



Shifting Sands in Qatar



Qatar Statistics

- 90+% Muslim
- Population about 900,000 people (possibly 200,000 are citizens)

We can give thanks for much that has happened in Qatar since we last prayed for it through “30 Days” in 1998. For example, in May 2005 representatives of several Christian churches signed an agreement with the government for a 50-year lease on a large piece of property in the capital of Doha, on which they will build six churches at their own expense. Also the new constitution explicitly provides for freedom of worship, association and public assembly, though there are some restrictions.

Qatar may be best known around the world today as the home of Al-Jazeera, the controversial news channel which broadcasts in the Arabic-language on satellite television. For centuries Qatar was simply a peninsula of sand jutting into the Gulf of Arabia where the local Arabs built ships and sustained themselves through pearl hunting, fishing

and weaving. Oil was discovered in Qatar in 1939, and presently oil and gas account for more than 55% of the GDP. Qatar has the potential to supply up to one third of the world’s natural gas resources. All this has transformed Qatar into one of the world’s richest countries.

Non-Muslims may not proselytize, and the government regulates the publication, importation, and distribution of non-Islamic religious books and materials. No foreign missionary groups can operate openly in the country.

Also pray for ...

- ▶ *Pray for good and effective journalism through the Al Jazeera TV news channel. The Arab world is heavily influenced by this news channel.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *The Al-Thani family has ruled Qatar since the mid-1800’s. Pray that they would know how to wisely lead the nation.*
- ▶ *Pray for the church building project in the capital of Doha. There have been delays and some Muslim media have complained about the project.*
- ▶ *Pray for those who are discovering Jesus through Christian media and contacts with local believers.*