

**MUSLIM WORLD  
PRAYER GUIDE**

**30 DAYS  
OF PRAYER<sup>®</sup>**

**APRIL 13–MAY 12 2021**



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

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## ABOUT US

WorldChristian has published and distributed this prayer guide annually since 1993. The 30-day period intentionally but respectfully coincides each year with the important Islamic month of religious observation—*Ramadan*. To learn more, go to [www.30DaysPrayer.com](http://www.30DaysPrayer.com).

## ORDERING ADDITIONAL BOOKLETS

Quantity discounts available (see page 56)

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# Greetings!

## Welcome from Paul and Mary

It was 28 years ago when the two of us agreed we would tackle a “one-time project” by publishing a booklet in North America to guide Christians in praying for Muslims during their holy month of *Ramadan* (an international call to pray for Muslims had been issued by a group of Christian leaders)

That one time has become 30 times, and now, our 30th edition of the *30 Days of Prayer*® Muslim World Prayer Guide booklet focuses on Muslims in North America. (Like Jews, Muslims follow the lunar calendar, which has shorter years—thus 30 booklets in 28 years.)

What began small, has since developed into an international volunteer movement, and we are glad to have been able to play a role in helping millions of people around the globe pray for Muslims, and we are encouraged by reports that these efforts have helped to lead many to Christ.

During a time when some Christians demonize all Muslims, we are thankful that many regularly pray for them and lovingly reach out to them in the name of Christ.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused many churches to halt in-person meetings (and Saudi

Arabia to issue an unprecedented halt to the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca), but tens of thousands of Christians still obtained the 2020 booklet and remained steadfast in prayer.

In the pages that follow, you will learn how Muslims from around the world have flocked to America, fleeing violence, terrorism, war, famine, drought, and other natural and human-inflicted disasters, in pursuit of the American Dream.

They build our cars, prepare our meals, fight in our wars, and hold elected offices, but many of them have never heard the gospel of Christ proclaimed or seen it lived out.

Please join us, along with tens of thousands of other believers, in praying for them.

Our special thanks go to David Garrison and the Global Gates team for providing the *30 Days* content and testimonies, and to pioneering minister-to-Muslims Don McCurry, who is interviewed on the next pages.

**Paul and Mary, Publisher**  
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*More about us on page 53*



# Ministering to Muslims in North America

An interview with Don McCurry



For a list of some of Don's books go to page 34.

**H**e was a missionary in Pakistan (1957–75), directed the North American Lausanne Consultation on Muslim Evangelism (1978), founded the Zwemer Institute of Muslim Studies and edited *The Gospel and Islam* (1979), and founded Ministries to Muslims and the Ibero-American Institute of Transcultural Studies in Malaga, Spain (1998).

Now in his 90s, Don McCurry is still going strong, mentoring others in the ministry and writing his fifth book on Islam. We interviewed him about Islam in North America.

**30 Days** The previous 29 versions of *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World* focused on Muslims around the world. What's different about Muslims in North America?

**Don McCurry** When I go to the mosque here in Colorado Springs, I see maybe 100–150 men from 20 different countries. Mosques are usually the more conservative Muslims, but 90 percent of North American Muslims don't go to mosques.

Those who don't go to mosque still call

themselves Muslim and would never think of leaving Islam, but they are somewhat more secular and tolerant. They may pray in the morning and evening, but not the other three times during the day. Their wives are rarely veiled.

You can compare them to Christians who attend church only at Christmas and Easter. And many of these Western Muslims would like to have a Christian friend.

**30 Days** How have Christians changed in their outlook and ministry towards Muslims in the 65 years since you first went to Pakistan as a missionary?

**Don McCurry** Back then, my Christian friends were experts at tearing the Qur'an to pieces and trying to win debates. But my perspective changed in Pakistan when I realized this approach was counterproductive.

Like Hudson Taylor in China, I began to investigate contextualization, asking, "How much of their culture can I enter into without compromising my faith?" This approach led us to redesign how our

house was furnished so that it resembled a Muslim house. We wore clothes similar to their clothes. That's when we found doors opening to us that were not open to other missionaries.

I'm very circumspect about syncretism and compromise but feel we can go a long way to accommodate ourselves to their dress codes, eating habits and social activities.

**30 Days** What typically draws Muslims to become Jesus-followers?

**Don McCurry** Theologically, God is the primary actor. He does things sovereignly. Humanly speaking, we have discovered that when stress comes into the lives of Muslims they realize that Islam does not satisfy their needs or give them peace. Many look elsewhere for answers.

Stress has many causes, such as poverty, unemployment, and the sight of Muslims killing Muslims. Being a refugee brings stress. With the displacement of millions of Muslims due to wars and poverty, many Muslims are disillusioned and open to an alternative to Islam.

On the other hand, stress drives some Muslims to "return to their roots," by becoming fundamentalists or even jihadists in an effort to be "good Muslims." Still others embrace occult forms of folk Islam. Westerners largely underestimate the power of the spirit world on the everyday life of a Muslim.

Stress can also open up Muslims to friendships with caring Christians who will pray for them. This helps them to see what Christians are all about. Through the Scriptures, Muslims discover the real Jesus. This often leads them to begin a slow process of no longer going to mosque, no longer calling themselves Muslim, and gradually becoming followers of Jesus. This is going on all over the Muslim world. It's harvest time in the Muslim world.

**30 Days** Do you see many evangelical Christians today who view Muslims primarily as terrorists and evil people and who support discrimination against them?

**Don McCurry** The true evangelical loves Jesus, looks at the world through His eyes, and is open to the work of the Holy Spirit.

But secularized, syncretistic evangelicals tend to look at things politically. Because of the inroads of secularism, people's opinions become politicized, and they act more like people of the world than they do true Christians.



**30 Days** What role do you think the *30 Days of Prayer* movement has played?

**Don McCurry** I feel that in America, the dissemination of this prayer guide has changed people's attitudes toward Muslims and helped them become more aware of their needs. Christians have begun to pray for Muslims, and they see them as part of the harvest instead of a problem.

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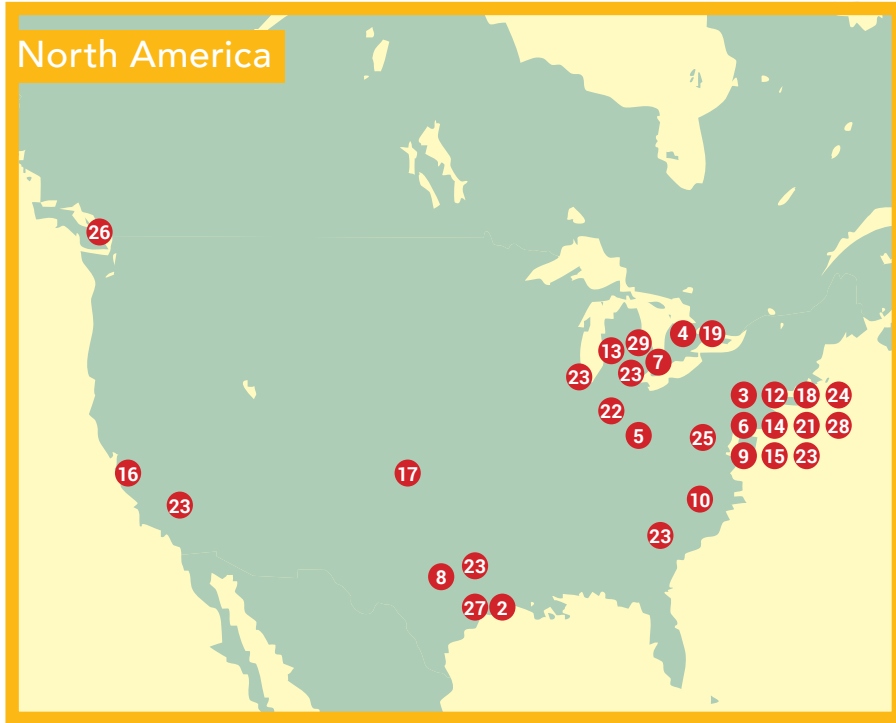
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# Here is where our prayers will take us this year

The numbers on the maps correspond to the day on which we are praying.





# DAY 1

April 13

# History's greatest movement

Q: When was history's greatest movement of Muslims to Christ? **A: Now!**

## IDEAS FOR PRAYER

Prayer is powerful. Here are three ways you can participate in history's greatest movement of Muslims to Christ:

- 1 PRAY for the new Muslim-background believers who face persecution and even death for their faith in Christ.
- 2 PRAY for the unengaged Muslim people groups who have yet to hear the good news (John 3:16).
- 3 PRAY for the emergence of "persons of peace," ie Muslims whose restless hearts prompt them to follow the Holy Spirit's conviction of their need for salvation (John 16:8).

After years of hearing rumors of thousands of Muslims coming to faith in Christ, David Garrison began a global survey of this phenomenon in 2011.

His investigation focused on "movements" of at least 1,000 believers from Muslim backgrounds who followed Jesus Christ in baptism.

