

"The Cry of Ishmael"



Ramadan 2018

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World.

May 21 - May 27, 2018.

"The 21st century has witnessed hundreds of thousands of Muslims all over the world turn to Christ..."

Islam and Christianity for the last fourteen centuries have been engaged in a spiritual contest for the souls of millions. For over twelve of those centuries Islam has been the clear victor. Since the beginning of Islam in AD 622, millions of Christians have been swept into Islam.

During the first 350 years of Islam's history, Christian population from the Middle East to Spain were conquered and forcefully converted by Islamic armies - today we have Boko Haram, ISIS and others like them doing the same thing.

In the last two decades of the twentieth century, however, the tide began to turn. There has been a wave of revival and movements of Muslims to Christ. A movement being a minimum of a thousand people or at least one hundred new churches started among indigenous Muslim people groups. These movements are recorded by David Garrison in his book "A Wind in the House of Islam". I had the good privilege of listening to him share on these movements October 2014 in

Lima, Peru, and more recently, on Saturday June 13th of 2015, I attended a Voice of the Martyrs conference and heard of the wonderful revival in Iran and Syria.

The 21st century has witnessed hundreds of thousands of Muslims all over the world turn to Christ, especially in the wake of increasing Islamic terrorist attacks worldwide. These violence have resulted in many Muslims for the first time questioning their religion and seeking to distance themselves from the violence it permits, have turned to Christ. We are witnessing the greatest and most wide - reaching turning of Muslims to Christ in history. (Extracts from: 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World - The Voice of the Martyrs).



These movements to Christ have come at a great cost to believers, many of whom have witnessed the gospel with their blood, others have risked their life to take the gospel to Muslims and some through intense prayers and fasting.

**"The wind blows wherever it wants, just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the spirit".
John 3:8 (NLT).**

Hot Spot Muslim People Groups

This week our prayer focus is on Hot Spot Muslim people groups round the world.

SYRIAN REFUGEES.

The war in Syria has produced one of the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War, as people flee the fighting. There are as many as 12 million on the move and living in temporary arrangements within Syria, Iraq and other countries.

Turkey is hosting nearly 1.4 million Syrian refugees, Jordan 1.3 million, and Lebanon more than 1.1 million refugees. Other countries such as Egypt, Germany, other European countries and North America are hosting smaller numbers of refugees. Christians are ministering to the refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. The person and work of our Lord Jesus stands in stark contrast to the hatred and vengefulness presently raging in the Middle East. (Joshua Project)

PRAYER FOCUS.

"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come" Matthew 24:14 (NLT).

- 1) Pray for protection for vulnerable people in the refugee camps, especially for children.
- 2) Pray that through this crisis the hearts of many Muslim refugees will be receptive to the gospel.
- 3) Pray that God would grant opportunities for Christian workers to boldly minister the gospel to the refugees.
- 4) Pray for the protection and progress of many missionaries working among these refugees.
- 5) Pray for peace soon in Syria and in Iraq.
- 6) Pray for stable governments that are able to enforce peace, and which have the welfare of all citizens as a priority.

NIGERIA - Boko Haram.

Boko Haram ("Western Education is Forbidden") has an estimated 7,000 and 10,000 fighters. They were initially linked with Al Qaeda, but in March of 2015 formally pledged

allegiance to ISIS. Their activities have impacted Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

Since 2009 over 1.5 million people have been displaced, hundreds of men, women and children have been abducted including 276 school girls from Chibok.

Main countries impacted by Boko Haram besides Nigeria include Cameroon, Niger, and Chad. (Wikipedia).

PRAYER FOCUS.

"As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live..." Ezekiel 33:11. (NLT).

Despite the cruel and evil acts of these militant Muslim groups, God loves them and desires that they turn to Him in repentance that He may forgive their sins.

Our only means of defeating them is through prayers, the Lord doesn't permit His Church to pick up arms and fight back. They can not be defeated by military might, though that may contain them, but rather through active prayers and evangelism by the church.

- 1) Pray that the Lord may use this crisis to draw many Muslims in Nigeria and other countries impacted by this group to Christ.
- 2) Ask the Lord to visit many of these fighters in dreams and visions and turn their hearts to Him.
- 3) Pray that the blood of the martyrs would be a seed harvest for the gospel in Northern Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

IRAQ - ISIS

ISIS on 29 June 2014, proclaimed itself to be a world wide caliphate with Bakr Al-Badhdahi as the caliph. It claims religious, political and military authority over all Muslims worldwide and that the legality of all emirates, groups, states and organizations become null by the expansion of the caliphate's authority and arrival of its troops in their area.

Amnesty International has reported ethnic cleansing by this group on a "historic scale". The brutal activities of this group has resulted in many Muslims turning to Christ. (Wikipedia).

PRAYER FOCUS.

"Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him (satan) to do whatever he wants" (NLT).

- 1) Pray that the Lord would visit many of ISIS fighters in dreams and vision.
- 2) Pray that the Lord may provide a way out for many of the fighters who want to leave this group.
- 3) Pray that the actions of ISIS will cause many Muslims to seek Jesus.
- 4) Ask the Lord to reveal himself to many Muslim seekers.