

Jumaa Prayer

for the Muslims of Africa and beyond



January 26, 2024

Intercede for the Muslim World!

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us (1Jn 5:14).

Today's Prayer Requests: *From Workers*

NIGER: A pastor/trainer/church planter shares several requests concerning his nation in Africa's Sahel Region:

- Pray for the leaders of the military government in power since the July 2023 coup. Unlike the previous president, he says, the ruling general expresses appreciation for the churches and their contribution to the nation. A born-again believer has been appointed Niger's Minister of Education.
- Some radical elements are calling for a constitutional change to make Islam the state religion, a desire not shared by most Nigeriens, though some 93% follow Islam. Pray that freedom of worship would be preserved.
- Pray for those in Niger who are suffering as living costs rise due to ongoing sanctions.

*2024 World Watch List: Sudan (East Africa) 8/50**

Under the strongly Islamic 30-year rule of President al-Bashir, Christians in Sudan faced state-sponsored persecution. After al-Bashir was ousted in 2019, the civilian-led transitional government removed Islam as the state religion and took positive steps toward freedom of worship. In 2021, a military junta took control and named new leaders. In April 2023, a power struggle between the top two leaders—one the head of the Sudanese Armed Forces, the other of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces—triggered an ongoing civil war. The RSF now controls most of Khartoum, the capital, and the fighting, now in 10 of the 18 regions, has killed 13,000 and displaced at least 7.6 million people. Of Sudan's 49 million people, more than 90% follow Islam. They need the hope of Jesus!

- Pray for the few evangelical believers (less than 1% of the population), particularly those from Muslim backgrounds. They face rejection from their families and in the workplace, and there is a rise in kidnappings and killings of Christian men, and rape of women, especially by radical elements in the RSF.
- Pray that the Spirit would give believers the wisdom and courage to share Jesus. Pray especially for parents; some hesitate to teach their faith to their children for fear they will be discovered.
- Pray that the Lord would miraculously intervene in the lives of fighters, that they may find peace in Him.

The Five Pillars of Islam: #2 Salat (Prayer)

Man's greatest sin, according to Islam, is forgetting Allah and the Quran. To help Muslims remember, Islam requires *salat*, the ritual prayers performed five times each day, from before dawn to after sunset. Muslims follow strict guidelines to properly prepare for and carry out the prayers. At each prayer time, he or she repeats a series of movements—bowing, kneeling, prostrating—called *rakat*. Each day a Muslim performs 34-50 *rakats*, along with the required recitations. A person can also seek Allah's help by "making *du'a*," i.e., reciting certain prescribed prayers according to his need. But Allah is far off, and one can never be sure if he has heard, or if he will reject the prayer because the person has not adequately prepared his heart and mind. ***Let's pray that Muslims would realize that they have the same privilege available to them that we have: they can call upon a God who is near, who hears their cries and knows their needs even before they ask. Pray that the Holy Spirit would break into their prayer rituals and reveal Jesus to them.*** For a video prayer concerning *salat*, see <https://www.prayercast.com/salat-prayer.html>.

Prayer Resources

*The 2024 World Watch List, ranking the 50 nations where believers suffer most: <http://tinyurl.com/2024wwl>

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 statistics and information on people groups in every nation: <https://joshuaproject.net/>; for Unreached Peoples prayer cards to download and print: <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/cards>

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>