The research lasted for three years and took Garrison a quarter of a million miles through 44 Islamic countries. More than 1,000 interviews later, he came to this conclusion: *We are witnessing the greatest turning of Muslims to Christ in history.*

He explained: "Though the Muslim world is quite diverse and can be clustered into nine distinctive cultural regions, or 'rooms in the House of Islam,' I was intrigued to find movements of Muslims to Christ in every room in the House of Islam.

"It was as if an invisible mind and hand were orchestrating these unprecedented movements. I immediately recalled John 3:8."

*"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its*

*sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

Garrison then expanded his research further. "I later did a historical review of nearly 14 centuries of Muslim-Christian interaction so I could see if there had been other movements of at least 1,000 Muslims who had come to faith and baptism. To my surprise, I discovered that more than 85 percent of all Muslim movements to Christ in history began just 30 years ago.

"I don't think it's coincidental that 30 years ago is when the *30 Days of Prayer* for the Muslim World prayer movement began."



9 Rooms in the House of Islam





**DAY 2**  
**April 14**

# Muslim militants or military heroes?

## Embracing Afghan translators in Houston

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that more brave Afghan Muslims will boldly embrace Jesus as their Lord and Savior.**

- 1 **ASK** God to raise up and send more missionaries to live among the Afghan community in Houston.
- 2 **PRAY** for Najeeb's efforts to share his Christian faith, thus obeying the holy man in his dream.
- 3 **PRAY** for local believers to show hospitality and the love of Christ to their Afghan neighbors.

### Factoid

**15,000 Muslims serve in the US Armed Forces.**

**H**undreds of Houston's Afghan immigrants served as translators for US military personnel, but few Texans knew this, and none thanked them for their service.

"No one knows who we are and what we did in Afghanistan for the US," says Najeeb, one of the former translators.

A Christian worker named Bob got to know Najeeb and some of Houston's other Afghans by "sponsoring" families that were beginning their new lives as US citizens.

Shocked at the lack of respect the former translators received, Bob decided to do something about it and organized a banquet to honor the men at Tallowood Baptist Church.

During the banquet, US Army veterans shared heroic stories of Afghan translators saving their comrades' lives, and Afghans told their stories of bravely and loyally serving alongside American forces.

Church members not only gained a new appreciation for the men's service, but they also began to appreciate that many of the Afghans they saw in local businesses, restaurants, and

stores were patriots and heroes, not Muslim terrorists.

These deeper connections have led to deeper conversations. One day, Bob asked Najeeb if he'd ever had a dream featuring a holy man dressed in white.

"Yes," said Najeeb, who excitedly shared the details. "The holy man took me by the hand to a pool of water. He then poured water over my head and said, 'You will perform this same action on many others.'"

The dream, similar to dreams many other Muslims have experienced, led Najeeb to find faith in Jesus. And before a recent trip to visit family in Afghanistan, he asked Bob for two Bibles—one for his father, and one for his Muslim imam (leader).





**DAY 3**  
**April 15**

# Reaching the Fulbe Futa people

## Prayer-walking the Bronx

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray for the Fulbe Futa people.**

- 1 **PRAY** for the Holy Spirit to open their “blinded eyes” and soften their “hardened hearts” to the gospel (John 12:40).
- 2 **PRAY** that more Fulbe Futa become disciples of Christ, loving and training others to love Jesus and start churches.
- 3 **PRAY** for the laborers among the Fulbe Futa in the Bronx (Luke 10:2).

### Factoid

Muslims fought with America in the American Revolutionary War.

**T**here are some five million Fulbe Futa worldwide, most of them hailing from Guinea, West Africa. Part of the Fulani people, the Fulbe Futa work to spread Islam throughout Africa, but some of them have come to Christ in Guinea and around the world.

Kady became a follower of Jesus, and eventually left Africa for New York City, where she takes regular prayer walks in her Bronx neighborhood, which is home to approximately 5,000 Fulbe Futa people.

Although her family ostracized her and some of her own people remain distant, God has emboldened her to love them.

During her prayer walks, Kady meets Muslims in restaurants or near their mosques, shares spiritual truths, and prays for them. Even though English is her third language, she started offering English classes for her community and has mobilized other New York Christians to interact with her people.

Mariama, a Fulbe Futa woman, was one of Kady’s English students. The two women also discovered that, like many Fulbe living in the

Bronx, they were distant relatives. As Kady worked to build bridges to others, Mariama marveled at her approach.

“You Christians really love people,” Mariama said. “You do it from your heart, not to get something back. I’ve seen the way you bless others. You are God’s people.”



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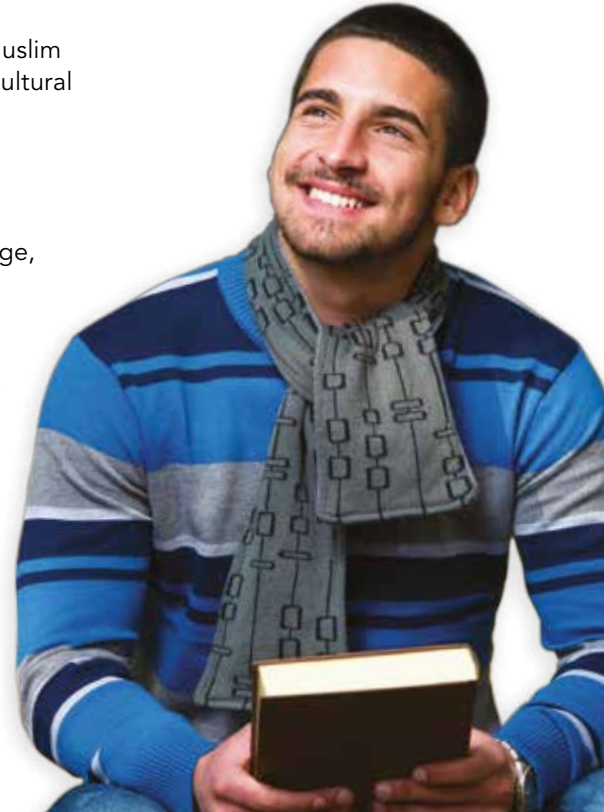


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## DAY 4 April 16

# Trauma in Toronto

## Afghans deal with scars from decades of war

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 **PRAY** that Afghans struggling to overcome a history of oppression and violence will find refuge in the Lord (Psalm 9:9–10).
- 2 **PRAY** that the Lord will raise up laborers among Afghans in the Toronto area to evangelize, disciple believers and start churches.
- 3 **PRAY** that Christians in Canada can be instruments of peace who show the power of Christ's love to their Afghan neighbors.

**A**fghanistan has faced war and terrorism since the late 1970s, as Russian troops, Taliban terrorists, and American forces have fought to restore order.

Decades of war have turned displaced Afghans into one of the world's largest diaspora populations, and many of these refugees struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health issues caused by the ongoing carnage and chaos.

The Greater Toronto Area is home to a large Afghan community. Most are Sunni Muslims, and many have survived trauma, including Obed.

Born into a Muslim family in Afghanistan, Obed planned to become an imam, or Muslim

leader, before he began trusting Christ—a dangerous decision in his country. He lived as a secret believer for years, but after his family discovered his Christian faith, he fled, spending almost nine years as a refugee in India.

During his time in India, Obed attended Bible college, planted an Afghan church, served as the leader of the Afghan Christian Refugees Community, and worked as a radio producer with TWR India and an audio interpreter for ISO Ministries.

He also founded a Christian charity called Dari Fellowship of India, but New Delhi's Muslim community persecuted him and his church.

Obed resettled in Canada in 2015, joining the Jesus Network and starting a house church in his home. His social media ministry produces weekly teaching videos on Facebook and YouTube, where he has hundreds of followers.

Obed's goal is to plant churches in the Toronto area and to reach Muslims who speak Farsi, Dari, Hazaragi, Pashto, Tajiki, Urdu, Hindi, and even English.





**DAY 5**  
**April 17**

# Take me home from the ballgame

## Loving West Africans in Cincinnati, Ohio

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that Muslims in middle America encounter the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).**

- 1 **THOUSANDS** of unreached Fulani and Soninke speakers live in Cincinnati and other areas of Ohio. Pray that the gospel reaches more of these Muslims.
- 2 **PRAY** that more churches mobilize to reach unreached immigrants.
- 3 **PRAY** that the Midwest will become more welcoming, loving, and hospitable to our Muslim neighbors (Acts 13:48–49).

**T**he Great American Ballpark is a perfect venue for the great American pastime. The Cincinnati Reds have been playing baseball in this great American city since 1882.

But when the game's over and fans stream out of the ballpark, they come face to face with people from the other side of the world. The streets are lined with taxi cabs that cite their drivers' nationalities: Salaam Taxi, Musa Taxi, Timbuktu Taxi, Senegal Taxi, and more.

Many of these drivers are immigrants from the West African nations of Senegal, Mali, and Mauritania. If you listen closely, you can hear the Wolof, Fulani, and Soninke tribal languages as the drivers chat on their cell phones.

Similar scenes play out in cities and towns across the American Midwest, where immigrants from some of Africa's least-reached nations and people groups have settled down and made their homes.

