our Easter cow celebration.

One of the young men who took the recording of the Gospel of John that day has been a friend from before he could walk. As he and one of his friends grew older, we were able to get them into a work/discipleship program.

They went for six months to a Christian context where they were taught how to raise and manage chickens. They were exposed to the Gospel through early morning Bible studies and regular exchanges with different workers.

After a few weeks one of them became hostile and angry while the other one remained open and engaged. He is still open and communicative and we feel some of that is a result of that years earlier attempt to make the truth of Christ's sacrifice for our sins clear on that Easter in his community.

PRAY

- That the openness and curiosity of this young man and others like him will lead to a decision to follow Christ.
- That the hard hearts of many would be softened by the work of the Holy Spirit and prayer and that these ones that we love so much would turn to Christ and be saved.
- That the work in West Africa would be strengthened and new workers would come.

DAY 14

One with no load on his shoulders

I met my friend, Badiaga when we were both living in Kinshasa, DRC. He was a migrant who sold clothes in a large market in the city. We began our friendship with much conversation about our sinful human nature, along with the divine solution to reinstate the relationship between us and God that has been broken by disobedience. We looked at the *Qur'an* and the Bible.

We explored what *Muhammad* admitted when he said that every one has the scar of sin since birth and included himself as a sinner. We then talked about Jesus, that the *Qur'an* declares the only one who is sinless and who came to destroy the works of the devil. One day in our conversation I asked my friend a question:

“If you are burdened and weary and two people come to you to help you, one with no load on his shoulders and one who carries his own load of sin, where will you go for help and who will be able to take away your burdens?”

Badiaga said, ‘I would go to the first person who is free from sin and bears no load’.

He saw that only Jesus can set him free from the burden of sin.

PRAY

- For Gospel movements and breakthroughs among the Unreached People Group known as the Jula of West Africa.
- For the global workers as they train leaders to reach the Jula.
- That workers would make friends with those they meet in daily life and engage in conversation about the Truth.

Go to worldventure.com/mabiala to learn more. And please prayerfully consider **supporting the Mabialas** today!

*Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,
for you have been my partners in spreading
the Good News about Christ
from the time you first heard it
until now.*

— Philippians 1:4-5 NLT



The background features a light gray map of Asia, including the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. Overlaid on this map are various geometric patterns: a repeating pattern of light gray triangles across the entire background, and a vertical strip on the right side containing a complex, interlocking geometric pattern in light gray and orange. The text "Pray for Muslims in Asia" is written in a golden-yellow, elegant script font, centered over the map.

Pray for
Muslims
in Asia



VI/KIR/2015/1-743



DAY 15

Healing and Hope

We all rejoiced with Sameena when she came in and delivered a healthy baby boy! But domestic problems spoiled this joyous occasion. Sameena's husband was having an affair and tried to kidnap the baby at gunpoint. Thankfully, the police intervened and prevented the kidnapping. But Sameena needed something more. She needed healing and hope.

So, our "Bible Woman" prayed with Sameena and provided counsel. Soon after, Sameena began to read the New Testament and Psalms for herself. She recently came to tell us that her husband decided

to end the affair and they are reading the New Testament together! She gives praise to God for the work that is taking place in her husband's heart.

This is just one of many stories of healing and hope. Our medical ministry, located in a rural area of a South Asian country, serves unreached women and children like Sameena and her baby. The love and truth of Jesus is shared with many of the women seeking treatment. Since the hospital is one of the very few opportunities these women have to interact with people outside their homes, it is one of the only places where they can hear about the healing and hope that can only be found in Jesus.

PRAY

- For eternal fruit to result in this family and in the lives of the many other women/families impacted by this medical ministry.
- For wisdom for workers as they respond to challenges against followers of Jesus brought by Muslims.
- For women who want to follow Jesus but are afraid of the persecution they will face from family members.

