



Intercede for the Muslim World!

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:6).

Pray for Muslims on Hajj

Some 2 million Muslims from around the world are arriving in Saudi Arabia for the *hajj* pilgrimage, from June 26 to July 1. *Hajj* is the fifth pillar or requirement of Islam, and every Muslim who is physically and financially able is to complete it at least once in his or her lifetime. They believe that participating in the *hajj* rituals removes their sin, builds a sense of unity, lifts them out of poverty, paves the way to Paradise, and more. As they prepare, let's pray

- that the Holy Spirit would work in their hearts, that as they fulfill this religious requirement they may sense a "holy discontent" and begin to question the claims of Islam;
- that Jesus would reveal himself to pilgrims in dreams and visions;
- that God may open their hearts to the message of the true Way of Salvation. Some believers take part in the *hajj* in order to meet and pray for pilgrims; may the Lord protect and guide them.

For more information and prayer requests for those on *hajj*, see <https://tinyurl.com/enhajj23>.

Pray for Muslims Celebrating Eid Al-Adha

On the third day of *hajj* (June 28), all Muslims, whether on the pilgrimage or at home, celebrate *Eid Al-Adha*, the Feast of Sacrifice. They commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son Isma'il (Ishmael) in obedience to Allah, by slaughtering a sheep or goat. They eat one third, then share the rest with extended family and friends and with the needy. This sacrifice holds great meaning for them and provides bridges to the truth of the gospel.

- This sacrifice reminds them they must strive to please Allah above all else. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to see the unmerited love of God for them, which is freely given, never earned.
- This sacrifice reminds them of Allah's mercy toward Abraham in stopping him and providing a ram. Pray that they would come to know the true Lamb of God, who is at once the Sacrifice for them and their Shepherd.
- Pray for opportunities for believers to share these truths with Muslim neighbors during this celebration.

2023 World Watch List: Uzbekistan (21/50) *

Located in Central Asia, Uzbekistan was part of the communist USSR from 1924 to 1991. Since independence the government has remained officially secular, and the freedom of religion offered is strictly controlled. All religious activities and literature must be approved, often a difficult process. Some 88% of Uzbekistan's 31 million people follow Islam, often mixed with traditional practices. About 2% belong to the Russian Orthodox Church, and many people practice no religion. But the true Church is growing here, meeting mostly underground and discretely reaching out to family and friends. Let's pray

- for our brothers and sisters, that the Lord would encourage them and use them to bring His hope to others;
- for God's protection on church leaders, who are sometimes arrested and harassed to intimidate their people;
- for Muslims who choose to follow Jesus, as they face extreme pressure from their families to return to Islam;
- for workers in the country as they resource, encourage, and serve the churches and church leaders.

Prayer Resources

*The 2023 World Watch List, ranking the 50 nations where believers suffer most: <https://tinyurl.com/wwl23uk>

Global Initiative and its Jumaa Prayer Fellowship (a ministry of Assemblies of God World Missions, USA), information and resources concerning ministry to and prayer for Muslims : <https://reachingmuslimpeoples.com/>

Say Hello, prayer requests and resources on ministry to Muslim women: <https://sayhelloinfo.com/>

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

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

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

For prayer requests from around the world: <https://www.icommittoprayer.com/>

To help you answer Muslims' questions about God's Word: <http://muslimsask.com/>, <http://answeringislam.org/>, and <https://jesustomuslims.org>