

Introduction

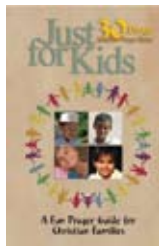
Welcome to the 18th annual 30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus. It coincides yearly with Ramadan (the holy month of fasting in Islam). This prayer movement (currently coordinated out of France and previously from Australia) calls upon Christians to make a concerted but considerate effort during this time to learn about, pray for and reach out to Muslim neighbors—across the street and around the world.

It is not our intention with this prayer focus to disparage Islam or Muslim sentiments in any way. We recognize that humans and the Muslim world are far too complex to easily condense or explain with a mere booklet. Yet, as Christians, we long for all the world's people to have an opportunity to understand the grace of God incarnated in Jesus Christ. To this end we inform ourselves, pray for, and support respectful opportunities to make that grace also known among Muslims.

Each year a new illustrated prayer guide is published in dozens of languages and locations around the world. This booklet is the North American edition.

- To involve younger members of your family or church, we also offer the “Just for Kids” booklet version (see page 55).
- Find other published resources featured on the center pages.
- Ministries whose advertising significantly contributes toward the North American edition of this annual prayer project are featured starting on page 42. We hope that you will peruse those pages, as they provide opportunities for further involvement.

Thank you for participating.



2009 Subjects and Prayer Topics

The call to Christians worldwide to set aside 30 days each year to pray for Muslims originated during a meeting of international Christian leaders in the Middle East, in 1992. The first “30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus” took place in March 1993. The 2009 booklet in your hand is actually our 18th edition (there have been 18 lunar years since the beginning). According to the Muslim calendar, this is the year 1430.

Subjects and prayer topics in this edition of 30 Days:

- Christian and Muslim differences, misunderstandings and attitudes
- The family of Mohammed
- Prayer for peoples, cities, tribes, tongues and nations
- What is it like to be a “secret believer?”
- Ministries are needed: healing, deliverance, etc.
- Testimonies of people who have found new life in the Messiah



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Why pray for Muslims?

Common and yet different values and beliefs



Believers in the Messiah, Jesus, have many beliefs and values in common with Muslims, not only concerning faith-related issues but also moral values. People from both faith communities agree that our world has become a dangerous place. Believers in Jesus and Muslims can both be in agreement concerning the following text in 2 Timothy 3:2-5:

“... Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

Believers in the Messiah and Muslims share similar common values for daily living: faithfulness (to God and in relationships), honesty, compassion, honor, humility, chastity, self-sacrifice, mercy and love.

Muslims and Christians believe that there is one God, but are we worshipping the same God in word and deed? One might also ask: In a time when many people think that all roads and all religions lead to the one true God, why should one pray for Muslims to come to sal-

vation? Does it make any difference? Are they not already accepted by God?

Certainly Muslims are loved by God. Without doing anything they are loved by Him. God counts Muslim children and adults as precious. He loves every aspect of their languages, food, attitudes and daily life which are truly good and right. However, this does not mean that Muslims have entered into eternal life or have had their sins forgiven.

Muslims are not inspired by the hope of a new world in which Jesus, the crucified and risen Messiah, reigns as King. Most Muslims have actually been trained not to believe that Jesus died and rose again. In general they know little of His forgiveness. They believe that Jesus was a prophet sent from God, but they generally never think of Him as God’s appointed King who reigns over the nations (Mt 28:18-20). It is precisely “believing the Gospel of the Kingdom” which is a problem. Like all people everywhere and in all cultures, Muslims are called to turn from evil and believe the Gospel of the Kingdom. Most Muslims around the world have not even had an opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus’ death for sins and His

resurrection, which liberates us from the power of sin, death and demonic bondage.

For various reasons which will be discussed later in this booklet, Muslims do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Believers in the Messiah are always rejoicing that “God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:9-10).

Jesus has come so that we can have life and have it in abundance (John 10:10). Therefore let us pray for Muslims so they can enter into that life in the Messiah’s eternal kingdom.

MUSLIM POPULATIONS

Africa	400 million
Middle East	250 million
Asia	800 million
Europe	25+ million
Americas	5+ million
Total	1.48 billion

The table above gives the approximate numbers of Muslims in various regions of the world. In the last 50 years probably no more than one or two million Muslims have come to saving faith in the Messiah. Some people might give a somewhat higher figure. Whatever the real number, it is relatively small, and a breakthrough is needed.



The last of the unreached

There are about 220 Muslim peoples around the world with over 100,000 members each, and these peoples have no local committed Christian witness. In addition, there are no known believers who are specifically planning to take the Gospel of the Kingdom to them. A short list of some of these peoples is on this page. In addition there are huge numbers of Muslims in peoples where there is a small Christian witness, but the Muslims still have never heard the Gospel in a meaningful and culturally adapted way. This is true of millions of Arabs in the Middle East as well as millions more in Africa and Southeast Asia.

Jesus said, “This Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Mt. 24:14). The end of the age and the dawning of God’s new world will not come about before all people from different religions and cultures have had an opportunity to hear and to respond to the message. In this prayer booklet we have made a significant effort to focus our prayers on unreached peoples without neglecting Muslims in more visible and well-known settings. You will find several completely unreached groups listed in our “Prayer for the Peoples” sections.

A list of the 220 Muslim peoples mentioned above is available on our web site: www.30-days.net. (There are hundreds of smaller people groups as well.)

Below: Some Muslim peoples of over 100,000 people without any known Gospel witness ...

<i>Saho of Eritrea</i>	211,000
<i>Maraikayar of India</i>	127,000
<i>Mawalud of India</i>	1,161,000
<i>Nikari of India</i>	151,000
<i>Pashtun of India</i>	13,280,000
<i>Thulukkan of India</i>	269,000
<i>Asahan of Indonesia</i>	541,000
<i>Bangka of Indonesia</i>	340,000
<i>Belitung of Indonesia</i>	100,000
<i>Gayo of Indonesia</i>	300,000
<i>Kangean of Indonesia</i>	1,100,000
<i>Takistani of Iran</i>	330,000
<i>Afshari of Iran</i>	1,230,000
<i>Khorasani Turk of Iran</i>	832,000
<i>Seraiki of Pakistan</i>	17,854,000
<i>W. Baluch of Pakistan</i>	1,261,000
<i>Burig of Pakistan</i>	474,000
<i>Kho of Pakistan</i>	314,000
<i>Kolai of Pakistan</i>	410,000
<i>Awan of India</i>	618,000
<i>Chhimba of India</i>	1,047,000
<i>Kamboh of India</i>	1,525,000
<i>Kunjra of India</i>	1,601,000
<i>Makhmi of India</i>	499,000
<i>Mappila of India</i>	9,635,000
<i>Kerinci of Indonesia</i>	260,000
<i>Lembak of Indonesia</i>	120,000