*But for you
who fear my name,
the Sun of Righteousness
will rise with healing
in his wings...
—Malachi 4:1a NLT*

*"Go home to your own people
and tell them how much
the Lord has done for you,
and how he has had
mercy on you"
—Matthew 13:23 NLT*

DAY 16

Return Home

'Ali' and 'Aisha,' both from the Philippines, met each other overseas where they were working. Although they are from different ethnic groups among the Malay people, both of them came from Muslim backgrounds. But they also met Someone Else while working overseas: Jesus. And both had secretly become followers of Jesus. They soon had to face the challenge that many Muslim-background followers of Jesus have to make: how openly should they reveal this to family and friends?

Filipino Muslims are part of the Malay group and Muslims have been a part of the Filipino islands since the 13th century. They have often been mistreated and marginalized among the Roman Catholic majority population. This has caused resentment, and in recent years, a rise in rebel groups, unusual in this generally peace-loving country.

Ali shared how God had put on his heart the importance of reaching his Muslim friends and family. Ali and Aisha returned home to the Philippines to work and serve the Lord there together. And they are finding ways to share the love of Christ and serve in their community.

PRAY

- For Filipino Muslims to recognize Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life.
- For Ali, Aisha, and other Filipino followers of Jesus as they live and work in Muslim communities looking for 'people of peace' with whom they can share the truth of the Gospel.
- For encouragement when the work is slow and the response is limited.





DAY 17

Making Soap (and Disciples!)

The journey to the Molbog people included two flights, a van ride, two boat rides, a short truck ride and then a forty-five minute hike!

Our team of Filipino-background, Christian teenagers were ministering to a remote Muslim tribe of fishermen called Molbog in the Philippines. The Molbog people are fishermen, very poor and usually last to get government help due to their isolation. They are somewhat open to the Gospel and often trade with their nearest neighbors, Malaysia.

In the past, our teams usually did things like tutoring, friendship building, and helping the community with needed projects. On this trip, however, they asked for something a bit more unusual - something practical that would provide another source of income for the Molbog people. Their village was surrounded by acres of coconut trees. So for the month before we left for our trip, we learned how to make natural bar soap from coconut oil.

Our team of 10 teenagers prepared for this ministry for nine months learning about Islam, culture, and how to share their faith with Muslims. They lived with the Molbog people without electricity and toilets. They even learned how to charge their cell phones using a truck battery.

And while making disciples, these teens taught the people how to make soap.

PRAY

- That more workers will come to reach this very isolated tribe.
- For a young Filipino family who live among the Molbog to reach them for Christ through education and help with their livelihoods.
- For health care as medical facilities are far away.
- For courage for those who are following Christ in this community.

Learn about this dynamic youth ministry at worldventure.com/the180degrees

*“I have other sheep, too,
that are not in this sheepfold.
I must bring them also.
They will listen to my voice,
and there will be one flock,
with one shepherd.”*
—John 10:16 NLT



DAY 18

Those Who Follow Isa al Masih

‘Ishak’ is a second generation Christian who grew up as a part of an “*Isahe*” group of believers, those who follow “*Isa al Masih*” – Jesus the Messiah. His father had fought in the war between Pakistan and Bangladesh back in the 1970s. As a young man, his father had a dream of “a man in white” who had called him to follow. Since his parents are believers, Ishak’s family has been shunned by many. This has made friendship with other kids difficult. Ishak does have fellowship with other *Isahe* kids though, during special youth events held a few times each year.

Bengali people, both Muslim and Hindu, were first evangelized by William Carey during his work in Serampore, which is now a part of Kolkata (Calcutta), India.

When Bangladesh was partitioned in 1947, the majority of Muslims became part of what is now the nation of Bangladesh. Bengali Hindus are a minority (9%) in Bangladesh while Muslims make up the majority (90%). God has been at work among both groups.

Today there are tens of thousands of believers from Muslim and Hindu backgrounds who now call on Jesus as Lord, but a wider breakthrough awaits. The potential is great, but more workers are needed for the harvest and young leaders from among the people need to take on the challenge of leadership.

PRAY

- For more Bengali people to respond to the Gospel. They appear to be very open to hear the message of Jesus.
- For bold leaders to work skillfully in the harvest fields.
- For the leaders of the ‘*Isahe*’ fellowships. Most are poor, rural farmers who need training and encouragement.
- For the politics of Bangladesh to allow for a more open society that allows for the proclamation of the Gospel.