Some American Christians react to Muslims with anger or fear. Believers in Cincinnati and elsewhere, however, are reaching out with love, building genuine relationships, opening their homes for holiday celebrations, and providing Christian resources in person or via social media to people who have never read the Bible before.

"We love Cincinnati, because it is a city of peace," said one Senegalese community leader. "Peace is everything to our people."

**We love Cincinnati, because it is a city of peace.**





**DAY 6**  
**April 18**

# Dreams and healing in New York

Wolof people of the Mouride Islamic sect accept Christ

## IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Today, there are no Wolof-speaking churches in North America.**

- 1 **PRAY** that the first Wolof church in North America will be founded soon.
- 2 **THE WOLOF** are the most influential West African Muslim ethnic group in New York City and Senegal. Pray that God uses them to spread His light to other West Africans.
- 3 **PRAY** that more Wolof will exchange their sorcerers for the healing power of Christ like Fatou did (Acts 19:19).



**F**atou, a member of the proud Mouride Islamic sect, felt like she was dying. So, she did what many of the Wolof people of Senegal have done for generations.

“The blood disease was taking over my body. I was Muslim, and in my culture, you see the *marabouts*, or Islamic sorcerers, for help. I spent tens of thousands of dollars on various

*marabouts*, without being healed.”

Things changed after she moved to New York City, where more than 20,000 Wolof people now make up the city’s largest West African Muslim ethnic group. (There are some seven million Wolof people across the world.)

“A friend of mine invited me to church. I was only interested because Jesus performed miracles in her life; so I went.

“Then God appeared to me in a dream and said I needed to read the Bible to have the answer for us Muslims who have been oppressed. I read the Bible, and I trusted Jesus to heal me and save me from oppression and sin. I rejoice that I’ve now been healed and saved!”

Fatou didn’t know any Wolof Christians, so she began boldly sharing her faith with her neighbors.

“I don’t care if they kill me,” she said. “I have to share Jesus with my people.”

Within two years of her conversion, more than 15 of her Wolof friends and family members have become followers of Christ in the USA, France, Italy, and Senegal.



**DAY 7**  
**April 19**

## From *kielbasa* to *saltah*

Yemeni immigrants follow Polish immigrants to Hamtramck

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that the Lord raises up Christian women who are called to share truth with Yemeni women like Yasmin, who long to understand the truth.**

**1** IN the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1–9), the sower sows seed abundantly. Pray that local Detroit churches will equip their people to share the gospel with boldness and abundance.

**Yemenis remain one of the world's least-reached people groups**

**H**amtramck, a neighborhood within the city of Detroit, was once known for its *kielbasa* and *paczki*s thanks to Polish immigrants who came to work at the Dodge brothers' auto plant.

Now, Hamtramck is increasingly known for its *saltah*, a hearty stew that is the national dish of Yemen.

Hamtramck is home to more than 20,000 Yemenis who fled their war-torn homeland, resettled in aged bungalows, started businesses in old storefronts, and transformed former Catholic schools into mosques.

Yemenis remain one of the world's least-reached people groups, but the Lord is stirring hearts, as Yasmin can testify.

As a teenager, Yasmin was moved when she saw Campus Crusade's *Jesus* film in Arabic. She was drawn to this kind, gentle, and peaceful man

who welcomed children and honored women.

She asked her mother, father, and friends about this man, but all assured her that Jesus was only a prophet and nothing more.

Years later, now a mother with young children in Hamtramck, Yasmin heard a knock at her door. Two American men were outside, and one addressed her in Arabic.

They offered to pray for her and her family. No one had ever done so before. They also told her about Jesus. When they described how Jesus was holy and gentle and how he never mistreated women, but honored them, she felt her heart rise within her and remembered her questions about Jesus.

"This is what I've been waiting for," Yasmin told the men. "Finally, Allah has sent me someone who could explain to me who Jesus is."

She listened intently as they explained why Jesus suffered and died as the final sacrifice to cleanse us from sin.

"Now, Allah has answered my deepest yearnings to know and to learn who Jesus is," she said.







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**DAY 8**  
**April 20**

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

Pray for more trained followers of Jesus to engage Muslims like Abdul with the hope and love of Christ.

- 1 **PRAY** that God raises up workers from local churches to be trained and mobilized to share the gospel with Muslims (Luke 10:2).
- 2 **PRAY** that the Holy Spirit grants understanding and courage to Abdul and others to clear the second and third hurdles.

### Factoid

Muslim American culture includes rap groups, comedians, athletes, scout troops, and social media sites.

## Hurdles to Faith

### Muslims in Dallas-Fort Worth

The gospel has reached people in nearly every tribe and tongue, fulfilling Christ's promise: "I will call them my people who were not my people" (Romans 9:25).

But Muslims must jump three significant hurdles on their path to faith in Christ.

- **Hurdle 1:** Clearly hearing and understanding the gospel. Many never hear Christ's message clearly presented or compellingly lived out.
- **Hurdle 2:** Overcoming false Islamic teachings which say that the Bible is corrupted. That Jesus did not die. That belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost constitutes polytheism. And so on.
- **Hurdle 3:** Believing and trusting in Jesus, which often results in persecution or rejection by the Islamic community.

A personal crisis may compel an individual to jump a few of these hurdles at once, but each person's journey is different, as I witnessed with Abdul, one of several imams serving a mosque in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

It may seem counterintuitive, but there's a



higher percentage of Muslims in Texas than any other state. Muslims make up 1.68 percent of people in Texas. (Census figures reveal that there are 422,000 Muslims in Texas, up from 140,000 in 1990, and it's estimated that 60,000–100,000 Muslims live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, most of Pakistani heritage.)

A Christian worker shared the gospel with Abdul in the mosque. Soon, the two began meeting for discussions about the Bible.

Abdul found the Bible interesting, but not compelling. Then came crisis.

He was wrongly forced out of his imam position, which exposed him to the hypocrisy of the other mosque members. And he needed to leave Dallas-Fort Worth for work.

It's more difficult for the two men to stay in touch now, but Abdul is reading some Christian books he was given.



**DAY 9**  
**April 21**

# From Mali to Harlem

## Reaching the Wassoulou people

Dozens of Muslim men and women decided to follow Christ

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that more of the Wassoulou people will find Christ.**

- 1 PRAY** that God would multiply disciples and churches among the Wassoulou, fulfilling God's Revelation prophecy of "a great multitude ... from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne" (Revelation 7:9).
- 2 PRAY** for the gospel to spread through the connection and influence that Muslim-background immigrants have in their homeland.
- 3 AS** Christians from Muslim-backgrounds migrate to North America to escape persecution, pray that what man intended for evil, God would use for good (Genesis 50:20).

**F**or over 20 years I have felt called to reach my people for Jesus, but I didn't know how, because it was only me," said Musa, who is one of only dozens of Wassoulou people living New York City's Harlem neighborhood.

The Wassoulou people group's homeland spans Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea in West Africa. Decades ago, Jesus appeared to Musa in dramatic dreams, healed him from a terminal disease, and promised him eternal life if Musa followed Him.

Musa followed Jesus from then on, but the people in his Muslim village felt ashamed and violently forced him to leave the village. He never lived in his home again.

Over time, however, tempers cooled, and American and Malian Christians visited Musa's village to teach the villagers about Jesus. Dozens of Muslim men and women decided to follow Christ in the village, including Musa's brother, which opened the door for him to return and share the love of Christ with his people.

"It's amazing!" Musa said. "All of the suffering I have experienced all these years is worth it. If I had to go through these struggles so my people would have opportunities to know Jesus, it's worth it!"

When he moved to New York, Musa found himself in a city with few Wassoulou people, no Wassoulou churches, and no real efforts from the community to reach them.

He continues to share the message of Jesus with people he meets, but he often grows frustrated with the fruits of his labors.

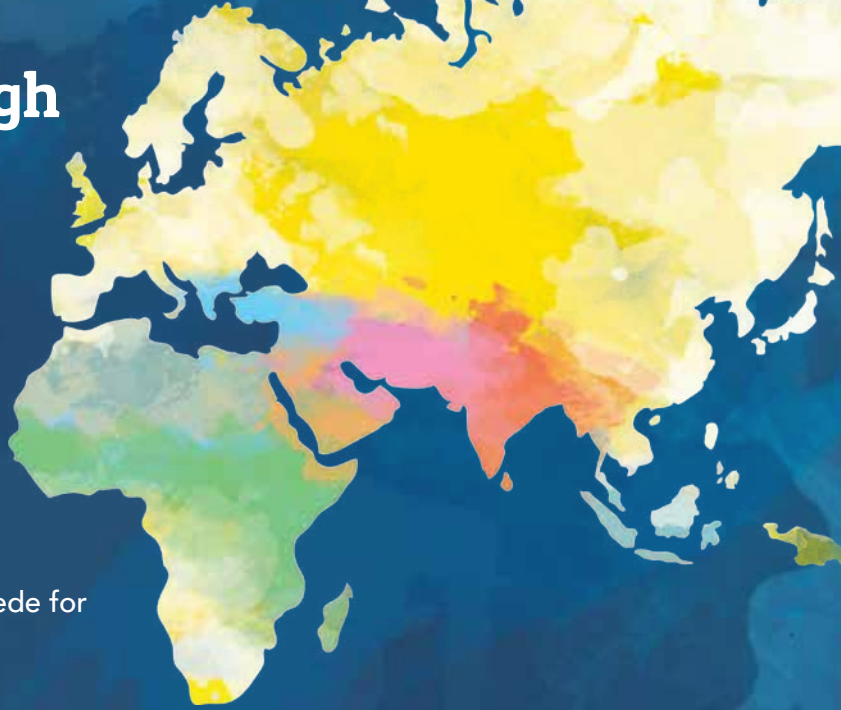


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# DAY 10

April 22

## 30 Days in the Triangle

Hundreds pray for Muslim neighbors in Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

Please pray for:

- 1 **PRAYER** movements in the Triangle and around the world.
- 2 **CHURCHES** and Christians who reach out to their Muslim neighbors.
- 3 **THOSE** who “go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15).
- 4 **MUSLIMS** to come to faith in the Triangle and be discipled to take the gospel message back to their home countries (Mark 5:20).

