



## **Intercede for the Muslim World!**

*The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing (Zep 3:17, NKJV).*

### **Special Prayer Focus: Afghanistan**

On August 15, the Southern Asian nation of Afghanistan fell definitively into the hands of the Taliban, an Islamic extremist group who had ruled the country from 1996 to 2001. There Osama bin Laden developed his terrorist network, Al Qaeda. Al Qaeda's 9/11 attack on America was answered with military strikes and occupation in Afghanistan as the US and other nations worked to set up a democracy and train its army. In May, when Western troops began to pull out after 20 years, the Taliban quickly began taking control of one district after another, until they took the capital, Kabul, last Sunday. Taliban leaders who have been in exile are returning to reestablish its Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. *Sharia* (Islamic law) will once again become the law of the land, bringing an end to many freedoms and harsh punishments for non-compliance. The implications for Afghans, this region, and regions beyond are tremendous. Please pray

- for our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. There are perhaps just a few thousand believers here, who meet secretly at the risk of their lives—and they are stated targets of the Taliban. Pray that the Holy Spirit would fill them with peace and a holy boldness. Pastors in Afghanistan say they anticipate martyrdom and share how to pray for them: <https://tinyurl.com/afpast>.
- that seeds sown over the years by believers would begin to grow in hearts that are now filled with fear and uncertainty, and that Jesus would reveal himself to many.
- that many more people hungry for God would access various media ministries (radio, TV, Web sites and social media) that share the Good News in local languages.
- for women and girls. According to a Taliban spokesman, women's rights will be respected "within the framework of Islamic law"—a law which has in the past denied them education and job opportunities, greatly restricted their freedom, and devalued them. Pray they would come to know and find freedom in the One who made them in His image and loves them.
- for the safe evacuation of expatriates and nationals seeking to leave, as borders are closed and the airport is in chaos, with all commercial flights suspended.
- for humanitarian agencies that are continuing to work in Afghanistan, within the context of a third wave of COVID-19, as they face new, yet-unknown government demands and restrictions. Pray that believers among them would have divine opportunities to offer spiritual life as well as physical help.
- for the new government leaders, that the God who turns the hearts of kings may work in their hearts.
- that Afghanistan would not become once again a breeding ground for international terrorism. As they fought their way to Kabul, Taliban troops released thousands of prisoners throughout the nation.

### ***Prayer Resources***

For the 2021 World Watch List, ranking the 50 nations where believers suffer most, see <https://tinyurl.com/wwl2021>.

Global Initiative is a ministry of Assemblies of God World Missions, USA. Visit <https://reachingmuslimpeoples.com/> for information about praying for Muslims and weekly requests.

For a weekly lesson and prayer topic about an aspect of Islam, see <https://prayingformuslims.com/>.

For suggestions on starting a prayer group, see <http://www.waast.org/pray-with-us/pray-for-the-unreached/>.

For news updates concerning persecuted Christians, visit <http://morningstarnews.org/>, <http://worldwatchmonitor.org/>, and <http://www.releaseinternational.org/>.

For prayer requests, visit <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/pray/> and <http://www.persecution.com/public/pray.aspx>.

To help you answer Muslims' questions about God's Word, see <http://muslimsask.com/>, <http://www.unchangingword.com/>, and <http://answerislam.org/>.