Intercede for the Muslim World!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Today's Prayer Requests and Praise Reports: *From Students, Alumni, and Workers*

SENSITIVE COUNTRY: A team working in a Muslim-majority village are involving local children in a nativity play for Christmas. A team member says, "Please be in prayer that their hearts are softened by Jesus' love this Christmas season." Pray for the parents and villagers who will watch the play, that they would grasp the significance of Jesus' birth.

MALI: The security situation in central Mali (94% Muslim) continues to deteriorate as several jihadist groups kidnap people and take over villages, establishing control and demanding *jizya* (a tax) from those who do not accept their extremist views. An alumnus who pastors in this area explains, "They keep those they kidnap and try to convert them to their ideology. Those who accept are usually freed and those who refuse stay. Some escape; others die." A Christian held by one group last year told this pastor that their kidnappers, seeing the Christians' refusal to change, decided to let them go but revealed their plan to them: to take all of Mali, and not mix with the Christians, but to keep them in separate villages and make them pay the tax. The takeovers of villages began in some remote areas in 2020, but now a large part of this region is paying taxes to these groups. Let's join with this pastor in prayer for his region.

- Pray for the release of at least 130 men kidnapped recently from three buses and being held hostage in an unknown location. On December 4, another bus was attacked, leaving 31 dead; people on another mini-bus were kidnapped on December 6. Pray for God's comfort for those whose loved ones are missing or dead.
- Pray for God's protection over the churches in the region. Churches are able to meet on their property, but any activities outside their buildings are very risky. An upcoming regional pastors meeting will be done virtually, as travel has become too dangerous.
- Pray for believers and churches in the villages. "We fear that over time the churches in villages may close," the pastor says. Some of his members recently lost family members when their villages were burned down, and many are fleeing their homes.
- Pray for the young *talibe* boys, students of local Muslim teachers, who continue to throw stones at the church during services. Pray that the Holy Spirit would touch their hearts by His grace and draw them to Jesus.
- Pray that the Lord in His mercy would reveal himself supernaturally to these jihadists—people He created to love and worship Him. Pray that as Christians boldly stand in their faith, their attackers or kidnappers would see in them the love and life Jesus offers.

Praise Report: A few weeks ago we prayed for 17 young people who accepted Jesus during an outreach. The pastor reports, "They are with us at church and are progressing well." Pray they would stand firm and be witnesses to their families and friends.

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 https://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://answeringislam.org/.