### Factoid

Islam is the third largest religion in the USA after Christianity and Judaism (will surpass Jews by 2040).



**D**avid Garrison’s book, *A Wind in the House of Islam*, provided the inspiration. The *30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World* booklet provided the game plan.

It all started with a few families praying that the Holy Spirit would help them reach their Muslim neighbors, but it soon grew into an effort involving more than 600 Christians from 45 local churches in the Triangle, a three-city region known for both high tech and higher education.

Garrison found that prayer movements like

*30 Days* have coincided with church-planting movements all over the world. The Christians in the Triangle believed God could help them reach the Triangle’s 40,000-plus Muslims, just as He had helped Christian believers elsewhere reach Muslims across the world.

It began years ago with a few families. By 2016, there were 100 believers from three churches in the area. Now, over 600 Christians pray together every day during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, using *30 Days* as their guide.

Many of these praying Christians have sought opportunities to befriend Muslims at work or in their neighborhoods. A handful of Muslims have become followers of Jesus, including a new believer named ER. She couldn’t find a Bible to read in Iraq, but after a few years in the USA, she was given an Arabic-language Bible by one of the *30 Days* participants.

In 2019, two participating families decided to devote themselves full-time to the Triangle prayer effort. The families are now training with Global Gates and hope to start evangelism and church-planting among local Muslims in 2021.



**DAY 11**  
**April 23**

# From Myanmar to Bangladesh

Rohingya seek a safe place to stay

## IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that the persecuted Rohingya refugees would hear the gospel and find their hope and identity in Christ.**

- 1 PRAY** for Rohingya believers like Anwar to remain strong and bold in the face of persecution.
- 2 PRAY** that God will work righteousness and justice for these oppressed people.



**T**he United Nations calls the Rohingya people the “world’s most persecuted minority.” South Africa’s Bishop Desmond Tutu says they’ve experienced apartheid. Others call their treatment “ethnic cleansing”.

A million Rohingya had lived in Myanmar for centuries, but the government stripped them of their citizenship, sanctioned the burning of villages, and the killing, torture, and rape of many individuals before forcing them out of the country in 2016–17. More than 600,000 Rohingya now live in squalid refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Nearly all Rohingya people are Muslims, but years of oppression and persecution have led some to seek spiritual alternatives in the camps.

Anwar sits in a dimly lit room, where he shares the story of how Jesus rescued him from

tragedy. Two years ago he was a practicing Muslim who relied on alcohol and drugs to numb the pain of oppression.

But he was reached by a movement in the USA that brought the gospel to Rohingya refugees. Even after angry Muslims beat him in front of his pregnant wife, he did not back down, telling his persecutors, “I am ready to die for my Lord. I don’t care what you do to me. All I ask is that when you kill me you give my body to my brothers so it can rest at the foot of the cross.”

Since then, Anwar has helped plant six churches and has seen close to 500 baptisms of Rohingya Muslims.

God is moving amidst the ravaged Rohingya as He has among other persecuted people. “The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed” (Psalm 103:6).





# DAY 12

## April 24

# From Irish immigrants to Bangladeshis

## Jackson Heights neighborhood welcomes Bengali people

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

- 1 **PRAY** for the Bangladeshi communities of New York City, many of which have been ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic.
- 2 **PRAY** for kingdom workers, local believers, and churches as they engage their Bengali neighbors with the good news of Jesus Christ.
- 3 **PRAY** for believers from a Muslim background to “declare the gospel fearlessly” in New York City and around the world (Ephesians 6:20).

### Factoid

Morocco, a Muslim nation, was the first country to recognize the USA as an independent nation in 1777.

In the 19th century, desperate Irish immigrants fleeing famine back home flooded into the Jackson Heights neighborhood in Queens in New York City. Now, many Bangladeshi immigrants call this neighborhood home.

Barbershops promote their prices on signs that mix Bangla and English, and grocers display imports like jackfruit and bitter melon next to Hershey candy bars, while Bangladeshi men drink *cha* (tea) and gossip on sidewalks in the evenings.

Most arrived in the last 25 years, seeking a new start and opportunities for their families through a diversity visa program. They brought their food, culture, and Islamic religion with them, and now there are an estimated 150,000 of them across New York City.

Many Bangladeshi neighborhood enclaves are in the shadow of church buildings, but the language and cultural barriers are too great for them to consider entering the doors. Thankfully, efforts by missionary teams and local believers over the last decade are bringing the gospel to these neighborhoods.

Saif was a young Bangladeshi man working in the hotel industry when he met a local believer on the subway. The man told Saif about Jesus, but he wanted to know more and met with a Muslim-background believer who led him to faith in Christ.

Saif is now part of a small house church in his neighborhood comprised of fellow believers from Muslim backgrounds. God is at work through people like Saif.





**DAY 13**  
**April 25**

# Bosnians in “New Jerusalem”

## Grand Rapids makes way for Muslims

**“Jesus is the bridge!”  
 the woman said.**

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that Bosnians may find the gospel through the plentiful resources available in the Grand Rapids area.**

- 1** **THERE** has never been a concerted effort to engage and reach the Bosnians of Grand Rapids. Pray the Lord will send laborers into the harvest!
- 2** **“THE** harvest is plentiful” (Luke 10:2). Pray that laborers find the Bosnians in whom God is working.

### Factoid

**Muslims are America’s most racially diverse religious group (25% black, 24% white, 18% Asian, 18% Arab, 5% Hispanic, and 7% mixed).**

**W**ith its Christian publishers, colleges and seminaries, Grand Rapids is seen by many Reformed believers as a New Jerusalem.

But since the 1990s, Michigan’s second largest city has also become home to the second largest Bosnian Muslim population in the USA. (The largest is in St Louis.)

There are now more than 120,000 Bosnians in the USA, as well as half a million people of Bosnian descent. But they aren’t always easy for Westerners to identify as Muslim, as they are Caucasian and often dress in Western clothing.

But underneath the surface, their family histories are fractured by memories of a vicious civil war fraught with ethnic cleansing and unchecked violence.

Ajlina lives in Grand Rapids. Two recent family losses had tapped into the pain of her past traumas and tested her faith in Allah.

“God, I once had faith and prayed to you every day. Please show me what I’m missing!”

The next day, the doorbell rang. A woman who said she had a concern for the neighborhood

offered to pray for Ajlina. Suspicious at first, Ajlina begrudgingly accepted her offer.

After prayer, the woman offered to share with her the message of the New Testament. Having lived among Christians for many years, Ajlina always wondered what they believed.

The woman pulled a 3” x 5” notecard out of her purse and proceeded to share with her the



gospel. She described a gulf that separates us from God and talked about a bridge that could cross that gulf.

“Jesus is the bridge!” the woman said. “His perfect life, death, and resurrection bridge the gulf that separates us from God.”





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## DAY 14

April 26

# From the Nile to New Jersey

## Egyptian Muslims find solace in northeastern USA

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

Pray that Egyptian Muslims may find freedom as they struggle to conform to cultural and religious expectations.

- 1 **MAY** the Spirit of God lead Egyptians to Jesus. Ask God to give them courage and time to seek after Jesus.
- 2 **PRAY** for the budding Arab church in the Metro New York region, which includes many Egyptians of Muslim background.

**Egyptian communities are large and established, and they support many large mosques.**

**M**ustafa, a 30-year-old Egyptian man, hates going to his mosque and dislikes the guilt trips that are used to extract his *zakat*, or monthly tithe.

“In America, it’s all about the money, even in the mosques,” he complains while sitting in the deli he owns in New Jersey. “I haven’t returned

since the last time they shouted at me for money. I hate that place!”

Many Egyptian Muslims migrated to America in the 1960s and ’70s, preceding the Arabs from other countries who would later arrive in New Jersey and New York.

Egyptian communities are large and established, and they support many large mosques. Many Muslims strive for material success while feeling pressure to conform to the expectations of Muslim culture.

Mustafa says it’s the same old story. You leave the closed community of the Egyptian homeland for a closed Arabic community in the USA.

Work hard and conform to the religious identity of your homeland: That’s the typical cultural expectation.