DAY 19

Waiting for the Story to Unfold

Our daughter, seven at the time, corrected her deskmate during an alphabet lesson, each proclaiming her allegiance to *Allah* or to Jesus.

“A-, A-, *All-ah*,” said her deskmate.

“No! I-, I-, *Isa!*” said our daughter.

As the saying goes, ‘To be [us] is to be Muslim.’

Nearly one fourth of the population is under the age of fifteen. Each one is searching for an identity in this young country.

Young people face an uphill climb with societal problems impacting the whole family: suicide, domestic violence, low and unpredictable salaries, and corruption.

Where will people turn? We pray to see people in Central Asia turn to Jesus for true and lasting identity as children of God. And we are trusting God to unfold His Story among these wonderful people!

*The heart with legion force
invades with trembling
To beg for just a word
and to behold
The glory of His face
upon her, singing
And waiting
for the Story
to unfold.*

PRAY

- That God would move powerfully to unfold his Story in Central Asia.
- That in the midst of so much difficulty, people would turn to the truth of the Gospel of help and hope.
- That workers here would be protected and encouraged.

*Therefore, God elevated him
to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name
above all other names...
—Philippians 2:9 NLT*

DAY 20

I am a Sinner

'Mustafa' was born and raised as a Muslim in a village. He had been working in the city about an hour away from our hospital. His first visit to our hospital was in May 2020 because he was very sick with tuberculosis and HIV. Most of his family had rejected him because of his diagnosis.

In November 2020 during a clinic check-up, a conversation was started by clinic staff on the fragility of life. Mustafa responded hopelessly, "My soul will be in hell when I die because I am a sinner. My life is doomed to hell."

Through sharing the story of the thief on the cross who was dying alongside Jesus, our staff was able to share the gift of eternal life offered to all sinners through *Isa al-Masih* (Jesus Christ). That afternoon, Mustafa asked God for forgiveness and accepted Jesus as his Savior and Lord.

He is now being discipled regularly by one of our chaplains, as well as getting the care he needs for his tuberculosis and HIV.

PRAY

- For Mustafa and his family.
- That as the staff at the hospital treat people for their illnesses they would be quick to share the truth of the Gospel.
- That more patients would turn in faith to the Savior as they hear the truth of the Gospel.
- That God would strengthen and encourage those serving the needy in this area.

*And Jesus replied,
"I assure you,
today, you will
be with me
in paradise."
—Luke 23:43 NLT*



DAY 21

Bearing Fruit

WorldVenture has worked for 65+ years in a particular Muslim country among an unreached people group of over 28 million people. The ‘first’ generation of workers did not see much fruit. But the ‘second’ generation did. Here is one example:

A new Muslim background follower of Jesus wanted us to meet his friend. When we met, I asked if he knew anything about the Bible. He said, “Wait!” and ran off. After some minutes, he returned with a certificate from WorldVenture’s Bible Correspondence School, signed 29 years earlier. This student had followed Jesus ever since that day and became a bold witness in the marketplace.

A few years later, when visiting the global workers that had led that ministry in that region, we told this man’s story to the one who signed this student’s certificate. With tears in his eyes, retired WorldVenture President, Warren Webster, told us how he prayed daily for his former Bible Correspondence School students.

The spiritual fruit of those students and that ministry continues.

PRAY

- That the work of the Bible Correspondence School would bear much fruit in coming years.
- For encouragement for workers who labour for a long time without seeing anyone come to Christ.
- For more workers in this region.

*“Yes, I am the vine;
you are the branches.
Those who remain in me,
and I in them,
will product much fruit.
For apart from me
you can do nothing.”
—John 15:5 NLT*



DAY 22

God Makes Them Grow

‘Nathan’ thought he was the only follower of Jesus in the country. He had been listening to Christian radio programs prepared by a WorldVenture ‘first’ generation missionary. Nathan wrote to the radio office and a team went to his village. Nathan met his first follower of Jesus—a WV ‘second generation’ worker!

We began to teach Nathan and trained him how to tell his testimony. Nathan went to many villages to tell the Good News. Some of his family members and religious leaders became upset and burned his Christian literature. When he was kicked out of his village he stayed with the WV family for a while. We prayed together and encouraged him to persevere.

