

NEWS FROM THE FIELDS



PRAYING FOR MUSLIMS DURING RAMADAN

By Steve Liversedge

In the early years following the death of Mohammed, the Muslim world expanded westward, gobbling up Christian regions across North Africa and on into Spain. Constantinople fell in 1453, and by 1529 Muslim armies were said

to be “knocking on the door of Europe” when they were stopped outside Vienna. Efforts to take back this land and convert the Muslims took place over the centuries, in some cases through direct military action, in others through adopting

the Muslim lifestyle and learning Arabic to love them back into the fold of Christ. However, very little was accomplished until a better idea surfaced – Prayer.

About 30 years ago a concerted
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and ongoing effort was launched to pray for Muslims during Ramadan, Islam's annual month of fasting and introspection. In the meantime, David Garrison, author of *A Wind in the House of Islam*, began extensive research into Muslim Movements to Christ. To his surprise he discovered that more than 80% of all Muslim Movements to Christ began just 30 years ago. Garrison concluded, "We are witnessing the greatest turning of Muslims to Christ in History." It is no coincidence that the powerful prayer initiative began at the same time.

Our partners in ministry have Muslim initiatives that we would like you to pray about, especially over this next two-month period. This year Ramadan takes place from April 2 to May 1. We consider it the optimal time to focus our prayers on the Muslim world. See the following website for additional information to help you pray: <https://www.30daysprayer.com>.

HOW WE CAN PRAY

- **Bangladesh:** Pray for the Mobile School of Evangelism (MSOE) working with the Rohingya, a Muslim Unreached People Group (UPG) displaced by political strife. Our partners have planted four house churches in what is the largest refugee camp in the world.
- **Cameroon:** A program called Almasira, designed to come alongside new converts from Islam, is ready to begin. They hope to train 60 teachers over the next two years. These teachers will go into the whole country, helping former Muslims learn to walk with Christ.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** Muslims in remote areas are attempting to convert youth and children to Islam by offering free meals along with lessons in



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the Koran. Muslim businesses are offering employment to underprivileged youth if they will convert. Christian churches in the area need wisdom to know how to respond.

- **Bhopal, India:** Personal evangelism is taking place in this 25% Muslim city. Pray for believers sharing with factory co-workers, service people, and neighbors. They are finding many people of peace. Our ministry partner directs a secondary school with 16 Muslim teachers,

who hear the gospel in chapel once a month. They are showing interest, with some attending online Sunday worship services. Pray that they will believe in Christ.

- **Jharkhand, India:** Our partners in Dhanbad offer sewing lessons and other services to Muslims in their community center. Pray for eternal fruit to come from these efforts.
- **Odisha, India:** Pray for the MSOE teaching 10 former Muslims. During the lockdowns the MSOE leaders visited over 200 Muslim homes, bringing aid and the gospel. Pray for the approximately 1,500 homes that have been reached. Pray too for those leading the "Gathering the Neighbors" project. For this work to proceed, we will need the government to reinstate their legal status and "unfreeze" their bank account.
- **Malawi:** Islam is relatively new to Malawi but is spreading fast. Our ministry partner wants to train and support two missionaries to work among Muslims. Pray for them, and that many will receive Isa al-Masih (Jesus Christ).
- **Malaysia:** ER's Portable Bible Schools text is being translated into Malay. Pray for God's continued leading in this Islamic nation where it's illegal for Muslims to become Christian.
- **Pakistan:** It is especially risky to follow Jesus openly in this majority-Muslim nation. Pray for our ministry partner as he seeks to baptize those coming to faith in Christ and encourages them to hold home fellowship groups. Many are suffering physically as well as spiritually. Pray for efforts to reach Afghan refugees. Pray especially for three Afghan refugee families who have recently come to Christ. They want to be baptized but need protection.

TRAINING MUSLIM BACKGROUND BELIEVERS IN NIGERIA

By Drs. Mawo & Janet Abaya



Three MBB graduates of the Nigeria School of Evangelism who are currently engaged in reaching their fellow Fulanis with Christ's love and salvation.