Despite these hurdles, many of the 48,000 Egyptian Muslims in the cities of Astoria, Ridgewood, Bay Ridge, Jersey City, and Bayonne are taking advantage of the freedoms the USA offers. Some have surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Spirit of God moves among Egyptian Muslims who seek after Him.





# DAY 15

## April 27

# Salvation via social media

## Connected Muslims encounter good news

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that more Muslims will find the Lord through social media.**

- 1 PRAY** for believers worldwide as they develop social media engagement strategies to share Jesus and find seekers throughout the Muslim world.
- 2 PRAY** for Muslims online to encounter content about Jesus and see “the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- 3 ASK** the Holy Spirit to give Muslim-background believers boldness to share their faith through social media.

**Social media is empowering**

**Muslims around the world**

Sabrina is a Muslim from South Asia who lives with her husband and two young children in Queens, New York City. After taking care of her kids and preparing meals, she has little time or energy for venturing out, except for her regular visits to the mosque and produce stores.

But she can always find time to browse Facebook and other social media sites throughout the day, and she regularly connects with her American friends and her family back home.

One day, a video caught her eye. The audio featured a voice speaking her native language and praying for New York City in the name of Jesus.

Intrigued, Sabrina clicked the “Message Us” button and was soon engaged in online dialogue with a ministry team member who graciously told her about Christ’s ministry and message.

The dialogue softened her heart, but she remained skeptical, largely because of the anti-Christian sermons she heard from imams (Muslim leaders).



Later, when Sabrina’s family faced a crisis, she used social media to request prayer. The woman who prayed for her over the phone told Sabrina that she too had been a Muslim but had found true peace in Jesus Christ.

Social media is empowering Muslims around the world, giving some their first freedoms to express themselves and discover new ideas.

Christians are using digital resources to make the truth of Jesus readily available to all who seek it, fulfilling the prophecy of Jeremiah: “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you” (Jeremiah 29:13–14).



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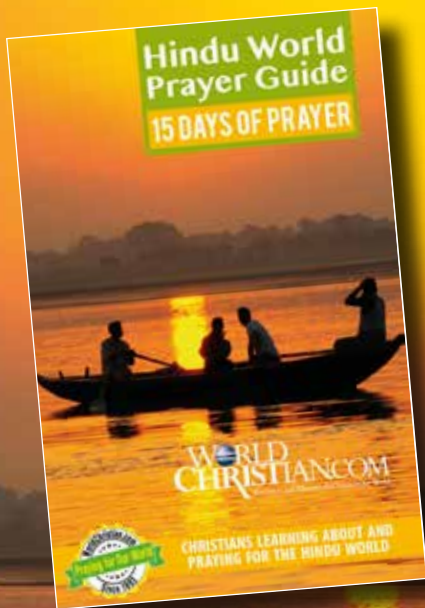
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Millions of Muslims have not yet heard of the hope we have in Jesus  
*How will they know unless someone goes?*



**DAY 16**  
**April 28**

# Bay-area Afghans

Christians reach out to people fleeing decades of war

## IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that Afghan war victims will heal from their trauma.**

- 1 PRAY** that local churches will extend hospitality and resources to the Afghan community.
- 2 ASK** God to grant wisdom and courage to Mike and other Afghan believers as they share Jesus with Afghans in California and Afghanistan.

## Factoid

One 1682 Virginia statute permitted the sale of slaves of “heathenish, idolatrous, pagan, and Mahometan parentage.”

**A**fghans first came to the San Francisco Bay area in the late 1970s after the Russians had invaded their country. They kept coming through years of civil wars and the 20 years of American and NATO fighting. Now, the Bay Area is home to more than 60,000 Afghan immigrants and refugees.

Some of the new arrivals were well-educated and secular Muslims. They were leaders in business and education and have assimilated into American life.

Others were widows and children with a limited understanding of English, a lack of education, and minimal financial resources. These Afghans often struggle with housing, language and job skills, and chronic illness.

Still others were translators who assisted the US military and desperately sought asylum.

Many of these Afghans could benefit from mental health services to treat their war trauma.

Having endured decades of war and tribalism, Afghans understandably struggle with trusting others, but many seem comfortable

engaging with their Western neighbors.

A core group of Christians in the Bay Area has reached out to their Afghan neighbors with the love of Christ for more than 15 years. Mike, an Afghan pastor in the Bay Area, disciples groups of Afghans throughout California and spends hours each day reaching Afghans worldwide through Facebook.

Mike is grateful that Afghans have responded to the gospel in such positive ways. But he prays that God will send more workers to connect with more Afghans, many of whom still remain in touch with family and friends back home.

**A core group of Christians in the Bay Area has reached out to their Afghan neighbors**





**DAY 17**  
**April 29**

# Pursuing the American Dream

Muppies (or Muslim urban professionals) epitomize success

## IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray for the salvation of Sadia and Amira, and other Muppies.**

- 1 PRAY** that urban Christians in the workplace will seek opportunities to share Jesus with Muppies.
- 2 PRAY** that we can help Muppies to know Jesus as Lord.



**W**hile first-generation immigrants typically focus on survival and fitting in, their children aim higher: Worldly success, plus a slice of the American Dream.

Muppies' experiences with Islam can prove frustrating. Many seek a deeper, richer spiritual experience than that offered at local mosques, but they're not easily swayed by Christian evangelists.

One Christian woman pointed to her relationships with two Muppies:

Sadia, a hedge-fund manager in her 30s, told me our friendship is different from her relationships with Muslims. Muslim women often hide their difficulties, but I was open and honest about my struggles.

I explained that as a Christian, I am not judged by my failings, but saved by the love and grace of Jesus, who has compassion for those who struggle.

"I'd like to be a part of a spiritual community like that," Sadia told me one day. I invited her to join us, but she hasn't done so yet.

Amira, a top computer programmer in her



20s, felt her sin was too vast for her to be close to God. I encouraged her that the true God is the one who knows our sins and loves us completely.

I shared Paul's teaching in Romans 5:8: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He desires relationship with us more than efforts to earn His love. She now believes in a forgiving God, but she continues to look for Him in Islam.

Neither Sadia nor Amira have become Christians, but God is moving among Muppies seeking something deeper than what Islam offers.

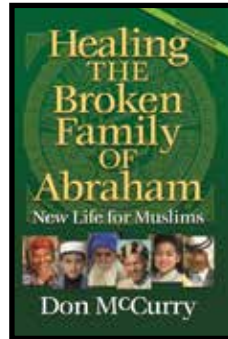
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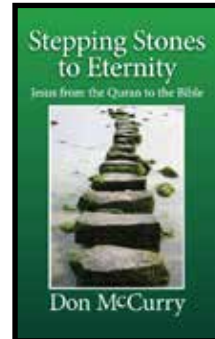
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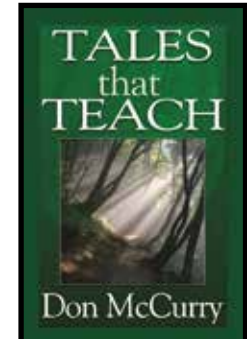
***The Trail of Blood*** was written specifically for Muslim readers. It presents relevant statements from both the Qur'an and the Bible that lead the inquirer down *The Trail of Blood* towards a conclusion each individual must consider for themselves.



***Healing the Broken Family of Abraham*** is an essential resource for anyone wanting to understand the roots and development of Islam, its historical causes and influences, and how Jesus Christ is the only Reconciler for Muslims, Jews and Christians.



***Stepping Stones*** is a collection of cameo studies that helps both the Christian and the Muslim. It introduces most of the Jesus material in the Qur'an, ("stepping stones") and leads readers to the rich accounts of the source material in the Bible.



***Tales that Teach*** was born out of a lifetime working in the mission fields of the world. This is a compilation of experiences and lessons learned through interaction with Muslims in more than 25 nations. A must-read for every follower of Jesus.



# DAY 18

## April 30

# For Nour, conversion began in a catacomb

## Palestinians in Metro New York

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray for Christians working among the Palestinian people.**

1 **PRAY** for new believers and the Arab Christians discipling them in Metro New York. May they be faithful gospel witnesses.

2 **PALESTINIANS** often feel rejected by the Church. Pray for them to encounter a diverse gospel witness.

3 **PRAY** for a new Metro area church composed of Arabs, including Palestinians. May they lead Palestinians to the Lord in the city and around the world.

“**Y**our prayers, your fasting, your charity, none of these get you to heaven!” said Nour, a 42-year-old Palestinian who once lived in the Midwest but moved to New York City, hoping that its large community of 16,000 Palestinian Muslims could help him find a job.

“You’ve got to have faith, my brother,” said Nour, who was counseling a young Muslim man. “Faith in Jesus the Messiah. It’s your heart that matters most.”

There are approximately 13 million Palestinians in the world, most of them living in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Israel. That’s where Nour’s conversion began.

One day he stumbled upon an ancient Christian catacomb, a former underground church, in his homeland. There in the darkness, using his flashlight to illuminate the Christian graffiti on the walls, Nour felt a strange peace come over him, a peace he had never experienced.

Since then, his spiritual and geographic journeys have been long and winding, but as a recently baptized Christian living in the Metro New York area, he has easy access to Palestinian Muslim communities in the nearby cities of Paterson, Clifton, and Bay Ridge.