He learned ways to be a witness to his family. And his wife and children have come to Christ!

He continues to visit his village and share the Gospel with his family members. He now leads the Bible Correspondence School that former worker and retired WorldVenture President, Warren Webster, once led!

PRAY

- That a ‘third’ generation would be called to be witnesses in this dark and needy place.
- That seeds sown by both ‘first’ and ‘second’ generation workers would bear much fruit in the years to come.
- That all those who labour to see Muslims come to Christ would do the work of prayer and have an ability to wait patiently for God to change hearts.

*It's not important who does the planting or who does the watering.
What's important is that God makes the seed grow.
—1 Corinthians 3:7 NLT*



The background of the slide is composed of two main elements. On the left, there is a vertical strip with a complex, interlocking geometric pattern in a light gray color. The rest of the background is a light gray field with a subtle, larger-scale geometric pattern of triangles. Overlaid on this is a faint, light gray map of Europe. The text 'Pray for Muslims in Europe' is written in a golden-yellow, elegant script font, centered on the right side of the image.

Pray for Muslims in Europe





DAY 23

Welcoming the Least of These

When Jesus separated the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25, one of the criteria for being counted among the sheep was, “I was a stranger and you took me in.”

The refugee crisis in Europe has given the church hundreds of thousands of opportunities to welcome the stranger. Where we are in France, that means more than two-thirds are Muslim migrants seeking refuge.

One day I got a call from a friend asking us to welcome an Iranian man who was a recent convert to Christianity. He needed help with housing, paperwork and care from a Christian family. We did our best to welcome him into our midst.

We began to pray, read the Bible and encourage each other every Friday. Now two years later this man is Pastor Mohammad. He has planted the first Iranian church with thirty people journeying to Jesus.

Welcoming one refugee has resulted in a church. God is continuing to build His kingdom throughout France among the migrant Muslim community!

PRAY

- For Iranians to be freed from the fear and trauma of their past.
- For Iranians to speak the Gospel fluently to themselves and others.

Justin Dodson is a global worker.

Learn more at worldventure.com/dodson

*And the King will say,
“I tell you the truth,
when you did it
to one of the least of these
my brothers and sisters,
you were doing it to me!”*
—Matthew 25:40 NLT

DAY 24

What Does Work

I first met Amal when she arrived from Syria with her children, joining her husband who had made it here as a refugee. She was young, bright, and full of enthusiasm for building a new life in a safer country.

Over time we became good friends, and when *Ramadan* came, I gently probed her for her reasons for fasting. She talked with some pride about the chance to please God, to get prayers answered, but most of all, to purify her life.

Two days after *Ramadan* ended, we met for coffee, and she vented for half an hour about her husband's selfish and controlling behavior. When she was done I said gently, 'Amal, the purifying...it didn't work, did it? For him or for you?' She looked startled, but agreed sadly, 'No, it didn't work.'

Our conversations about what *does work* are still going on.



PRAY

- That Amal and others like her will respond to these gentle questions.
- That refugees from Syria would come into contact with followers of Jesus in European cities and that these believers will be bold witnesses to the truth.
- That those working with immigrants and refugees will find strength and encouragement to keep on reaching out even when there is little response.



DAY 25

Make A Break!

‘Samuel’ had been kidnapped, with two others, by ISIS. Three days later they tried to escape. Samuel made it but the other two were killed. Samuel’s relatives knew ISIS would come for them so they helped Samuel and his family flee Iraq.

After a scary, difficult trip they arrived in a large city in Europe with nothing. They met a Christian lady but she was not sure how to talk with them. She called WorldVenture workers and they went to meet Samuel and his family. Samuel was suffering from PTSD and they wanted to make a break from Islam. They had gone to a Christian meeting but they were unclear about where their faith was.

After meeting again with the WV worker and hearing the Gospel again Samuel and his family prayed for Jesus to come into their hearts. They were thrilled to know that they could pray in Kurdish and the Lord would hear them.

They began to grow, studying the Word, and attending a Muslim-Background Believer (MBB) house church. Then, they were baptized and began to witness.

