

Intercede for the Muslim World!

July 21, 2023

The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (Pr 18:10).

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

NIGER: This Sahelian nation is 94% Muslim, but its secular government allows for freedom of religion, and by law churches and believers can meet and minister freely. However, some areas, particularly near the borders of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Nigeria, are under constant threat from Islamic groups as well as opportunistic bandits who steal and kidnap to enrich themselves. An alumnus pastoring here shares the following prayer requests:

- Pray for the protection of the inhabitants and churches in the conflict zones. While churches are not directly threatened with violence, the instability makes activities and outreach difficult, especially where there are curfews. In some areas, worshippers are not allowed play instruments or sing or pray loudly. Pray for the witness of believers as they patiently live their faith in these communities.
- Pray that churches may be able to engage in greater evangelistic outreach and church planting. Efforts are often limited by lack of both material and human resources.
- Pray for divine favor in finding land for church plants. Obtaining land for a church is nearly impossible, as local Muslims feel that allowing a church to be established "invites sin and prostitutes the community".
- Pray that the Lord would call more believers into full-time ministry—and that the Spirit would work in their hearts to respond to this call. The two Assemblies of God Bible schools have a total of 4 graduates this year. The lay training program, which prepares workers to help with outreach and church planting, has about 20 students, but, according to the director, most of its past graduates have not engaged in these activities.
- Pray that God would give pastors and church leaders (nearly all of whom are former Muslims) wisdom and divine strategy as they work to bring other Muslims to faith in Christ. While many Muslims may attend evangelistic events, following them up to the point of conversion and discipleship is slow and difficult. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes and hearts of Muslim seekers to the Truth.

Praise God, despite the difficulties, all of the 100+ Assemblies of God churches in Niger have been able to remain open! Pray they and their members will continue to be a great blessing and witness in their respective communities.

In the News

For nearly 2 years now, the Taliban has ruled in Afghanistan and has systematically stripped its citizens of many rights and freedoms as it promotes Islamic principles. An estimated 85% of Afghanistan's 40 million people now live in poverty, a situation that is worsening because of economic sanctions, the government's rejection of many Western aid organizations and humanitarian workers, and the ban on women working. The few Christians worship underground at great risk. The Taliban recently began offering rewards for turning in Christians—which impoverished citizens are willing to do—and kidnap known believers for exorbitant ransoms. Please pray (1) that the Lord would protect and encourage Afghan believers; (2) that the Spirit would supernaturally draw many disillusioned Afghans to Jesus—including Taliban leaders; and (3) for believers who walk to villages to preach, meet with seekers, and disciple new converts. Pray for their protection and lasting fruit. Read more at https://tinyurl.com/talxns.

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://worldwatchmonitor.org/, and http://www.releaseinternational.org/

For prayer requests from around the world: https://www.icommittopray.com/

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