There are an estimated 250,000 American Palestinians, including US Representative Rashida Tlaib from Michigan, whose parents were Palestinian refugees living in Detroit. As Nour studies the Scriptures, he thinks and prays about how he can introduce more of these Palestinians to Jesus Christ.





## DAY 19

May 1

# Long-distance church

Gospel message reaches Muslims in Toronto and Tehran

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that Jeremiah's prophecies (Jeremiah 49:34–39) about the ancient Kingdom of Elam (Iran) continue to be fulfilled today.**

1 **PRAY** for Iranians who are disillusioned with Islam to see Jesus as their only Savior and Lord.

2 **WHILE** some Muslims have a sincere faith in Jesus, others “convert,” hoping it will help them receive refugee status. Ask God's Spirit to help churches discern the hearts of those who profess faith.

3 **PRAY** for unity and faith among Iranian Christians as they battle their own anxieties and the tensions within their communities.

**P**astor Nasser preached God's Word to his largely Iranian congregation in Toronto every Sunday without realizing he was reaching an international audience of one.

Mahla, who emigrated from Iran, was using her cell phone to “broadcast” Nasser's sermons live to Tehran each Sunday, where her husband, Kavan, still lives.

Most Sundays, Mahla would ask the pastor numerous questions about his sermons, hoping Kavan would overhear the discussion and embrace the gospel message himself.

One Sunday, Mahla gave a joyous report.

“My husband got saved!”

Soon, Kavan was inviting friends and neighbors to his Tehran home for the Sunday broadcasts from Toronto. One day, 53 people squeezed into his small home to hear the sermon.

Today, thousands of Iranians log onto Instagram to watch

what has become known as the “Long-Distance Church” of Toronto and Tehran.

Iranians have migrated to Canada in increasing numbers since the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979. Many arrive in the West seeking freedom after questioning the harsh religious restrictions enforced by the Iranian Islamic regime.

Today, approximately 250,000 Iranians live in the Greater Toronto Area, where they struggle to learn English, find work, and complete lengthy legal entry requirements while living far from family back home.

Iranian women are finding new freedoms and identities through Christ in Toronto, where they form the majority of Iranian Christ-followers. Young Muslim men are also experiencing a growing openness to the gospel.

Thousands of Iranian Muslims in Toronto have come to know Jesus as their only Savior and Lord! Many gather in the city's dozen or so largely Iranian churches, while others gather in homes or have assimilated into traditional Canadian churches.





## DAY 20

May 2

# An oasis in Saudi Arabia's spiritual desert

## Studying in USA brings exposure to gospel

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that more Saudi students will meet Christians in the USA who can help them come to know Christ.**

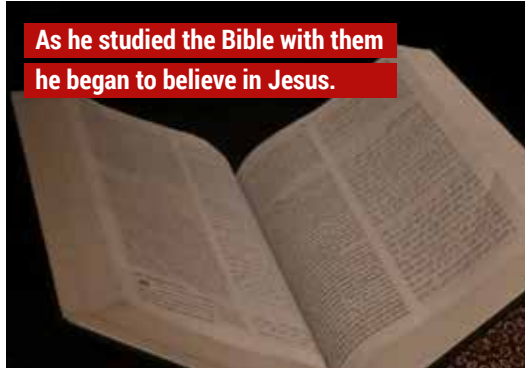
① **PRAY** that God will draw the hearts of Saudis to himself through dreams and visions.

② **PRAY** that God will build the underground church in Saudi Arabia by growing disciples and converting the lost.

### Factoid

**The number of Muslims in Canada is expected to grow to 2.7 million by 2030**

(Pewforum)



**A**vast desert covers Saudi Arabia. This barren physical landscape is a metaphor for the spiritual condition of a people with little access to Christ's living water. The Saudi government works to silence the gospel in the country, which is 93 percent Muslim, but God's Spirit finds creative ways to cross borders.

In 2005, King Abdullah began sending thousands of college students to distinguished universities around the world. The program was so popular that nearly every extended Saudi

family has participated.

The program has been educational in many ways. For the first time in their lives, thousands of Saudi students have the chance to hear the gospel, ask questions about religion, and explore the Bible on their own.

Fifteen years later, King Abdullah's students are back home and bearing spiritual fruit. Ahmed is one example.

While studying in the USA, Ahmed was "adopted" by a Christian family that invited him into their home and spent time with him. Ahmed soon became a big brother to the family's children.

Ahmed also listened as the family prayed, watched as they had family devotions after dinner, and asked questions about their faith. As he studied the Bible with them he began to believe in Jesus.

Now back in Saudi Arabia, he is fulfilling the promise of Jesus: "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38). Ahmed has become an oasis for those around him, sharing the water of hope as the Spirit leads.



## DAY 21

May 3

# Food and faith

Supporting Pakistanis in New York City

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

Jesus said, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

- 1 PRAY that God will use Ahmed to bring many of his friends and family to faith in Christ.
- 2 PRAY that secret believers can find each other and form churches.
- 3 PRAY for God to raise up a missionary team to reach out with the love of Jesus to the Pakistani community in New York City.

### Factoid

86% of American Muslims are citizens.

We wanted to get to know our Pakistani neighbors and bless their local restaurant with our patronage, so we started eating early dinner there a few times a week.



We had come to know several of the staff, along with many people from within the community. But during one unusually empty night, we found ourselves alone in the dining room with Ahmed, our Pakistani waiter.

“I know you are followers of *Isa [the Muslim name for Jesus]*,” Ahmed told us. “I know this because you are so nice.”

Then he leaned in closer and whispered, “I follow *Isa*, too.”

We were speechless. We had been praying for months that God would lead us to seekers of truth in our neighborhood. Now God was answering our prayers.

Ahmed’s faith continues to grow. He is now being discipled, and he shares his faith little-by-little. But like many of the 125,000 Pakistanis in New York City, his desire to provide a better life for his teenage children keeps him busy. Ahmed works 60 hours or more every week.

There are several Pakistani Christians from a Muslim background living in New York City, but most, like Ahmed, are secret believers, and so far there’s no Pakistani church for former Muslims.





**DAY 22**  
**May 4**

# The Bantu peoples of Africa

## Somali Bantu in the Buckeye state

**Night and day, we lived out the  
incarnational Word of God**

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send even more workers!**

1 **ASK** God to strengthen the secret believers' faith and to give them courage and wisdom to share Jesus with their people (Ephesians 6:18–19).

2 **PRAY** that the Somali Bantu can read or hear the Word of God in their own language and believe (Romans 10:14).

3 **ASK** God to open the hearts of Bantu men and women so they respond to the message of Jesus (Acts 16:14).

**T**he Bantu peoples of Africa—more than 350 million of them—speak hundreds of different versions of Bantu languages in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Among the many challenges the Somali Bantu living in Ohio face is the lack of a Bible in their language. But that doesn't stop Christians from serving them.

"We started laboring to share Jesus Christ with the Somali Bantu refugees 15 years ago," said one believer. "As a minority group from remote villages in Somalia, they had never been to school. They resettled in the United States and struggled with basic literacy, finding jobs, and more.

"Night and day, we lived out the incarnational Word of God by helping them and praying with them in the name of Jesus at every opportunity. Hundreds of them had watched the

*Jesus* video and listened to our message."

Some Bantu responded, saying "God answered your prayers," or "Jesus healed me," or "I saw Jesus in my dream. He's so beautiful." But only a few actually believed and prayed to Jesus, bravely facing threats from family members.

"I cannot say the name Jesus, or Allah will punish me," said one young adult. "It feels like something will choke me."

The slowness of the work caused many volunteers to leave, while the remaining workers felt alone and weary. But Luke told believers to "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more workers" (Luke 10:2).

"That's what we did, and boom! In 2020, our struggling local prayer team of three grew beyond 10. God raised up more young, passionate workers who are fasting and prayer-walking weekly, teaching leadership skills to Bantu youth and leading Discovery Bible studies.

"Some of the Bantu have experienced divine dreams and visions, and another young man accepted Jesus. Now, there are three followers of Christ from a Muslim background."





# DAY 23

May 5

## Frustrated Fulani

Women struggle with the practice of polygamy

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Psalm 33:18 says “The eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.”**

**These Fulani women fear God but don’t experience the unfailing love of Christ because they follow their husband’s will according to the Qur’an.**

1 **PRAY** that Christian women will reach out to the Fulani women of North America and Africa and show them how to receive Jesus’ unfailing love through their daily struggles.

2 **PRAY** that Christian families can introduce these women to a biblical approach to family based on one husband and one wife.

**T**he Fulani people emerged in Cameroon and Nigeria in the 1800s after African scholar and holy man Modibbo Adama led a jihad (‘struggle’ or ‘effort’) and founded a small empire that he called Adamawa.

Now, you can find communities of Fulani people in the cities of Chicago, Detroit, and New York City and the states of Georgia, California, Texas, Maryland, and New Jersey.

They are known for studying the Qur’an in Arabic, and for their fidelity to Adama’s teaching on marriage, as one missionary couple learned from a Fulani woman named Awa.