A surge of Muslim converts to the Christian faith, whom we refer to as "Muslim Background Believers" (MBBs), opened a new "mission field" to us at the International Center of Evangelism in Jos, Nigeria. We struggled at first to relate to these new believers and to assimilate them into our school culture. And we had to add security so that "scouts" – sent by our students' families and Muslim leaders – wouldn't find and abduct them, and possibly kill them. As you might imagine, we lived with constant concern. We didn't want our campus to be a "prison" for our students, yet we were obliged to engage in vigilant surveillance to keep them from danger.

That first year went well and after graduation the MBBs spread the word about our training program to their friends and to other ministry-to-Muslims groups. Each year a new group of MBBs arrived, with more than 80 of them now having

completed our training.

Islamic fundamentalism is the number one threat to national security in Nigeria. But the violent extremism has generated an open curiosity among younger Muslims that has led many to find peace with God in Christ. So, while we do not directly engage in evangelizing Muslims, we are equipping those who do through our training of MBBs.

The good news is that many of our MBB graduates have eventually returned to their families and communities (at great risk) to become ambassadors of Christ and are witnessing a harvest of souls from among their people.

A major challenge for which we continue to ask for help and prayer is the expense of training these new converts. Almost all of them have been ostracized from their families, leaving them penniless. Additionally, most Christians of Nigeria don't sense any responsibility to help

nurture them. Nevertheless, God has faithfully provided for the training of these MBBs' through supportive friends and churches.

PLEASE PRAY:

- That the Lord will continue to bring Muslims in Nigeria to Christ through the ministries of those we have trained.
- That national insecurity, which is hampering our ability to train MBBs in Jos, will subside and peace will return to our communities.
- That the Church in Nigeria will move away from resenting Muslims to embracing those who repent and providing refuge for them. Also, that the Church will trade anger and seeking vengeance for a demonstration of LOVE, a powerful ingredient for reaching Muslims.
- That many MBBs will develop a passion for reaching their families and friends, even those who have rejected them.

WHY WE PRAY DAILY AT ER

By Lisa Fowler

Why pray? There are, of course, a lot of reasons. When we pray together, we open our hearts and minds for the Holy Spirit to move, unite, comfort, convict, and guide. When we pray, we remember who God is and who we are in Christ. If language falls short in prayer or when we don't quite know what to say, we can still align our hearts together with our Heavenly Father because "the Spirit helps us in our weakness," interceding for us "through

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SEEKING PRAYER PARTNERS

By Caleb Pfeifer

If you're looking for practical ways to regularly pray for world missions, we encourage you to sign up for our weekly Prayer Hotline and Friday Foto emails! Both postings feature exciting ministry updates and important prayer requests from our international partners. You can sign up to receive one or both at www.erinfo.org/subscribe.

We also welcome you to join us for our daily (Monday through Saturday) prayer meetings on Zoom at 11 am Eastern, where you'll have the opportunity to pray with ER friends from around the globe! To participate go to www.erinfo.org/#get-involved and click on "Heaven @ Eleven." Let us know if you would like to receive the updated prayer guides prepared each day for this vital time of prayer.

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wordless groans" (Romans 8:26).

Even still, there is so much to rejoice about. In fact, we're living in remarkable times—followers of Jesus are multiplying in unprecedented numbers throughout Africa, Asia, and South America. Because of this, there has never been such a great need for biblically trained followers of Jesus to lead others to Christ and unto His likeness. ER's ministries are focused to help meet this great need for discipleship.

And yet, we are more than a collection of ministries scattered in various nations. We are more like a network—thousands of graduates, lay pastors, and Christian leaders who are covered in prayer—perfectly placed by God's hands in families, communities, and nations to spread the good news of Christ our Savior and King.

And so, let's continue to groan in prayer alongside our beautiful, global network. May Christ's kingdom come, and may His people increase and flourish throughout the world.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:

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