



Intercede for the Muslim World!

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... (Mt 5:44).

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

CENTRAL SAHEL: A new school year is starting in many African nations, but millions of children will not be attending as their schools are closed due to insecurity. A recent report notes: "In the Central Sahel [Burkina Faso, Mali Niger], 8,858 schools were closed as of July 2023. Burkina Faso alone accounts for more than two thirds of the school closures recorded, with more than 6,149 schools closed as of July 2023" (<https://tinyurl.com/edwcaf>). Not only are their futures at risk, but the children in these impoverished areas are more vulnerable to recruitment into jihadist camps, forced marriages, and trafficking. **Please pray** (1) for educational opportunities for these children, through volunteer tutors, churches, and community efforts; (2) for divine protection from those who would lure these children to join Islamic ranks; (3) for provision for families, and that they might see and recognize God's hand at work.

MALI: Today is Mali's Independence Day, but all festivities have been suspended as the nation mourns fresh attacks in several areas in the north. In August, an alliance of Tuareg separatists declared "war in the Timbuktu region." Jihadists have blocked roads into the famed city. On September 7, a riverboat on the Niger between Gao and Timbuktu was attacked, killing 49 and closing off river transport. The only airline serving Timbuktu has suspended flights, and some 34,000 residents have fled. Several military bases have come under jihadist control in the past 3 weeks as foreign peacekeepers withdraw at the behest of the governing junta. Let's pray.

- Pray God would thwart the efforts of extremist groups to gain control of cities and land. The UN reports that in the past year the Islamic State has nearly doubled the area it controls in Mali. An Al-Qaida-linked group is gaining influence, as are Tuareg separatists who advocate for the recognition of the State of Azawad.
- Pray for divine protection and provision for the people of Timbuktu. Pray for the Assemblies of God church and school in the city. School opens October 2; pray that the Lord would encourage and enable the teachers to minister to the children and their families.
- Pray that those who have sought refuge from Timbuktu and other insecure areas would cross paths with believers who can share Jesus with them.

Pray for Jihadists

Poverty, food insecurity, even climate change are reasons given by various "experts" to explain the spread of terrorism in sub-Saharan Africa. But the Islamic State and other radical groups make their motives quite clear. One chilling IS poster lists the number of Christians killed and churches burned in its "Harvest of African Christians." This is a spiritual battle, and Jesus Christ alone is the solution. He longs to bring these people into His sheepfold—and as His children and emissaries on earth, so must we. Let's pray for the men and women caught up in deception and hatred:

- Pray that God would help us to see these "enemies" as He does: as His beloved, created for His glory.
- These people seek God and will kill and die for him. Pray they would see Jesus, who died to save them.
- A former Muslim noted that every Muslim questions some aspect of his religion, and this question serves to open his heart to the Truth. Pray that the Spirit would raise questions and doubts in these jihadists—and all Muslims—that cause them to seek an answer, and lead them to find the answer in Jesus.

Prayer Resources

The 2023 World Watch List, ranking the 50 nations where believers suffer most: <https://tinyurl.com/ww123uk>

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/>