

The Desert of Mauritania

Mauritania Statistics

- 99% Muslim
- Population 3.18 million

Mauritania, an Islamic republic in West Africa, is a vast desert—hot, dry and dusty. Its legal system is a combination of Shari’a law and French civil law. Independent from France since 1960, Mauritania has suffered from a succession of military coups and ongoing tribal conflict. A severe drought over the past decades has devastated the country. The capital, Nouakchott, has become a crossroads for many ethnic groups with nomadic roots.

In this setting God is doing wonders, despite the guards who sometimes stand at church doors to ensure that Mauritanian citizens don’t enter. God has given dreams

to Mauritians. In the interior of the country, an Imam showed the Jesus film in a mosque. The Imam later died and the results are unclear, but such seed-sowing needs to continue. By God’s grace, there are Mauritians following Christ in many countries around the world.

Testimony from Mauritania:

Soon after coming to faith in Christ, Bokar told his Christian friends that he wanted to do away with a special undershirt, inscribed with Koranic passages and interwoven with dozens of amulets. It is one of the most powerful enchantments known to the Hal-Pulaar (Fulani). They were afraid and said the shirt could not be destroyed, that it would jump out of the fire. After much prayer, Bokar

burned his shirt, and the result was tremendous spiritual growth in his own life. Many who heard of the incident gained a new respect for the power of the Gospel.

PRAYER REQUESTS

▶ *There are often tensions between tribal groups which can lead to violence. Corruption is endemic in all areas of society. Divorce is widespread, and women and children often suffer the most. Desperate poverty plagues the lives of most Mauritians, causing a sense of hopelessness and despair. Pray for solutions in this country.*

▶ *Despite the grip of Islam on the country, animism is practiced by most people. The deep-rooted fear of evil spirits (known as jinn) binds many people. Many seek supernatural help through divination and occult practices. Pray for God’s merciful intervention and for Christian believers to be “strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” (Ephesians 6:10)*



Islam explained

A marabout is a spiritual leader in the Islamic faith as practiced in West and North Africa. Marabouts are often well versed in the Qur’an, and many make amulets for good luck. They sometimes preside at various ceremonies and serve as spiritual guides.