“Awa, our Fulani friend from the United States, let us stay in her home in Senegal while we studied Pulaar, a language spoken by the Fulani people.

“We learned during our stay that Awa did not tell her husband about our stay at the home because she feared his disapproval. Awa’s friend Nana also stayed with us, and together, the two women expressed their frustrations with traditional Islamic beliefs about marriage.”

As the Fulani believe, the Qur’an teaches that

a Muslim man can marry up to four wives, but he must provide equally for each wife. For example, if one wife has a house, then the other wives must have a house as well.

In reality, though, wives are seldom treated equally, which creates tension and resentment.

Nana’s husband of 30 years recently married a younger second wife, and he has begun showing favoritism to his new wife and family, angering Nana’s adult children, who are upset with how she is being treated.

Nana and Awa clearly described the problems of polygamy but felt powerless to change anything.

“What can we do?” asked Awa despondently.





# DAY 24

## May 6

# “To be Turkish is to be Muslim”

## Osman’s journey from Istanbul to New York City, and to Jesus

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that more Turks in the New York City area find Jesus and share His light with other Turks.**

- 1 **PRAY** that God’s living and active Word pierces the hearts of Turks who read it (Hebrews 4:12).
- 2 **PRAY** that Turkish believers in the New York/New Jersey region seek the One who gives them strength through all circumstances.
- 3 **ASK** God to raise up laborers to assist in planting more indigenous churches among Turks who live in diaspora settings.

**This passionate follower of Jesus is a bold witness to unbelievers**

Osman has kind eyes, a servant’s heart, and calloused hands. He works for a construction company in the New York City area, which is home to the largest concentration of Turks in America.

Osman was raised as a secular Muslim in Istanbul, Turkey, and like most Turks, he believed that “to be Turkish is to be Muslim.”

When he was 11 years old, Osman began questioning his beliefs. Reading the Qur’an left him feeling empty and uncomfortable. The Allah he read about now seemed distant.

After reading the *Incil* (New Testament), Osman’s belief in and love for Jesus grew, but the teenage believer struggled to find fellowship in Istanbul. Turkey has ancient Christian roots, but today the country is 99 percent Muslim and increasingly intolerant of Christians like Osman, who moved to New York City in 2003.

Osman met a man at a gas station who told him about a Turkish fellowship in New Jersey. His prayers were answered. Here, finally, was the loving Christian community he had sought since

meeting Jesus as a young man.

Years after being baptized and joining the church, Osman now serves as the congregation’s pastor. This passionate follower of Jesus is a bold witness to unbelievers during a time when more Turks are questioning their nation’s political version of Islam and fleeing to places like New York and New Jersey.

God is preparing a generation of Turks to hear and respond to the gospel!





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# DAY 25

## May 7

# Post-Islam Iranians

## Seeking alternatives in the Washington, DC, area

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that Jesus will find more Iranians like Ali in the Washington, DC, Metro area.**

- 1 **PRAY** that God shows the capital's Iranians the vanity of riches.
- 2 **PRAY** that those who reject Islam don't reject God.
- 3 **PRAY** for the multiplication of laborers, Iranian evangelists, dreams of Jesus and other demonstrations of His power, love and truth.

**Ali's passionate pursuit of the world, however, left him feeling empty**

**A**li and other Iranians living around the nation's capital often feel like strangers in a strange land, but they adapt.

Ali and his family felt their DC suburb was too fast-paced and impersonal compared to the relaxed warmth of Iran, but he was committed to fitting in, and not only learned the language of his new neighbors, but also adopted their values of wealth, prestige, and partying.

Ali's passionate pursuit of the world, however, left him feeling empty, and he saw little point in living.

Christians tried to share Christ with him, but he brushed them off.

"Crazy blasphemers," he thought.

But after a series of supernatural experiences—including two dreams and a miracle—Ali's resistance to his Savior ended. He placed his faith in Christ, was baptized, and today is a dedicated follower of Jesus and a faithful evangelist of the good news.

There are 40,000 Iranian Muslims in the Washington, DC, Metro area, according to Global Gates' North American UPG Priority Matrix.



Most identify as Muslims but are nominal in their practice of Islam, and there are only a few Iranian-majority mosques to serve the population.

Many turned away from Islam after the 1979 Islamic Revolution married fundamentalist religion and nativist politics. Some are now jaded toward all religion, while others are open to other forms of spirituality.



# DAY 26

May 8

## Vulnerable in Vancouver

Open friendships lead to honest sharing

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that refugees, many of them lonely and depressed, will encounter the love of Jesus and see that God is their loving Father (Isaiah 49:15).**

1 **PRAY** that believers will welcome Muslims around them and show them Christ's love (Matthew 25:35).

2 **PRAY** that believers will be vulnerable and open to talk with Muslims about how God encountered them in their weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**B**urnaby, Surrey, and New Westminster—three bustling cities on Canada's western coast—are home to one of the fastest-growing Muslim populations in North America, with most hailing from Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

But some Afghans are Muslim only in name. Consider the case of Omar, a 25-year-old who arrived in Vancouver in 2019 and was soon meeting a Christian friend for meals and discussion.

Omar was frustrated with religion and with God, feeling it was cruel for God to demand that Muslims do enough good deeds to outweigh their bad deeds.

Resistant to the gospel message, Omar opened up during their fourth meeting, sharing his struggles with depression and other personal issues.

His Christian friend shared how God had helped her through her struggles. She explained the difference between following religion and knowing God. As she spoke about Christ's teaching on forgiving those who have caused hurt and pain, loving our enemies, and repaying evil with good—concepts that are foreign to Muslims—Omar was intrigued.

"I have only shared about my depression with my three closest friends, including you," Omar admitted.

"It touches me to know that you've counted me among your closest friends," the friend replied.

Christians don't always need a detailed evangelistic game plan. Sometimes, being a good friend is more than enough.

**Resistant to the gospel message, Omar opened up during their fourth meeting**





# DAY 27

## May 9

# Reaching the unreached in Houston

## Strategy connects with Bengali Muslims

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray that God will help us develop effective strategies for reaching Muslim Americans.**

- 1 **ASK** the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers to enter his harvest in other Houston apartment complexes and live among Muslim people groups (Luke 10:2).
- 2 **PRAY** for visas for Muslim-background believers, so they can join the work in Houston.
- 3 **PETITION** the Lord to work in hearts to form a Muslim-background house church.



**J**esus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in the Jewish synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people (Matthew 4:23).

But how can we develop similar strategies to reach those in our world today?

In Houston, missionaries working with Global Gates developed and implemented a plan to share the gospel with Bengali Muslims in this vast, diverse metropolis.

Jesus had a target geographic region (Galilee) and a target people (“the lost house of Israel”). He worked for three years by sharing the good news in every city, town, and village of Galilee. He enlisted others (12 and 72 disciples), baptized new believers (John 4:1), and performed healings.

How can we replicate this approach?

One Houston apartment complex houses 28 Bengali Muslim families. The missionaries decided to focus on this complex as both their geographic and people-group target.

Missionaries rented two apartments and

placed two missionary families in the complex with the goal of sharing the gospel with these families in a year. To enhance their outreach, a Muslim-background believer from Bangladesh joined for two months.

Local partner churches pitched in, too, providing food and job training and hosting ESL (English as a Second Language) programs for the Bengalis. Prayer ministries systematically covered the 28 families. Holidays provided opportunities to celebrate traditions together.

With less than one year’s presence in the apartment complex, the missionaries report that half of the 28 families have heard the gospel. Two individuals who once expressed anger now welcome the missionaries into their homes. And four families are joyfully listening to Bible stories.

“I now understand that Jesus is God, and he is my Savior,” one Bengali man reported.

### Factoid

America’s Muslims include Sunni (65%), Shia (11%), and other (24%).



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# DAY 28

## May 10

# Yemeni in Metro New York

## Reaching out to one of the least-reached people groups

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray for outreach to diaspora Yemeni, and for concerted church-planting efforts among them.**

- 1 PRAY** for more Christians to open their lives to Yemeni individuals and their families.
- 2 PRAY** for kingdom growth among this unreached people group and for wisdom and security as they connect and relate to one another in the West and abroad.

**Yemenis are one of the least-reached people groups in the Western Hemisphere.**

**A**liya had just missed her train, so she quickly shifted into typical New Yorker time-killer mode, sitting on an empty bench and reading a book. That’s when she noticed something unusual. Despite the available space on the platform, a woman was walking straight toward her.

“Excuse me,” said the woman. “Please don’t mind me asking, but are you from Yemen?”

Aliya was surprised by the greeting. How could a white woman in New York City expertly “read” her hijab and conservative Islamic dress and conclude that she was Yemeni? Although some 20,000 Yemeni immigrants live across the Metropolitan area, how could the woman pinpoint her nationality among all the Muslim-Arab immigrant people groups in the city?

“Yes. How did you know?” answered Aliya.

“Well, I have been praying for Yemen for many months now. My name is Zoe. Would you like to join me for coffee some time?”

The Spirit of God had drawn Zoe to study Yemen and pray for its war-torn people. Now she lifts them up daily in prayer.