When Samuel told his relatives in Iraq that he and his family had become followers of Jesus, the relatives threatened to send people to kill them! But that didn’t stop Samuel. He and his family continue to share their faith with both Christians and Muslims.

PRAY

- That Samuel and his family will, as it says in Colossians 1:23 “continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel.”
- That their witness would bring other family members to faith in Christ.
- That Christians in Europe would take advantage of the opportunities to share openly with refugees and immigrants from places where Gospel witness is so limited.

*Then [Jesus] said
to the crowd,
“If any of you wants
to be my follower,
you must give up
your own way,
take up your cross daily,
and follow me.”
—Luke 9:23 NLT*



DAY 26

Waiting for that Precious Day

The mother of my daughter's best friend.

The assistant mayor of our town.

A regular in my women's Bible study.

The neighbour who took in my kids when they were locked out of the house.

All are Muslim women living in my small town outside of Paris.

All are precious friends with whom I have cried and laughed and prayed. I have had the opportunity to share the Gospel with each of them.

One friend, Hanna, regularly asks me to pray for her. Another friend, Samia, is reading through the Bible with me. All have yet to accept Jesus as their Saviour.

I will continue to share life with them, waiting for that precious day.

PRAY

- For Hanna and Samia
- That some of these women from North Africa put their trust in Jesus this year.
- That many will become disenchanted with Islam and learn more about Jesus and ultimately come to trust in Him.
- That this will influence many in their countries of origin to turn to Christ.
- That the church in France will gain a burden for the Muslims in their nation.

DAY 27

Good Words and Good Works

WorldVenture workers came in contact with a newly arrived immigrant family from Iran. ‘Randal’ had trusted Christ in Iran, but because of persecution decided to escape with his wife and two year old daughter. After paying a lot of money and traveling by various means, they ended up in a city in Europe.

Randal wanted to attend a house church but his wife, ‘Peggy’ did not. She was very unhappy away from her family and country. They came to the church and when they entered the room their two year old daughter walked across the room and climbed up on the WV worker’s lap! She sat there the whole meeting, even though both parents tried to get her to come back to them. Peggy was absolutely amazed as their daughter had been hesitant with all other strangers. During the meeting, the Good News of Jesus was presented in various ways through both good words and good works.

The next Thursday, Randal attended our men’s Bible study again and was so excited to tell us that the prior evening, Peggy had decided to become a follower of Jesus. Her disposition changed and as Randal put it “she was upside down ‘topsy-turvy,’” filled with the joy of the Lord. The change was evident in her countenance. In spite of Covid-19, the WV couple were able to meet with this family. They continue to grow in the Lord and are so thankful to God for what He has done in their life.

PRAY

- That this family would continue to grow and that they would be able to lead many of their family members to Christ.
- That those who have escaped the persecution in their home countries would remember to pray for believers who remain and continue to undergo persecution.

Then [Jesus] took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them. —Mark 10:16 NLT





Pray for
Muslims in the
Middle East





DAY 28

A Tale of Two Brothers

“*Allahu akbar*” blared from the mosque speaker outside Sa’id’s window straight into the middle of our class on Zoom. Sa’id is an MBB from Sudan who is completing theological studies at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon, where I’ve been teaching since 2011.

When the coronavirus pandemic began last year, the seminary moved all classes online and sent all the students back to their home countries. Sa’id began joining our classes from his dirt-walled house that sits next door to the mosque where his fundamentalist brother leads prayers. Throughout this apologetics course, his brother would frequently show up at Sa’id’s side, joining in our discussions about the Trinity, Jesus, and faith.

This was not a situation I had expected when we moved to teaching online. But it’s a part of the story of how decentralized theological education has potential to transform society as teachers and students practice doing theology in the midst of life and ministry.

PRAY

- For Sa’id’s brother
- For all of our “Sa’ids” (men) and “Miriams” (women) studying with ABTS to represent Christ in and among their families and tribal networks.
- For Sudanese churches as they seek to be a transformative influence in the building of Sudan’s future.

*Learn more about **Caleb Hutcherson** and how to support this ministry at worldventure.com/hutcherson*

*Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him
“We have found the Messiah.”—from John 1:41 NLT*

*Then [Jesus] said
to the crowd,
“If any of you wants
to be my follower,
you must give up
your own way,
take up your cross daily,
and follow me.”
—Luke 9:23 NLT*



DAY 29

Hunger for the Word

No...this cannot be.”

These were the words of a young Arab girl when the Holy Spirit pieced together what she had been learning concerning the Messiah. From a Muslim home, divorced from an abusive husband, and a society telling her she had no future, she found within herself an earnest desire for the truth of God.

One day, after many conversations showing that all prophets point to the Messiah, and while weekly reading the book of John, the Truth brought her to her knees.

She closed her eyes and confessed that she cannot climb the mountain that separates her from God, but that the Messiah certainly has and she wishes to live free and follow after Him.

Along with salvation has come a hunger for the Word and prayer, as well as a bold witness to her family. The Lord is drawing many others to himself within her community.

PRAY

- That the light and truth of the Gospel will pierce through the darkness and lies, and shatter the strongholds of Islam that hold people in this region in bondage.
- For media campaigns that are enabling a broad sowing of seeds. Pray that these seeds will fall on good soil.
- For unity, love, perseverance and wisdom in the small local body of believers. Pray that leaders will emerge and be trained Biblically to lead and disciple the church.
- For work and education opportunities for many in the region who feel stuck in cycles of poverty and abuse.

DAY 30

God must have told you my name!

It was nearly 11 pm, hours after the breaking of the fast. The streets were full of activity and alive with people. We had met there to prayer walk and ask God to lead us to people of peace, people He was preparing. We spent some time in 'listening prayer' and heard the name "Zehra", getting an impression of a woman we should speak with. After an hour of walking in the crowded street we paused and asked the Holy Spirit again for direction.

As we listened, God prompted us to enter the courtyard of the mosque nearby. As we entered we saw a woman, sitting alone in the dark. The woman greeted us with a warm smile and didn't seem surprised when we shared that we had been praying and believed God had led us to her. She was willing for us to pray for her and we had a few minutes to talk and pray before her son arrived. As she was leaving I said, "Earlier as we prayed we heard the name Zehra. Does that mean anything to you?"

She smiled widely and laughed saying, "My name is Zehra! God must have told you my name!"

We have been able to go back to visit Zehra in the mosque where she works, and God has opened up opportunities for us to read the Word and pray with her and others inside the mosque! Ask that God would continue to draw Zehra and her devout community to Himself.

PRAY

- For Zehra
- That God would send out local laborers into the harvest fields all across the land in schools, universities, work places, businesses and homes.
- That, as in Acts 19:10, where all of Asia Minor heard God's Word within two years, His word would spread in our country in this generation!

*Jesus spoke to the people once more and said,
“I am the light of the world. If you follow me,
you won’t have to walk in darkness,
because you will have the light
that leads to life.”
—John 8:12 NLT*





NEXT STEPS

Thank you for journeying with us during these 30 days of prayer for our Muslim neighbors around the world. We trust that the time you've spent before our Heavenly Father will bear fruit for eternity.

WorldVenture was birthed out of prayer during World War II, and prayer has been our life blood ever since.

Another significant value throughout our history has been a desire to push to the frontiers of the harvest – to spread God's fame among those nations who have yet to hear.

Globalization and modern technology have the world more connected than ever before. And for a whole host of reasons, people are on the move. Because of this, frontier peoples can now be found in cities and towns around the globe.

In partnership with a network of more than 200 organizations and churches, WorldVenture is committed to seeing the remaining 450 unengaged Muslim people groups engaged by 2025.

Would you join us in praying for this vision to become a reality?

Today, more Muslims are coming to Christ than at any other time in history. The Spirit of God is moving and many of His children are courageously bringing the Good News of Jesus to Muslims in their Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Our hope is that these stories have encouraged, inspired, and challenged each of us to identify, pray for, and creatively engage Muslims nearby – wherever God has placed us.

I'd also invite you to continue praying for our missionaries around the world. Please reach out to me directly if you'd like more information about any of our colleagues whose identities have been withheld for security purposes.

Also, please contact me for more information about reaching Muslims in your area and any training needs you and your church might have.

**Engaging the world
for gospel impact,**

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Learn more at
worldventure.com