Unbeknown to Zoe, Aliya had recently surrendered to Jesus, and she longed for deeper connections with Christ-following sisters. The Lord had answered her prayers through Zoe’s awkward but divinely inspired interruption.

“Yes. I’d love to,” Aliya replied.

Hailing from the cradle of Islam, Yemenis are one of the least-reached people groups in the Western Hemisphere. Many live in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens, but few ever enjoy significant relationships with disciples of Christ.

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# DAY 29

May 11

## Detroit's Banglatown

Mosques and madrassas provide a slice of home

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray for madrasa boys in Banglatown and other places.**

- 1 PRAY** that local churches equip young people to be disciple-makers who can share Jesus with others.
- 2 BANGLATOWN** was once filled with thriving churches and parish schools. Pray that local churches catch a vision for engaging Banglatown with the gospel.
- 3 PRAY** for many more laborers to enter Banglatown, share abundantly, and find fourth-soil people (Mark 4:20).

“**M**att, let’s walk over and share with those kids,” said Mark, a Christian missionary, to his teenage son.

Mark and Matt were in the Banglatown district, a part of Motor City (Detroit) offering a slice of home to immigrants from Bangladesh. Here, once-empty church buildings now serve as mosques and madrassas (Islamic schools).

After visiting a mosque, Mark and Matt noticed a group of 10 Bengali boys sitting on the stoop of a madrasa across the street. Their young teacher was leading a study of the Qur’an.

Mark said hello to the teacher and asked the boys what they were learning.

“We spend two hours every Saturday and Sunday learning Arabic and Islamic teaching,” answered one boy.

“Wow, what dedicated little scholars,” said Mark. “Has

anyone ever taught you the meaning of the *Incil [gospel]?*”

They shook their heads and answered no. Many Muslim Americans have never heard Christ’s message.

“Do you know what *Incil* means? It means good news, good news for Judgment Day. Have you learned what that good news is?”

The teacher and the boys again shook their heads no.

“Well, can Mark share it with you?”

The teacher and the boys smiled and said yes.

Mark sat down on the stoop and talked to the boy scholars about Jesus. They and their teacher were amazed.

As Mark was talking with the boys, the mosque van pulled up to take them home.

As they boarded the van, some of the boys asked, “When can you return so that we can hear more?”



### Factoid

There are more than 2,000 mosques in the USA.



**DAY 30**

**May 12**

# Somali mass exodus

Refugees in many North American cities

**"I've never known a Christian before I met you."**

### IDEAS FOR PRAYER

**Pray for a gospel movement among Somalis in North America, "that the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (John 5:25).**

- 1 **PRAY** for Somali believers to persevere as bold and loving witnesses.
- 2 **PRAY** for the Church in North America to love its Somali neighbors without fear.



**S**omalia's brutal civil war started in the 1980s and continues to this day. For that reason, more Somalis now live outside of Somalia than within its borders.

North America is home to more than 250,000 Somalis, with many concentrated in Toronto, Columbus, Seattle, Edmonton, Nashville, San Diego, and Minneapolis.

Minnesota is home to the biggest Somali community in North America, and possibly the world. US Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota was born in Mogadishu and escaped from Somalia with her family, spending four years in a refugee camp in Kenya.

A Somali could be driving your cab, pouring your coffee, or working in your mayor's office. Yet few have been befriended by Christians, and few have heard the true message of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, as one Christian worker realized.

"What you believe is foolishness," says Mahmud, who works in a Somali coffee shop. "You believe in three gods and can do whatever you want."

"Has a Christian ever shared with you what they believe?" asked the Christian worker.

"Well, no," he said. "I've never known a Christian before I met you."

While this comment sounds shocking, it's not unusual. Mahmud has been surrounded by churches for the 23 years he has lived in America, but he has never had a meaningful relationship with a follower of Christ before the Christian worker befriended him.

Somalis in North America live near Christians, yet a great cultural chasm remains.

As the Apostle Paul asked, "How will they believe if they've never heard? And how will they hear unless someone preaches? And how will they preach unless someone is sent?" (Romans 10:14-15).

### Factoid

[Airports in Indianapolis, Phoenix, and Kansas City feature foot baths for Muslim workers, and Denver's airport includes a mosque.](#)



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# Thank you for praying

**T**hank you for participating with believers worldwide who have taken time this month to learn about and pray for our world's Muslim neighbors.

The end of Ramadan is celebrated with the *Eid al-Fitr* (the Festival of Breaking the Fast), coinciding with the first three days of Shawwal, the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. It is a joyous occasion for family and friends to meet for meals and to exchange gifts, as well to donate to the poor.

If you have a Muslim friend, coworker or neighbor, remember to wish them a warm Eid Mubarak (Blessed Eid). You may even want to pay them a short visit and present a small gift, a gesture that will surely be appreciated.

Let us continue to harbor a prayerful attitude of Faith, Hope and Love toward Muslims throughout the year!





# Paul and Mary Filidis

## OUR MINISTRY HISTORY

### THE FIRST 20 YEARS

Their paths crossed in 1972 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when they were both ministering to young Western travelers; he, a recently converted “hippie” from Berlin (Germany), she, a Colombian-born “missionary kid” fresh from high school in California on a short-term mission trip.

Married in Amsterdam (the Netherlands) in 1975, they served with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in various locations in Asia and Europe before moving to the United States in 1978 to pursue further training.

After graduating from Fuller Seminary in 1982, they served with a frontier mission agency that promoted ministry into Central Asia and Mongolia.

Taking the gospel to the unreached continued to be their motivation when they rejoined YWAM in Europe in 1986 to help establish the mission’s Research and Communication services, as well as to launch WorldChristian. In 1992, they moved these services to Colorado Springs.

### THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Among other ministry endeavors, Paul and Mary’s primary passion since 1993 has been to publish *World Prayer Guides* with which to call the church to learn about and pray for our world’s

neighbors. It started with (long before 9/11 happened) the *30 Days Muslim World Prayer Focus*, which coincides annually with the important Islamic month of Ramadan. It has since expanded to include the *15 Days Hindu* and *15 Days Buddhist World Prayer Focus* guides. For over a quarter century now they have annually distributed many thousands of informative and inspiring prayer guide booklets.

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Book prices may not be valid beyond 2021

## Muslim World Prayer Guide: Just for Kids 2021

30 Days/WorldChristian

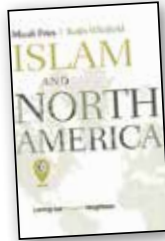
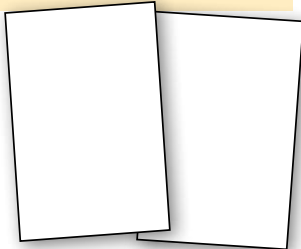


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## Islam and North America

Micah Fries and Keith Whitfield *B&H*

Motivated by a conviction that the North American Church needs to be equipped for the important

task of reaching out to their Muslim neighbors, the authors have gathered experts who are passionate about the topic. Unlike many resources that explore the topic of Islam as a dominant religion in the Middle East, this book focuses on Islam here in North America. Answering questions about the commonalities between Christians and Muslims, freedom of worship, the Qur'an, and Sharia law, it will equip Christians to think about Islam theologically and missionally, engage their Muslim neighbors hospitably, and encourage readers to find new opportunities for missional engagement in their own backyards. **\$19.99; Sale: \$14.44**

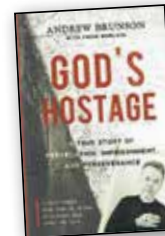


## Defying Jihad

Esther Ahmad and Craig Borlase *Tyndale*

*The Dramatic True Story of a Woman Who Volunteered to Kill Infidels—And Then Faced Death for Becoming One*

This is the true story of a girl growing up under radical Islamic rule, trained to believe her ultimate purpose was to serve Allah by dying as a jihadist. But two nights before she was to leave forever, she had a dream ... one that would change the course of her destiny. **\$16.99; Sale: \$14.44**



## God's Hostage

Andrew Brunson *Baker*

*God's Hostage* is the incredible true story of Andrew Brunson's imprisonment in Turkey, his brokenness, and his eventual freedom.



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**Where There Is Now a Church (2nd edition)**

James Nelson (ed)

William Carey

Christians serving in Muslim lands told their stories of challenge and change in the acclaimed *Where There Was No Church*. In this sequel, devoted workers provide detailed stories of praise and imprisonment and inspiring portraits of the spread of the Christian movement—including a growing church in the shadow of a mosque. Fruitful Practice researchers visited and interviewed about 30 church-

planting teams on-site across six regions, translating and transcribing full tales of their cross-cultural gospel work.

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**40 Questions About Islam**

Matthew Bennett *Kregel*

Islam is one of the most significant forces shaping the world today, but most Christians are confused

about its key beliefs and practices. Many wonder about the apparent similarities and obvious differences between Christianity and Islam, and want to reach out to Muslim neighbors with the gospel but don't know where to begin. Having spent several years living in North Africa and the Middle East, missions professor Bennett addresses Islam's key tenets and provides answers to critical questions. Helpful summaries at the end of each chapter are followed by discussion questions. **\$21.99; Sale: \$17.59**

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